This issue of the Newsline provides a guide to hurricane preparation along with resources for comprehensive emergency planning.

IF YOU ARE LIKE MOST PEOPLE LIVING IN THE GULF COAST REGION, the possibility of a hurricane is an ongoing concern this time of year. From the beginning of June through the end of October, you may pay a little more attention to weather reports, check your battery supply and buy a few more jars of peanut butter – just in case.

The Norco Manufacturing Complex is a step ahead. Months before hurricane season officially opened, NMC staff and emergency responders reviewed and updated the site’s weather emergency plan and preparation checklist.

“...The safety and well-being of our employees, our community and NMC’s operating equipment is the most important aspect of emergency planning, whether it is for a weather emergency or other type of situation inside or outside the site.”

ROCHELLE TOUCHARD
External Relations Manager

(continued on page 3)
St. Charles Parish keeps the state and the country moving.

Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Director Ron Perry emphasized the parish’s significant role in supplying the energy industry as one of the major reasons for maintaining a high level of emergency preparation. Perry addressed members of the Norco Community Advisory Panel (CAP) at a recent meeting and tour of the new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Hahnville.

“We really don’t realize how important our parish is,” Perry emphasized. “The River Parishes form the biggest port in the Western Hemisphere, for example. We have four major highways running through the parish, two interstates and five railroads. The parish is also situated at the hub of one of the major international airports. The area is the second largest industrialized parish in the state as home to 20 major industries including a nuclear power plant.”

He explained that Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness provides a comprehensive emergency management program to protect the health and safety of the community and its citizens. This year, the EOC received accreditation from the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) in recognition of its high standards, one of only two parishes in Louisiana to achieve such status.

Housed in a 13,000 square foot building, the EOC features advanced technology for monitoring and responding to emergency situations. The center is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week and is equipped to withstand winds of up to 200 miles per hour.

According to Perry, St. Charles Parish’s geographical location and the large number of industries located in the area are significant factors in maintaining a high level of emergency preparedness.

“We are a coastal parish. That means we are subject to tidal surges, tropical weather, flooding and rain conditions,” he said. “There is no portion of the parish that is not subject to tidal surges. The EOC, for example, is one of the highest points in the parish, but even here we are subject to flooding.” The parish has obtained a full-equipped communications vehicle that offers capability of moving to higher ground in the event of severe flooding.

Perry also noted the potential for rail accidents, industrial releases and spills, along with road accidents, fires and external threats from terrorists. “The parish is proud of its relationship with area industry, which provides us with early warning if there is potential for on-site incidents to reach the community,” he said. “Among our advanced technology is a hard-copper wire telephone system linked to each industry in the parish, ensuring open communications in any situation.”

Homeland Security and Emergency Management Program is ready to respond to diverse situations with detailed plans, preparation and frequent drills. “We have a detailed analysis of hazards that could affect the parish,” Perry continued. “This includes plans for natural disasters and tropical weather, pandemics, technological hazards and terror attacks, including cyber terrorism.”

The EOC maintains an outdoor warning system and an array of tools to communicate information to the community from specific radio and television channels for detailed information as well as the ability to interrupt standard programming. E-mail, text, phone and cellphone alerts are available for those who register with the EOC.

To register for EOC alerts or for additional information on emergency preparedness visit the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Program at www.stcharlesgov.net or call 985-783-5050.
Hurricanes and Weather Emergencies

NMC’s hurricane preparation team meets frequently and well in advance of potential weather problems – usually at the first sign of a stirring in the Gulf of Mexico. Depending on the severity of a storm and its projected path, NMC begins a slow, phased shutdown. Decisions to implement various stages of the plan are based on information from an advanced private weather service and the St. Charles Parish Office Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Department. Phased shutdowns include leveling tanks to ensure no spillages, running at slower rates, securing equipment and protecting materials.

If a shutdown is necessary, a scaled-down staff remains in a secure on-site location to protect NMC facilities and the community from flooding. “If a substantial water flow is making its way down Airline Highway, for example, NMC pumps are turned on to ensure that water remains out of the site as well as the Norco community,” said Emergency Services Director Pat Beard.

Throughout weather emergencies NMC works with St. Charles Parish to maintain constant communications with the community and employees.

Comprehensive Emergency Response

A full-time staff of more than 20 emergency response professionals and 110 highly trained NMC professional volunteer emergency responders and advanced emergency equipment including fire engines and medical transport are available to respond to on-site emergencies and assist in community incidents.

