

# CEMA SIGNAL

Chatham Emergency Management Agency

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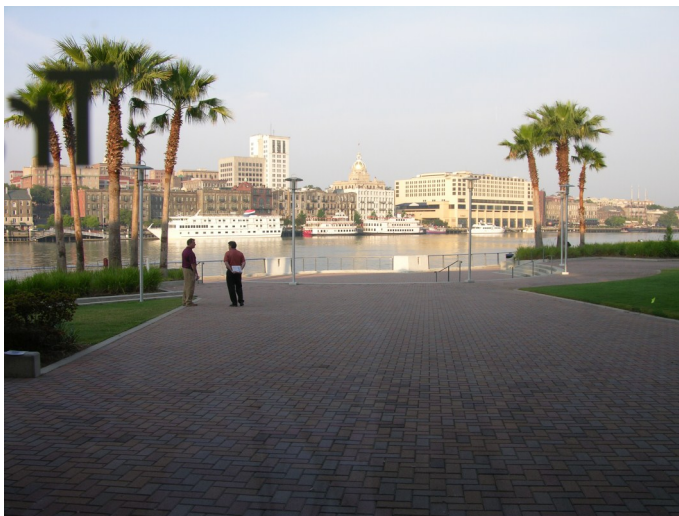
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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:  
building a better tomorrow

2012  
CHATHAM COUNTY  
HURRICANE CONFERENCE  
MAY 1

Mark your calendar



This year's Chatham County Hurricane Conference will be held at the International Trade and Convention Center on Hutchinson Island. Registration information can be found at [www.ChathamEmergency.org](http://www.ChathamEmergency.org). Cost is \$50 per person. The conference is closed to the public.

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## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



We are now two months into the New Year, and I hope that you and your families enjoyed the holidays. CEMA is already planning for a busy 2012 and one of the biggest events on our agenda is the 2012 Chatham County Hurricane Conference. Scheduled for May 1 at the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center, the Conference promises to draw hundreds of attendees. Last year we broke a record in terms of attendees, and this year we hope to see many of the same faces as well as new faces. The theme for the Conference is *Emergency Management: Building a Better Tomorrow*. Workshops will focus on a variety of topics, including debris management, damage assessment, emergency operations, and public information. Registration is open.

In less than two months we'll mark the anniversary of the April 2011 tornado outbreak. The National Weather Service indicates that 321 people were killed during the April 25 – 28 tornado outbreak that affected the Southern, Midwestern, and Northeastern United States, leaving destruction in its wake especially in Alabama,

Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Virginia. The outbreak is listed by NOAA as the fourth deadliest in United States' history and CEMA wants to remind people to prepare now. Having an emergency supply kit and a family communications plan can save your life.

Also in April, CEMA will honor all of the volunteers who help support our operations. CEMA has trained over 200 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Volunteers in disaster preparedness and more than 60 of those volunteers remain active. Volunteers offer support in many areas including community outreach, Emergency Operations Center positions, training new volunteers, and the CEMA Search and Rescue Team. CEMA will host a volunteer appreciation night on April 27th to honor those who selflessly donate their time. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer you can contact our office at 912-201-4500. The stage collapse at the Indiana State Fair last year is an example of citizens coming to the rescue and why disaster preparedness training is so important.

Speaking of the CEMA Search and Rescue (SAR) Team, CEMA staff and Law Enforcement from municipalities throughout the area recently completed a Search Management Course. The two-day course focused on skills for a person who may serve as a search manager or part of a search

management team. The course focused on incident command, search tactics and strategy, search psychology, and even pre-planning. In March, CEMA will host a 47-hour Nationally Certified Principles of Search and Rescue class to train additional volunteers for our SAR Team; the course will include both classroom and field instruction; if you're interested, contact the CEMA office.

In mid-May there will be a combined Georgia National Guard, Department of Defense, Georgia Emergency Management Agency, and local emergency management agencies exercise. HURREX 2012 will be conducted statewide over three days, and will allow us to test our hurricane plans on a local level as well as how we will coordinate efforts on a state level. The full scale exercise is required by the state every two years.

This year CEMA is also updating parts of the County's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). Every five years the agency is required by the state to review the EOP and its Annexes and Appendices. The review will bring new ideas, improvements, and strategies and many of the improvements come from working with our community partners.

