

# Louisiana — Mitigation Matters

*A decade of progress through partnerships*

## Hurricanes Katrina & Rita

Hazard mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. Mitigation is taking action *now* — before the next disaster — to reduce human and financial consequences later.

Across Louisiana, mitigation is succeeding because of ongoing collaboration and cooperation among local, state and federal partners. Residents are also taking a proactive role in safeguarding lives and property. Mitigation has proven to be one of the best measures for reducing damage and the costs of disasters.

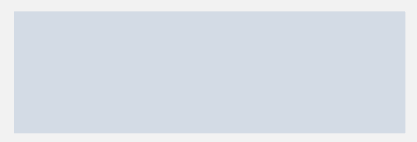
### Woman’s Hospital Prepared for the Storm — Baton Rouge

**Hazard Mitigation projects help keep people and property out of harm’s way when natural disasters strike.**

Woman’s Hospital, a nonprofit medical center in Baton Rouge, is the designated Emergency Disaster Preparedness Hospital for pregnant women and babies.

As Hurricane Isaac moved into Baton Rouge in August 2012, the hospital needed steady, reliable power to care for patients — and three new generators supplied it. A grant through FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provided nearly \$4 million of the \$5.3 million hospital project to install the generators, which can operate all critical hospital services.

The hospital’s 25,000-gallon fuel tank is elevated next to the plant, which itself sits a foot above the floodplain level. With the new generators, Woman’s Hospital will be able to power through the next big storm.



**Women’s Hospital Fuel Tank**



**Women’s Hospital Generator**

### Elevation Project Provides Safe Haven — Harvey

Hurricane Katrina displaced tens of thousands of Gulf Coast residents, including Wayne and Rosalie Oubre of Harvey, who say their Jefferson Parish home had flooded five times.

Participating in the HMGP Reconstruction Grant Pilot program, the Oubres demolished their existing home and built an improved, elevated structure on the same site. Their new home, finished in 2008, is elevated about 3.5 feet above the Base Flood Elevation.

It has a storm-resistant roof and hurricane shutters on all windows. A new load path solution, called the “rod system,” was used during construction to create a continuous load path for resisting wind uplift forces.

The grant provided \$150,000 of the total project cost of \$220,000.



**Building Safer, Stronger, Smarter**



**FEMA**

For more information, visit <https://beta.fema.gov/Katrina10>. News Desk: 225-907-7534 July 2015

# Mitigation Matters

## Pumping Stations Get Safe Rooms — Jefferson Parish

Jefferson Parish has built permanent high-rise safe rooms at 13 of its major pumping stations so operators can keep pumps going during storms and flooding.

The 400 square-foot safe rooms have fold-up bunk beds, a refrigerator, microwave, bathroom and generator power for at least five days.

The safe rooms, designed to withstand 250 mph winds, are anchored to 12 large concrete pilings drilled 80 to 100 feet deep and rising 25 feet above the ground.

Floodwalls provide frontal protection to shield the pumping stations and safe rooms from storm surge.



Jefferson Parish Safe Room

## Storm Panels Protect — Plaquemines Parish

**Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, Gustav and Ike in 2008 and Isaac in 2012 challenged Louisiana Mitigation projects — and lost!**

Plaquemines Parish used a Hazard Mitigation Grant to install storm panels on the exterior of the parish's Government Administrative Headquarters building in 2010.

The panels provide protection against hurricane-strength winds and are debris resistant. Winds from 2012's Hurricane Isaac reached 120 mph, but did not damage the areas of the building protected by the storm panels.



Plaquemines Parish Administrative Building

## Pumping System Works — Assumption Parish

Starting in the 1970s, Assumption Parish authorities installed drainage pumps to deal with Mississippi River flooding and deluges from heavy rains, tropical storms and hurricanes.

Today, Assumption Parish has 66 strategically located pumping stations.

Elevated above the highest flood marks, the pumps ensured the parish sustained minimal damage during hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the 2011 Mississippi River floods.



Assumption Parish Pumping Station