Within three to four minutes of a reported incident on-site, an emergency command center is established and immediate action taken to block, isolate or address the situation. At the same time, responders evaluate the incident and notify St. Charles Parish for community impact awareness, if necessary.

If there is potential community impact, the parish activates its emergency alerting systems and communicates community instructions. Sheltering in place – staying inside a closed facility - is the recommended response to major incidents although there may be times evacuation is necessary.

Communication

According to Touchard, the site is committed to keep the community up-to-date in the event of any type of emergency impacting the site or the area.

“Those who have signed up for the Connected to Norco* program receive important notifications via email, text or phone,” she explained. “Information is also available by calling the community information line at (504) 465-7483 or by connecting to NMC on Facebook.”
A Hurricane Watch is announced when weather conditions are a threat within 48 hours. This is the time to review hurricane plans, keep informed and be ready to act if a warning is issued.

- FREQUENTLY MONITOR radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio for official bulletins as the storms progress.
- INSPECT AND SECURE mobile home tie downs.
- PREPARE TO COVER all windows and door openings with shutters or other materials.
- CHECK FOOD AND WATER SUPPLIES.
  - Have clean, airtight containers on hand to store at least two weeks of drinking water (14 gallons per person).
  - Stock up on canned food.
- FUEL AND SERVICE vehicles.
- STOCK UP ON EXTRA BATTERIES for radios, flashlights and lanterns.
- GET A CAMPING STOVE with fuel.
- KEEP A SMALL COOLER with frozen gel packs handy for packing refrigerated items.
- HAVE AN EXTRA SUPPLY OF CASH on hand.
- SECURE AND STORE outdoor objects such as furniture, garbage cans, tools and potted plants.
- CHECK AND REPLENISH first-aid supplies.
- CHECK PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES and obtain a supply for at least two weeks.

St. Charles Parish offers a variety of ways to stay connected during storms and other emergencies.

**PHONE**
- Emergency Information Line: 1-888-SCP-9EOC
- Emergency Operations Center: (985) 783-5050
- Parish President and Council Main Line: (985) 783-5000

**INTERNET**
- WEBSITE: www.stcharlesparish-la.gov
- FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/stcharlesgov
- YOUTUBE CHANNEL: www.youtube.com/stcharlesgov
- TWITTER: www.twitter.com/stcharlesgov
- LOUISIANA STATE EMERGENCY BLOG: emergency.louisiana.gov
A Hurricane Warning is put into effect when conditions are expected within 36 hours. Complete storm preparations and leave the area if directed to do so by authorities.

- Keep these pet evacuation tips in mind:
  - Have a current rabies vaccine, license and tags on your animal. Make sure your animal is vaccinated.
  - Have a carrier, a collar and leash for each animal.
  - Have a two-week supply of food and water for your animal plus any medications.
  - Bring a copy of your animals’ current vet records with you. If your animal does not travel well, check with your vet about medicines to ease anxiety.
  - PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR ANIMALS BEHIND!

- Close your mobile home in any case.

- Follow instructions issued by local officials. Leave immediately if ordered to do so.

- Complete preparation activities, such as putting up storm shutters, storing loose objects, etc.

- Evacuate areas that might be affected by storm surge flooding.

- Notify neighbors and a family member outside of the warned area of your evacuation plans.

- Leave early (if possible, in daylight).

- News and emergency messaging:
  - Receive parish Tweets via text message by texting “follow stcharlesgov” to 40404.
  - Get Facebook updates by visiting www.facebook.com/stcharlesgov and hovering over the “Like” button on the parish page and then clicking “Get Notifications.”

- Television:
  - St. Charles Parish TV is available to Cox subscribers as Channel 6, U-Verse as Channel 99, or view online at www.scp-tv.com.

- Radio:
  - 1370 AM transmits emergency information during and after hurricanes.
A few years ago Norco Manufacturing Complex Operator REGINA HOLLINS was a hair stylist. She also worked in the fast food business and held a few other jobs that she would not classify as a career. Ready for something new, Hollins enrolled in a Process Technology associate degree program and attended the Motiva Enterprises and Shell-sponsored Date with Destiny career forum for women.

St. Rose Operator JENNIFER FILLINGER was a middle school teacher looking for a career change and increased financial stability. She received a degree in Process Technology and attended Date with Destiny.