Again, I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year. We look forward to a wonderful 2012 and all of the exciting opportunities it will bring.

Clayton S. Scott,  
Director

### Re-Write in the Works

Kate Underwood, EM Specialist, CEMA  
ESF-05: Emergency Management

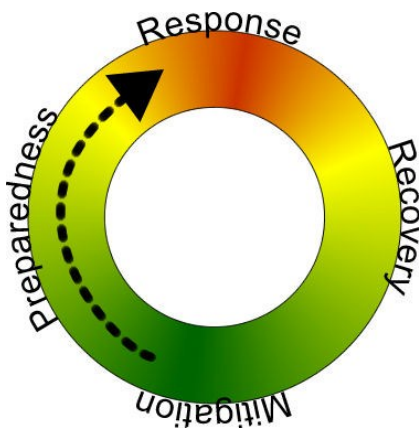
CEMA has a very rigorous planning schedule outlined for this year. Every five years our agency is required to update the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). CEMA staff members are currently working on this update to the document that defines what should be done during an emergency. Each Emergency Support Function (ESF) liaison within our office has been given tasks to complete this update. This is a large and detailed document that has to be completed in a short timeline. We are working internally and with our local Emergency Management (EM) Partners in order to develop and update the EOP as well as other plans as necessary.

We like to pride ourselves in the fact that we are an organization that is always striving to stay one step ahead of the game. Our plans are very detailed and are more than just documents that sit on a shelf; they are exercised and updated often. All plans that require an update will be completed by the end of this year and will be available on the CEMA website.

Below you will find a list of the plans that will be updated by June:

- **Emergency Operations Plan** (5 Year Review/Update)
- **Hazard Mitigation Plan** (Bi-Annual Review/Update)
- **Disaster Recovery Plan** (Component Development/Re-Write)
  - o Annex D: Damage Assessment Coordination
  - o Annex F: Re-Entry and Return
  - o Annex P: Disaster Housing
  - o Annex Q: EOC Roles and Responsibilities
  - o Annex R: Stabilization Strategy

- **Emergency Operations Plan ESF Annexes** (Reviews)
  - o ESF-01 Annex /Appendix 1-1 Tab B: EAA Operations
  - o ESF-05 Annex / Appendix 5-2: Mutual Aid Coordination
  - o ESF-06 Annex / Appendix 6-2: Critical Workforce Shelters
  - o ESF-08 Annex / Appendix 8-1: Special Needs Evacuation
  - o ESF-10 Annex / Appendix 10-1: Hazmat Response Plan
  - o ESF-11 Annex / Appendix 11-1: Animals in Disaster
  - o ESF-11 Annex / Appendix 11-2: NCH Coordination
- **Emergency Operation Plan Support Annexes** (Reviews)
  - o EOP Support Annex A: Finance & Public Assistance
  - o EOP Support Annex B: Private Sector
  - o EOP Support Annex D Appendix 1: Staging Area Coordination
  - o EOP Support Annex G: Integrating and C Coordination of DSCA
- **Emergency Operations Plan Incident Annexes** (Reviews)
  - o EOP Incident Annex A: Hurricane Incident Management
  - o EOP Incident Annex B: Bridge Disruption Incident Management
  - o EOP Incident Annex C: Catastrophic Incident Management



#### What is an EOP?

- Assigns responsibility to organizations and individuals for carrying out specific actions
- Describes how people and property will be protected in emergencies and disasters
- Identifies personnel, equipment, facilities, supplies, and other resources available
- Identifies steps to address mitigation concerns during response and recovery activities



# 2012 chatham county hurricane conference

## emergency management: building a better tomorrow

The 2012 Chatham County Hurricane Conference will be held May 1st at the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center. Last year's conference drew record attendance and we hope to surpass those numbers this year.

### WORKSHOP SUMMARIES

#### **January 1, 2013 Narrowbanding, Is Coastal GA Ready?**

Have you updated your radios, pagers and repeaters for narrowbanding? Representatives from SEGARRN and ESF-02 will provide guidance on what your agency should do to ensure your equipment will work on January 1st.

