

Bossier Sheriff S.E.R.V.

The Role of
Sheriff's Emergency
Response Volunteers
In Times of Crisis



A Message From the Sheriff

Self-sufficiency is key in times of crisis

One of the true tests of our readiness is the ability to serve and protect during a time of crisis.

This could be a natural disaster, such as a tornado, or it could be man-made, such as a terrorist attack.

In those times, we want to be self-sufficient and ensure the safety and security of our people.

When we developed Operation Exodus two years ago, our purpose was to provide for the continuous operation of the infrastructure and the safety of the citizens of Bossier Parish. We do this by the protection of essential supply sources and the maintenance of law and order during times of great public crisis, disaster, rioting, catastrophe or similar public emergency.

The emphasis of Operation Exodus is in PREVENTING disorder and lawlessness, rather than fighting. However, we are prepared to

do whatever is necessary to protect the people of Bossier Parish, their homes and their businesses.

In addition to the finest deputies in the country, we are blessed to have a group of volunteers who will assist in any emergency.

They are the Sheriff's Emergency Response Volunteers (S.E.R.V.), and the Disaster Immediate Response Team (D.I.R.T.).

Along with our outstanding deputies, these volunteers will support our emergency response efforts.

I am extremely humbled to have our own residents here in Bossier Parish step up to the plate and serve our community in an emergency situation.

We will be ready to answer the call in order to fulfill these primary objectives:

- Sustain the people of Bossier Parish for a season following a natural disaster.
- Be self-contained in the event we lose access to electricity, food, water, or other resources.
- Prevent unnecessary suffering, sickness and death of the citizens of Bossier Parish.
- Be totally self-contained until help could arrive.

Our job is to protect and preserve life.



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Deputies wade through a neighborhood to check on the welfare of residents during the flooding in November 2009.

If a disaster strikes Bossier Parish, man-made or natural, your Bossier Sheriff's Department is ready and fully capable of responding.

Our goal is to ensure self-sufficiency and protect our people, our assets and our way of life.

What could happen?

We live in uncertain times. Whether extremist groups such as Islamic terrorists causing fear and panic or a tornado touching down in our neighborhoods, the threat is real.

On Sept. 11, 2001, life as we have known it in America drastically changed. On that date, the role of law enforcement was forced to expand once again to meet the challenge of fighting terrorism. Our nation learned that it has enemies who are devoted to our total destruction. These enemies will stop at nothing, including their own death, to accomplish their mission.

In the event of a natural disaster, we want to be prepared and not have to wait for help from other sources, as did the victims of Hurricane



A Bossier deputy arrives at the scene in a Louisiana State Police helicopter during the months-long wildfires at Lake Bistineau in November 2010.

Katrina. Self-sufficiency is key.

Why Operation Exodus?

The driving force behind Operation Exodus stands on two very important realizations. First, a terrorist attack happening in a major city or in another part of the country will definitely affect our parish. A natural disaster in another part of our state or region will affect us locally. Second, for a period of time or possibly indefinitely, we as a law enforcement entity will have to stand alone to secure our own area of responsibility.

Self-sufficiency is so very important for this reason: When these events begin to happen, the nation's resources are going to be dispatched to those locations that have been the hardest hit. This will likely leave us without the help we could expect from other parts of the state or country.

If help does come, great! We'll take it! But we must be prepared as though no one is coming to help us.

How will we respond?

Your Bossier Sheriff's Department is dedicated to a rapid response in case of a disaster. We will work with our Bossier Parish Department of



A tornado in October 2009 felled a large tree, which cut this house in two in Merrywood, Bossier Parish.

Homeland Security, as well law enforcement and emergency response agencies in the cities and state, to maintain law and order, save lives and protect property. The protection and safety of our citizens and businesses, including medical facilities, schools, churches, utilities, and water resources throughout Bossier Parish are our top priority.

Emergency Response Volunteers

The first and most important components of Operation Exodus are our Emergency Response Volunteers.

Within our community, we have law-abiding citizens with an unwavering dedication for protection, safety and well-being of this parish. Most all of them want to be a part of something worthwhile and special, and will jump at the chance to serve and help protect their family and friends.

S.E.R.V. (Sheriff's Emergency Response Volunteers)

S.E.R.V. will assist our law enforcement officers to ensure the public safety and security of Bossier Parish. This could be anything from helping residents during a flood to working crowd control during a riot or protecting assets following a terrorist attack.



Three agencies, Bossier Sheriff, Webster Sheriff and Louisiana State Police, coordinate plans at the scene of a crisis in Webster Parish.

These volunteers receive extensive training in law enforcement tactics and emergency response procedures, such as CPR and first aid. They will be absorbed into your Sheriff's Department's chain of command to multiply the numbers when needed to protect the critical assets in our parish. These volunteers will become part of **Asset Protection Teams**, deterring civil unrest, looting and rioting. Other volunteers will serve as **Coordinated Citizen Aid** groups, working in churches and other facilities providing shelter, meals, personal needs, spiritual guidance and counseling for those affected.

