

Boise, BPSO ink disaster agreement

Beauregard Dailey News

BY JULIE ROBINSON

Published: Thursday, October 4, 2007 10:16 AM CDT

A unique agreement signed Tuesday between Boise Cascade and the Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Office will allow the parish to be better prepared in declared emergency or disaster situations, officials said.

The agreement calls for Boise Cascade to provide a warehouse and surrounding area at the DeRidder Mill for a parish Emergency Preparedness and Response Resource and Distribution Center

The purpose of the RDC is to assist in providing services for warehousing and with the distribution of emergency/disaster resources and supplies to the citizens of Beauregard Parish, in coordination with the BPSO's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

The agreement also calls for Boise to have personnel designated and available in case of an emergency or disaster situation requiring the RDC to be activated.

In signing the agreement with Bob Strenge, vice president of Boise Packaging and Newsprint and DeRidder Mill manager, Sheriff Bolivar Bishop commended the company for stepping forward and making the commitment.

"I consider Boise to be an extension of the community," Strenge replied. "This furthers the working relationship we have," referring to the assistance Boise provided to emergency responders in the aftermath of Hurricane Rita.

The concept of the RDC developed from "lessons learned" from the 2005 storm season, according to Deputy Glen Mears Sr., parish OHSEP director.

For six months, a committee studied the project and worked out details for the agreement, a first in the state between government and industry for emergency preparedness, he added.

Members included: co-chair Blaine Butaud, Theresa Tilley, John McMillian and David Ludolph of Boise; Norman Bourdeau of the Calcasieu Parish OHSEP; Clifton Hebert of the Cameron Parish OHSEP; Doug Zettlemoyer of the Louisiana OHSEP; Chad Theunissen and Joanie Farque of the Southwest Chapter of the American Red Cross; Perry Vincent of Louisiana Radio; Chad Hurst of the Louisiana Sheriff's Association; Capt. Russell Haman, commander of Louisiana State Police Troop D; Joe Hill and David Conner of the Federal Emergency Management Agency; BPSO Chief Deputy Robert McCullough; and co-chair Mears.

"The hard work that has been accomplished by this group will benefit the Parish of Beauregard, Southwest Louisiana Region 5 area and, hopefully, other areas of the state as well," Mears said. "I hope we never have to use this RDC to its fullest, but it is comforting to know that it is there with hard-working people to support it."