

Louisiana Sea Water Intrusion

September 27, 2023

Office of the Governor John Bel Edwards

P.O. Box 94004

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

(225) 342-0991

(844) 860-1413

[Office of Governor John Bel Edwards \(louisiana.gov\)](https://louisiana.gov)

[Gov. John Bel Edwards | Facebook](#)

[Gov. John Bel Edwards \(@LouisianaGov\) / X \(twitter.com\)](#)

Recent press release related to Louisiana Sea Water Intrusion:

“Gov. Edwards Announces Federal Approval of Emergency Declaration for Lower Mississippi River Saltwater Intrusion

September 27, 2023

BATON ROUGE, La. – Today, Gov. John Bel Edwards announced that President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. has approved his request for an Emergency Declaration due to the lower Mississippi River saltwater intrusion. As a result of the historic drought throughout the Mississippi River Valley, the rate of freshwater flowing down the Mississippi River has been dramatically low, allowing an intrusion of saltwater from the Gulf of Mexico to make its way upriver. Plaquemines Parish has already been affected by the intrusion, and other parishes are projected to be impacted over the next month including St. Bernard Parish, Jefferson Parish and Orleans Parish.

“I’m grateful to the Biden administration for making this request a priority and responding quickly to help the people of South Louisiana,” said Gov. Edwards. “Efforts to mitigate the impact of the saltwater intrusion are currently underway and other projects are being considered based on the projections being received from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). This 90-day approval of our Emergency Declaration will help our state and local partners with the costs of any mitigation efforts and protective measures. As this event unfolds, we will continue to analyze the emergency efforts and impacts to determine if further requests will be necessary.”

The President’s approval authorizes the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to support all disaster relief efforts, which have the purpose of alleviating the hardship and suffering caused by the emergency on the local population, and to provide emergency protective measures, including direct federal assistance, under the Public Assistance program limited to temporary measures that address reduced water treatment capability due to saltwater intrusion resulting from low water levels of the Mississippi River for no more than 90 days from the date of declaration, as

authorized under Title V of the Stafford Act, in Plaquemines, St. Bernard, Orleans and Jefferson parishes.

The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) continues to work with leadership in the impacted areas, along with our state and federal partners, on response and preparation.

You can find more information under the Saltwater Intrusion tab at emergency.la.gov.

State of Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP)

7667 Independence Blvd
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
(225) 925-7500

[GOHSEP > GOHSEP \(la.gov\)](https://www.gohsep.la.gov)

[Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness |](#)

[Baton Rouge LA | Facebook](#)

[Louisiana GOHSEP \(@GOHSEP\) / X \(twitter.com\)](#)

Recent social media post related to Louisiana Sea Water Intrusion:

September 26, 2023 at 11:41am - SWBNO's tap water is safe to drink. You may have heard about saltwater making its way up the Mississippi River from the Gulf. Saltwater has not reached Orleans Parish. In partnership with local, regional, and federal partners, we will keep our customers updated. In the meantime, we encourage customers to text NOLAREADY to 77295 to sign up for updates.

[Press Releases - Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans \(swbno.org\)](https://www.swbno.org)

American Red Cross of Louisiana

2626 Canal St
New Orleans, LA 70119
(504) 620-3150

[Louisiana Region | American Red Cross](#)

[American Red Cross of Louisiana | Facebook](#)

To locate open shelters, please visit: [Disaster Shelters | Find Shelters | American Red Cross](#)

Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD)

1201 Capitol Access Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
(225) 379-1232

[LaDOTD](https://www.ladotd.gov)

[Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development \(DOTD\) | Baton Rouge LA | Facebook](#)
[Louisiana DOTD \(@La_DOTD\) / X \(twitter.com\)](#)

For travel conditions and road closures, please visit: [511LA](#) | [LA Traffic](#) | [Trip Planner](#) | [Road Conditions](#)

United Way/211 Information and Referrals Lines

These information and referral lines may know of additional resources currently providing assistance, such as food pantries, clothing closets, emergency shelters, and agencies offering financial assistance. Please dial 2-1-1 and provide your zip code and demographic information in order to receive referrals. Information can also be obtained at <https://www.211.org>.

Louisiana 2-1-1

Dial 2-1-1 or text zip code to 898-211

[Louisiana 211 Statewide Network](#) |

For Natural Disasters

NATIONAL RESOURCES:

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

500 C Street SW

Washington, DC 20472

(800) 621-3362

<http://www.fema.gov>

Please visit the website and click on “*Disaster Declarations*”. If a disaster is declared, please call to apply for assistance by phone, or visit <http://www.fema.gov/apply-assistance> to apply online.

DISASTERASSISTANCE.GOV

<https://www.disasterassistance.gov>

Offers information about local resources for disasters, including: FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs), Red Cross, food, shelter, state emergency management agencies, and hospital locators.

To determine if individual disaster assistance is available through FEMA, please visit the website and enter the address.

To locate your local state emergency management agency for disaster information and updates, please visit <http://www.fema.gov/emergency-management-agencies>

AMERICAN RED CROSS NATIONAL

National Headquarters

2025 East Street, NW

Washington, DC 20006

(202) 303-4498 or (800) 733-2767

<http://www.redcross.org>

Please call or visit the website to locate your local chapter and open shelters.

AMERICAN RED CROSS SAFE AND WELL LIST

<https://safeandwell.communityos.org/cms/index.php>

Residents affected can notify their friends and family that they are safe by visiting the website and selecting “*List Myself as Safe and Well.*” Individuals can also search for loved ones by selecting “*Search Registrants.*”

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Weather alerts by state are available at <http://www.weather.gov/alerts>.

THE WEATHER CHANNEL

Local forecasts and severe weather alerts, available at <http://www.weather.com>.

NATIONAL TRAFFIC AND ROAD CLOSURE INFORMATION

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/trafficinfo>

SAFE TRAVEL USA

<http://www.safetravelusa.com>

Free Help Line:

Optum, a leading health and behavioral health services company, is offering a free emotional-support help line.

The toll-free number, 866-447-3573, will be open Monday-Friday, 8am-8pm CST. The service is free of charge and open to anyone. Specially trained Optum mental health specialists help people manage their stress and anxiety so they can continue to address their everyday needs. Callers may also receive referrals to community resources to help them with specific concerns, including financial and legal matters.

Along with the toll-free help line, emotional-support resources and information are available online at <https://www.liveandworkwell.com>.