E&P Intern TINA LEVRON is a former Gas and Water System Superintendent for the city of Thibodaux. Wanting to learn more about the valve she directed crews to repair, she enrolled in the Process Technology program at Fletcher Community College. And yes, she attended Date with Destiny.

A diverse group of women, representing a variety of age groups and backgrounds, recently participated in the seventh annual Date with Destiny career forum sponsored by Shell’s Workforce Development Initiative and Motiva Enterprises LLC.

NMC Learning Manager Theron Williams coordinates the event. High school students also participated in morning-sessions designed to introduce them to the petrochemical industry.

Williams explained that the free forum educates and encourages women to consider careers in Process Technology and Maintenance Technology. Date with Destiny introduces women to the responsibilities and educational requirements of work in energy-related fields as well as necessary job seeking skills. Representatives from area Motiva and Shell sites assist attendees prepare resumes and practice their interview skills.

Former Norco Operator Kristi Jones, who currently serves as in Shell Upstream Americas as Unconventionals Learning Advisor, was a featured speaker, encouraging potential operators to build relationships, bring a sense of humor to the workplace, and most importantly, perform in all aspects of the job.

NMC employees Leslie Gaubert, Regina Hollins, Jennifer Fillinger and Anastasia Bourgeois joined Motiva Convent Refinery and Criterion representatives on a panel featuring relatively new operators and former operators who had transitioned to supervisory and management positions. The women answered questions ranging from “how to work in a male-dominated field?” to “what are some suggestions for moving up the career ladder?”

“The energy and enthusiasm among Date with Destiny participants is impressive,” commented Recruitment Operations and Project Manager - Americas David Smith.

For information on the next Date with Destiny contact theron.williams@motivaent.com. Contact Nunez Community College, South Central Louisiana Technical College, or other community colleges for information on Process Technology and Maintenance Technology programs.
Motivation and Determination Fuel Hollins Success

REGINA COLLINS | NMC Operator

“I don’t have to work three jobs at a time now. I am no longer chasing money to pay the bills. Now I have free time to travel, to do things for my son and be more available to do things with him.”

ASK REGINA HOLLINS. Her internal drive and determination motivated by love and concern for her son changed her life. A former fast food shift manager who struggled from one pay check to the next, is now an NMC operator living in her own home, traveling and, most importantly, ensuring a quality of life for her son – with a few extras now and then.

The 31-year old LaPlace resident does not hesitate to tell you she dropped out of high school, had a child and tried to make it in the fast food business. “There just wasn’t enough money for us to live,” she recalled. Her drive kicked in quickly however and she pursued her G.E.D., finding time to study three hours a day until she was prepared to take the high school diploma test. She passed the first time with no problems.

“With her PTEC degree, intern experience and easy-to-see determination and drive on her resumé, Hollins was hired as an NMC operator two years ago.

“I don’t have to work three jobs at a time now,” she smiled. “I am no longer chasing money to pay the bills. Now I have free time to travel, to do things for my son and be more available to do things with him.”

Of course, a new job, especially one in a traditionally male-dominated field comes with a few challenges. “I knew how to balance my time. That transition was easy; the hardest part was learning to enjoy a life that did not have every minute accounted for,” she said. “Working with a group of guys and team building did present something different for me. I just figured that if I went in, worked hard and pulled my own weight, I could do it. I did learn that NMC employees help each other when you need help.”

Life is going well for Hollins and her 11-year-old son. She is particularly enjoying the benefits that come with her full-time employment. “Healthcare with dental coverage is the best,” she laughed. “I can remember the toothaches I used to get when I couldn’t afford to go to the dentist. I used to tell myself ‘one day I will have a job with dental benefits’.

She has that job. It’s more than opening and closing valves and it’s in male-dominated environment. Hollins encourages women looking for opportunity and stability to consider the process technology field. It could be a date with destiny! Her destiny is continuing - Hollins is looking to pursue a degree in Chemistry.

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Hurricane Katrina displaced the young mother and her son to Texas for two years, but she remained motivated, graduating from Cosmetology school while continuing to work. Returning to Louisiana, she found that the hair business in her hometown was not profitable. She had to find another source of income, enrolling in bartending school for a quick certification. Soon she was doing hair during the day and tending bar on the weekends, juggling her schedule around her son’s needs and care.

That’s not all. Hollins obtained an associate degree in Biology from Delgado University and moved on to Southern University in preparation for a degree in Pharmacy. When a family situation triggered time away from her studies, Hollins decided to take a break. “I just didn’t want to continue if I couldn’t make the best grades,” she emphasized.

