

HURRICANE UNIFIED COMMAND

PLAQUEMINES PARISH



October 2006

COMPLETION REPORT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT A GLANCE	
4	Drinking Water Plant Assessments
84	Wastewater Facility Assessments
26	Industry Damage Assessments
210,328	Hazardous Material Containers Collected
11,584	Electronic Items Collected
5,545	White Goods Collected
1,556	Pounds of Freon Extracted
61,808	Pounds of Ammunition/Explosives Collected*
4,639,178	Pounds of Cumulative Waste Disposed
10	School Lab Assessments

Since September 2005, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) have worked together to address environmental hazards from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to help Plaquemines Parish recover.

One of EPA and LDEQ's first priorities was to ensure residents returning to all the cities affected by the hurricanes had safe drinking water. Throughout Louisiana, assessments were conducted at drinking water facilities, of which four were in Plaquemines Parish. Similarly, 84 wastewater treatment plants were assessed for damage.

Next, EPA and LDEQ turned to federally-permitted facilities. The agencies conducted interviews and site visits at hazardous waste storage, transfer or disposal facilities. Facilities in southern Louisiana were addressed, including 26 facilities in Plaquemines Parish. The site visits and interviews established that employees could return to

work at facilities operating in accordance with federal and state regulations.

Because of concerns that damaged chemicals in school biology and chemistry laboratories could cause a health hazard, EPA and LDEQ conducted assessments at schools in southern Louisiana. Some chemical containers were found to be damaged by the hurricanes, by flood waters and/or from heat exposure. EPA and LDEQ, in coordination with the Louisiana State Police and local fire departments, removed dangerous chemicals from schools in southern Louisiana. Ten schools in Plaquemines Parish were assessed; chemicals were removed from four of them.

Paint, computers, washing machines, and refrigerators in homes under normal circumstances are not usually considered hazardous. However, when hundreds of thousands of these items become waste products at the same time, the hazardous components in them could create problems. To help remove these materials from the



waste going to Louisiana's municipal landfills, EPA and LDEQ collected 227,457 units consisting of appliances, hazardous waste containers, and home electronics. The hazardous materials were recycled or disposed in landfills designed to handle them safely. In Plaquemines Parish, EPA and LDEQ have disposed of 4,639,478 pounds of waste as of September 30, 2006.

In response to community concerns about potential harm from firearms, ammunition and explosives, EPA began collecting these materials for appropriate disposal in January 2006. In southeastern Louisiana parishes, 61,808 pounds of ammunition, explosives, fireworks and other similar items were collected. As of September 30, 2006, a total of 101 firearms were collected in Plaquemines Parish.



Left:
Damaged and scattered hazardous waste containers were retrieved throughout Plaquemines Parish.

*Reflects more than Plaquemines Parish activities.