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OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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Louisiana Strengthens Disaster Readiness through Investments and Partnerships

BATON ROUGE, LA (November 17, 2026) – As the 2026 Atlantic hurricane season nears its conclusion, Louisiana is better prepared than ever to respond to natural disasters through increased investments, expanded response capabilities and stronger partnerships among state and local emergency response agencies.

Over the past 18 months, Governor Jeff Landry and the Louisiana Legislature have directed $2 million toward strengthening Louisiana's four Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) task forces. The funding has supported the purchase of critical equipment and resources, and the state recently completed a second round of agreements with the teams to enhance operational readiness.

“As we approach the end of another hurricane season, Louisiana is better prepared than ever because of the partnerships we've built and the investments we've made in our first responders,” said Chief Bryan J Adams, Principal Assistant, Louisiana Department of Public Safety**.** “Governor Landry's ‘One Team’ approach has brought agencies and emergency responders together with a common mission. By working together and sharing resources, we're strengthening our ability to protect Louisiana families and communities when disaster strikes.”

For the first time, the state has secured a dedicated funding line item within the Office of State Fire Marshal’s budget, establishing a foundation for continued investment in equipment, training and operational readiness.

“This dedicated funding represents an important investment in the future of Louisiana's emergency response system,” said State Fire Marshal, Chief Chad P. Sonnier. “Our USAR teams play a critical role when disasters strike and providing them with the equipment, training and resources they need strengthens our ability to respond quickly and effectively. These partnerships are essential to keeping our communities safe.”

Baton Rouge Fire Department Chief Michael Kimble and personnel from Louisiana's four USAR task forces have played key roles in these efforts, strengthening the state's emergency response capabilities through collaboration and shared resources.

Louisiana has also established a statewide Incident Support Team composed of first responders from across the state. The team recently returned from a deployment to Colorado, where members supported emergency operations. The state continues to recruit and train additional personnel to expand its response capabilities.

Together, these initiatives reinforce Governor Landry's “One Team” mission, strengthening Louisiana's ability to protect lives and property while providing assistance to other states when needed.

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