Rebuilding Baton Rouge, Louisiana

In August of 2016, the Parish of East Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and surrounding parishes saw unprecedented flooding events, with Livingston Parish having recorded more than 31 inches of rainfall in 15 hours. This catastrophic flooding was considered the worst natural disaster since Hurricane Sandy, displacing tens of thousands of residents. This prompted the City to apply for FEMA assistance to aid in its road to recovery.

In this recovery effort, FEMA selected IBTS to oversee the entire lifecycle of its Manufacturing Housing Unit (MHU) program – from the development of requirements, through purchasing the MHU, storage, transportation, installation and maintenance, and deactivation and disposal. This program supports disaster survivors by placing them in temporary housing until the survivor is able to transition back to a long-term or permanent housing solution. A critical life-safety component of the MHU is the Tank and Pump System (TPS), which provides water to the fire sprinklers installed within the MHU.

IBTS has built an outstanding team to help the flood victims in East Baton Rouge and the surrounding parishes. We are aware of the struggles that the community is going through on a daily basis as they work to rebuild, as several member of the IBTS team were also displaced due to the flooding. Our compassion is proven in our daily approach to treating victims with respect and working with them on an individual basis to ensure their safety by maintaining their TPS to the highest degree of readiness possible.

FEMA Task Orders

IBTS has performed the following tasks associated with our contract with FEMA:

1. **Pre-Test**
   - Ensures proper operation of the TPS units
   - An average of 10-15 tests daily

2. **Installation**
   - Installation and testing the TPS unit
   - Up to 15 installations per day

3. **Commissioning**
   - Commission the TPS units once they are installed and tested
   - Up to 20 commissionings per day

4. **Decommissioning**
   - Break down the installation of the TPS unit and transferring it to the FEMA laydown yard

5. **Preventative Maintenance**
   - Inspect each unit and perform low pressure test, high pressure test, manual self-test, and bypass valve test
   - 250 PM inspections conducted weekly

6. **Maintenance & Service Calls**
   - 24x7x365 Service call support for the deployed TPS units
   - Average of 50 minute response time to all service calls
IBTS’s Impact

Through delivery of our services, flood victims receive a heightened level of fire safety in their MHUs. Knowing that these individuals have been through so much and were displaced from their homes for nine months, IBTS works around the clock to ensure their level of safety. By providing the highest degree of service to maintain the life safety equipment and perform building and mechanical system inspections, we provide a sense of security to the flood victims.

IBTS is committed to provide the personnel and resources required to support the requirements of FEMA, as well as the needs of the flood victims. As a sign of our commitment, the team works daily to exceed the requirements set by FEMA to ensure the safety and well-being of those effected by this disaster. In addition, the IBTS team is in constant communication with the FEMA Joint Field Office to report our activities and provide detailed information on the work performed.

Since IBTS began working on this project in January 2017, we have continued to receive additional tasking based on our high level of service. Our presence in Baton Rouge has grown from a three to 17-person team, with the number of subcontractors growing from a staff of three to a staff of 60. In addition, IBTS and our subcontractors provide 24x7x365 support to the region, enabling us to reduce the response time from the FEMA-required two hours to a mere 50 minutes. This same level of commitment is applied throughout all of IBTS’s tasking through FEMA.

Our Organization

The Institute for Building Technology and Safety (IBTS), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, delivers unique and transparent regulatory, program management, and engineering services to city, county, state and federal governments. IBTS provides unbiased professional services helping our clients reach goals and objectives. We specialize in Building and Community Development, Energy and Sustainability, Disaster Planning and Recovery, and Quality Assurance services with measurable impact to communities and infrastructure projects, helping ensure our customers’ public service excellence. Services include facilities services, third-party construction inspections for buildings and infrastructure, resiliency planning, disaster recovery, peer and plan review services, city and building department management, solar PV quality assurance, energy efficiency consulting, and technology solutions. As a non-profit organization, established to provide transparency and trusted technical solutions to our clients with an unwavering commitment to quality, compliance and public safety, IBTS makes a positive difference in the everyday lives and missions of our clients, teammates and stakeholders.

IBTS knows, understands, and works with the MHU industry with a demonstrated ability to work with homeowners, states, communities, retailers, and engineers. We understand the needs of stakeholders and are involved in every aspect of manufactured housing projects as well as the constraints, limitations, and considerations that can be associated with federally-run programs. IBTS brings unparalleled expertise on how manufactured homes are designed, constructed, and installed. IBTS is responsible for the monitoring, oversight, and annual assessment of the business processes and procedures used by the manufacturers, third-party agencies, and federal government agencies.