Although she had attended the Shell and Motiva-sponsored Date with Destiny workshop introducing women to the process technology field, Hollins did not immediately consider pursuing a PTEC degree. “I made friends with a lady who worked in an Olefins Unit at Norco, but all I really knew was that she opened and closed valves,” Hollins said. “I was impressed with the women on the Date with Destiny panel who shared their stories and experiences. The fact that these women would take time out to talk to others was amazing.

“I finally decided to check out PTEC school and because I had completed sciences and other courses previously, I was able to graduate in 38 weeks and was fortunate to get an internship at the Norco Manufacturing Complex.”

“Determination doesn’t pay the bills, but it makes getting to the bank a little easier.”
NMC employees won’t appear on the fashion runway wearing their blue flame retardant clothing. The coveralls, shirts, pants and coats may not be the height of fashion, but they are the height of safety. The Nomex® Fiber clothing is designed to protect petrochemical employees from fire.

An on-site exhibit by DuPont, which manufactures the specialized Nomex fabric, demonstrated its unique protective strength when worn properly. Baggy, or a little loose is the recommended fit, minimizing the risk of undergarments burning and sticking to the skin.

The demonstration focused on dressing the DuPont™ Thermo-Man®, a life-sized, instrumented mannequin in a variety of clothing and engulfing him in flames. Equipped with 122 heat-sensors the Thermo-Man registers the extent of protection while defining the type of burns and injuries that would occur on the human body.

Healthy employees contribute to a safer, more productive work environment and a healthier community.

NMC hosted its annual wellness fair this spring, offering employees and their spouses the opportunity for screenings and basic health checks. Demonstrations, and hands-on by area wellness-oriented organizations and businesses offered guidance for staying in shape, eating right and monitoring personal wellness.
The Sound of Sirens

Norco residents know it’s lunch time on Mondays and Thursdays when they hear a siren.

NMC maintains a three-siren system to alert the community, employees and contractor employees if there is an emergency such as a fire or release.

1 EAST SITE SIREN
• Tested Thursdays at 11:55 a.m.

The East Site siren is a 20-second long cycle undulating tone lasting for one minute. The all-clear siren is a long blast, like an air-horn, lasting for 30 seconds. The East Site siren is also used to alert workers to the threat of a tornado warning, which is provided by a contract weather service to the site. This notification may be different than those provided by the St. Charles Parish Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Department since it must provide notification parish wide.

2 WEST SITE SIREN
• Tested Mondays at 11:55 a.m.

The West Site siren is a short 10-cycle siren, lasting two minutes. It is tested on Mondays at 11:55 a.m.

3 EAST SITE WHARF SIREN
• Tested every third Thursday following regular the East Site Siren testing

The East Site Wharf siren has a chime-like sound, indicating a gas release on the docks. It is tested on the third Thursday of the month following the East Site siren test.

Safety Council Recognizes NMC

The Norco Manufacturing Complex received the Gulf Coast Safety Council’s Outstanding Owner Safety Performance Award for 2014. The site was honored for working safely for more than one million exposure hours at the Safety Council’s Excellence Awards Dinner held this spring in Luling.

According to NMC Contractor Manager Jerry Flood, several site contractors were also recognized with Injury Free Workplace awards Contractor Excellence Awards. The site contractors worked in excess of 4 million exposure hours with one recordable injury for the calendar year of 2014. Flood served as moderator for the awards ceremony.

Pictured here, accepting the Outstanding Owner Safety Award from Gulf Coast Safety Council Executive Board President Rodney Landry are HSSE Manager Chrystal Landgraf and General Manager Don Weaver.
River Parishes Students Receive SCHOLARSHIPS!

Six River Parishes high school seniors received academic scholarships at the recent Annual River Parishes Education Foundation (RPEF) Scholarship Dinner in LaPlace.

EAST ST. JOHN HIGH SCHOOL: Justin Bailey
WEST ST. JOHN HIGH SCHOOL: Kaieonne Soraporu
HAHNVILLE HIGH SCHOOL/SATELLITE CENTER: Peyton Gros and Toney Corley
LUTCHER HIGH SCHOOL: William A. Kramer and Kassie St. Pierre

According to Norco Manufacturing Complex External Relations Manager and RPEF President Rochelle Touchard, the foundation presented $18,000 in scholarships to St. Charles, St. James and St. John Parishes students pursuing a college degree or associate degree in process technology (PTEC). RPEF Scholarship Chair Mary Lou Sumrall presented the awards, acknowledging individual academic, extra-curricular accomplishments and community service.

