



**VOLUNTEER  
LOUISIANA**



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## **VOLUNTEER LOUISIANA URGES ACTIVE CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT FOR HURRICANE SEASON**

**BATON ROUGE, La.** – With the June 1 start of hurricane season approaching, Volunteer Louisiana is encouraging residents to take action now by getting prepared, getting connected, and getting trained.

“One of the most important assets we have in Louisiana is our people and their willingness to pitch in and help their neighbors in a time of crisis. It truly says a lot about the Louisiana spirit,” said Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser. “Through Volunteer Louisiana, we want to get people connected with the right trainings. This will help in the coordination of volunteer efforts when federal assistance is not available.”

“Effective disaster response starts with community readiness.” says Judd Jeansonne, Executive Director of Volunteer Louisiana. “Engaged citizens and volunteers are absolutely critical to those efforts.”

Here’s how you can get involved.

### **Get Prepared**

Make sure you have a family evacuation and communications plan, update your emergency supply kit, sign up for alerts from your local emergency management office, and monitor local news for hurricane watches and warnings in your area. For more information on how to prepare yourself and your family for hurricane season, visit [www.getagameplan.org](http://www.getagameplan.org).

### **Get Connected**

Volunteer Louisiana is encouraging volunteers get connected with volunteer organizations before an event occurs. Many non-profit organizations utilize volunteers before, during, and after disasters, relying on their ready-trained volunteer corps to deploy as soon as they are needed. Through affiliating and training with non-profits, volunteers can be essential players in their community’s response and recovery. For more information on how to get connected to volunteer organizations, contact Volunteer Louisiana or visit [www.volunteerlouisiana.gov](http://www.volunteerlouisiana.gov).

### **Get Trained**

Through Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, you can assist local and parish emergency responders in time of disaster. Volunteer Louisiana, in collaboration with the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOSHEP), is also supporting CERT Training throughout the state. CERT is a program that educates volunteers in disaster readiness to prepare for hazards that may impact their areas. Basic CERT trains individuals in disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations so volunteers can assist first responders and/or care for themselves and others during a disaster-related event. Specialized training for advanced CERT teams is also available. Information on upcoming CERT trainings is available at [www.volunteerlouisiana.gov/disaster-services/emergency-preparedness](http://www.volunteerlouisiana.gov/disaster-services/emergency-preparedness).

Volunteer Louisiana, located in the Office of Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser, manages 17 AmeriCorps State programs, promotes volunteerism, and coordinates spontaneous, unaffiliated volunteers in times of disaster. It is supported by grants from the Corporation for National and Community Service.