D.I.R.T. (Disaster Immediate Response Team)

Volunteers of D.I.R.T. will respond with construction equipment when needed to cope with a man-made or natural disaster. As a cooperative effort between your Sheriff's Department and Louisiana Machinery of Bossier City, these volunteers will respond with personnel and heavy equipment to remove debris and search for survivors.

During the past years in which Bossier Parish experienced extensive damage due to tornados and flooding, these volunteers provided an invaluable service.

What Can You Do to Help?

While your Bossier Sheriff's Department is committed to your safety and protection during an emergency, there are some precautions you and your family can take as well.

For additional information about emergency preparedness, contact your Bossier Sheriff's Department at 965-2203.

Emergencies would be easy to prepare for if they were predictable. However, there are many things that we can do as individuals to be better equipped when an emergency situation does happen.

Every emergency will be different. Some may force a family to evacuate its home; others may force whole neighborhoods to be evacuated; while still others may require families to stay in their homes for days.

Emergencies don't always happen at the most convenient time, such as when the whole family is home together. They may occur while some are at work or school, or away on business. If you were cut off from communicating with your family, would each family member know what to do?

In order to prepare your family, make some of the decisions before disaster is knocking on your door. Everyone needs a plan for work, school and home.

Two of the best precautions you can take BEFORE an emergency are developing a **family emergency plan** and a **family emergency supply kit**.

Family emergency plan

When developing a family emergency plan, you need to consider the following questions:

- Who is included in my plan? Relatives? Friends? Pets?
- Where do you go during an emergency? Shelter? Church?

Backup location?

- What will trigger the emergency plan? An official announcement? A phone call? How will you notify the rest of your family?
- When will your plan evolve? Day? Night? Anytime?
- Why do you need a plan? Do all involved understand the importance?
- How do you implement your plan?



Bossier homes were threatened by rising flood waters during the 2009 floods.

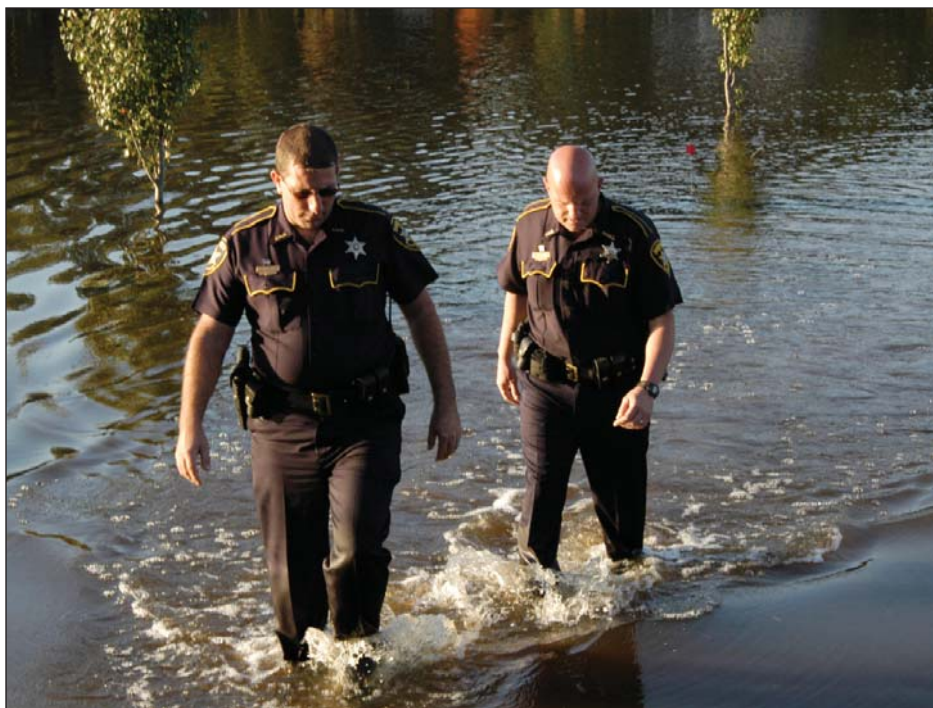
These and other questions can be answered by going to the Bossier Sheriff's Department website at www.bossiersheriff.com/public-defense.cfm. You can also find more complete details for emergency planning.

Family emergency supply kit

Your Bossier Sheriff's Department encourages all residents of Bossier Parish to have adequate supplies in sufficient quantity. Even though emergency relief is eventually coming, it may be hours or even days before assistance arrives. In addition, basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment, and telephones may be cut off for days, or even a week or longer. Self-sufficiency for your own family is important.

Here are some examples of items needed in your family emergency supply kit:

- Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit



Bossier deputies worked long hours, checking on and assisting residents during the 2009 floods.

- Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger
- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and extra water for your pet

These are only a few of the items you will need for your kit. Please see the Bossier Sheriff's Department website at www.bossiersheriff.com/public-defense.cfm for a complete list.

Additionally, remember, different times of the year call for special precautions. During the springtime and early summer, severe thunderstorms and tornados become more of a threat. Help protect yourself with tips on tornado safety at your Bossier Sheriff's Department website: <http://www.bossiersheriff.com/public-defense.cfm>.





This booklet was prepared by:

**Bossier Sheriff
P.O. Box 850
Benton, LA 71006
(318) 965-2203**