“The River Parishes Education Foundation is pleased to continue the annual presentation of scholarships to outstanding students who represent the next generation of community leaders as well as tomorrow’s workforce,” Sumrall said. “A special thank you goes out to the families who raised such good children. Parental involvement in the schools is one the founding principles of RPEF. You are parents who have been involved.”

St. Charles Parish RPEF Scholarship recipients were Toney Corley of Hahnville High School and Peyton Gros of Hahnville High School/St. Charles Parish Public Schools Satellite Center. Corley will attend Mississippi State University as a Criminology major. Gros, the first female recipient of an RPEF PTEC Scholarship will attend Southeast Louisiana Technical College.

St. John Parish students honored were Kaieonne Soraporu of West St. John High School and Justin Bailey of East St. John High School. Soraporu will attend the University of Louisiana – Monroe to study Nursing. Bailey will attend Southeast Louisiana Technical College.

St. James students recognized were Lutcher High School students Kassie St. Pierre and William A. Kramer. St. Pierre will attend Louisiana State University as an Elementary Education major. Kramer will attend Southeast Louisiana Technical College.

“A special thank you goes out to the families who raised such good children. Parental involvement in the schools is one the founding principles of RPEF. You are parents who have been involved.”

MARY LOU SUMRALL | RPEF Scholarship Chair

Established in 1993 as collaboration among River Parishes educators, government, business/industry and other interested partners representing St. Charles, St. James and St. John parishes. The River Parishes Education Initiative focused on parental involvement, career choices, and the funding of teacher grants for enhanced classroom learning. Since its inception the group has worked to define/address specific problems facing the school systems, educate business/industry about the school system; provide successful learning tips/suggestions for parent-teacher communication, produce materials to promote parent/community involvement, hosted school-to-career conferences and workshops; and provide annual teacher grants. In 2010, the organization was re-structured as a foundation, awarding scholarships for the first time in the 2011-2012 academic year.
Norco Manufacturing Complex volunteer Marty Duhon demonstrates the distilling process used to produce gasoline for St. Charles Parish Public Schools students attending the Wetlands Celebration this spring. Held at Wetland Watchers Park near the Bonnet Carré Spillway is Harry Hurst Middle School Wetland Watchers annual focus on Louisiana’s environment, wetlands, animals and insects. Students participated in a variety of learning activities, enjoyed Cajun-style entertainment and had the opportunity to catch a crab or fish.

Students Celebrate the Wetlands

WETLAND WATCHERS

Support for Technical Education

The Norco Manufacturing Complex donated $75,000 to the South Central Louisiana Technical College in Reserve to assist with program and facility expansion.

Pictured at the on-campus check presentation are left to right: Larry Saraparu, Westbank Civic Group; Henry Friloux, Echo Ventures; Kim Bourgeois, Louisiana Federal Credit Union; Cindy Poskey, SCLTC Campus Dean; Don Weaver, NMC General Manager; Larry Russell, NMC; Michael P. Palomone, Urban Systems Inc. and Earl Meador, SCLTC Director.
School Is Out for the Summer

THE YOUNGER GENERATION IS ENJOYING HOMEWORK-FREE NIGHTS THIS SUMMER. So are their teachers, who are known to frequently put in many additional hours after the dismissal bell rings.

NMC recognized the efforts and dedication of St. Charles Parish Public Schools teachers from its Partner in Education schools at an end-of-the-year celebration at the Destrehan Plantation. Teachers from Mimosa Park Elementary School, New Sarpy School, Norco Elementary School, Destrehan High School and the Satellite Center and their guests relaxed with a reception featuring the musical sounds of The Wiseguys.

“Thank you, teachers for your contributions and dedication to educating the future leaders of our community,” said NMC General Manager Don Weaver. “The on-going economic development and stability of our community, as well as the Norco Manufacturing Complex, will depend on a strong, well-educated workforce to ensure the quality of life we enjoy in St. Charles Parish.”

St. Charles Parish Public Schools Superintendent Felecia Gomez-Walker also thanked the teachers for another successful school year and extended her appreciation to NMC for its commitment to education. “We value NMC’s emphasis on education throughout the year with financial and volunteer support,” she said. “Our teachers especially appreciate this night-out, which recognizes their efforts for our children.”

“Don Weaver | NMC General Manager