#### **Don't Burn Me Out, First Responder Safety During and After the Storm (REPEATING SESSION)**

Every second counts when the work of saving lives is concerned, and first responders put themselves in harm's way. This workshop will focus on rescue personnel safety and how to avoid dangerous conditions in overtaxed situations.

#### **Fundamentals of a Well-Written Incident Action Plan**

The consolidated Incident Action Plan (IAP) is an essential component of both the operation and support activities; it will reduce freelancing and ensure a coordinated response. This lecture will provide you with the tools and knowledge to produce a well-written IAP.

#### **Requesting Resources: Getting What You Need And Doing it the Right Way (REPEATING SESSION)**

During the field response, you're going to need resources. This workshop walks you through the Chatham County Resource Request process and shows you how to get what you need, when you need it, the first time around.

#### **Talking ESF to ICS with NIMS and the EOP. Interface between the Field and the Emergency Operations Center**

This workshop will discuss some of the major interface issues; describe the roles and responsibilities of the different response elements and how working together can enhance the overall response to the emergency.

#### **HURREX 2012 is Coming - Week Long Exercising**

HURREX is the State's week long Hurricane Exercise. This workshop will orient you on the goals of HURREX from both the State and the County's perspective. It will provide a detailed overview of the activities of the week.

#### **I'm From GEMA, and I'm from FEMA, and We're Here to Help**

This workshop offers a broad overview of what a Joint Field Office does and how the Georgia and Federal Emergency Management Agencies support the response with a cohesive integration into the local government's response and recovery system.

#### **The Ins and Outs of Public Assistance**

This one-hour training focuses on helping FEMA-eligible applicants better understand the Public Assistance program and prepare for their responsibilities, rights and options navigating through the process.

#### **Citizen's Corp and the Community Emergency Response Teams - Another Untapped Resource**

Once trained, what's beyond for citizens who want to help? This workshop covers how to use volunteers before, during, and after a hurricane and other types of emergencies.

#### **Command Policy Group - Elected Officials Briefing (RESERVED)**

#### **Post Disaster: Role of the Georgia Mutual Aid Group and State Associations**

Join in this session with a panel of experts from five Georgia Associations to talk about what Public Safety resources you can expect to be made available to the area in the event of a disaster

#### **Law Enforcement Changing Roles in Disaster Response**

This workshop focuses on the various roles law enforcement play in a disaster and helps one understand how to operate whether it be on the road or in the Emergency Operations Center.



**GA DOD: Here it is, Where do you Want It**

Once the resource request has been approved and the mission task accepted, learn how Department of Defense assets are deployed, staged, and integrated into the local government's response and recovery system and how those assets are managed.

**Post Disaster Missing Persons: Managing physical searches and out-of-area family inquiries**

GEMA's Search and Rescue program offers experienced teams that will mobilize to a local disaster to search for the injured, sheltered, missing and deceased. This workshop details how this program will integrate into the operations.

**Eye in the Sky Evaluations: Community-wide Hazmat Facility Post Disaster Assessments**

The workshop will focus on what documentation will be needed prior to scheduling flights, the importance of identifying facilities containing Hazardous Materials and how aircraft will be reporting the findings.

**Sheltering and Functional Needs - The State's 50-50-5 Plan**

The State has been working on a strategy for sheltering 50,000 people in 50 locations over a 5-day period. This workshop provides an overview of that strategy and the current planning efforts.

**Unmanaged Good Intentions: Unaffiliated Volunteers and Unsolicited Donations**

The spontaneous nature of people volunteering and providing donations is inevitable; therefore, it must be anticipated, planned for, and managed.

**Our Hometown Heroes: Community Organizations Active In Disasters**

Community Organizations Active in Disaster support the affected community's immediate human needs from beginning to the end and long after traditional voluntary relief agencies have left. This workshop details ways local organizations can help our communities recover from a disaster.

**Post Event Management of Fido, FeFe and the Alligator in your Back Yard**

What happens to the wildlife and countless other critters not evacuated out of harm's way? This workshop will address post event animal issues and possible management solutions.

**Meeting the Immediate Demands of the Community and Emergency Responders with Little to No Resources**

When a hurricane hits, how are we going to continue to take care of the medical needs of those that are still out working and responding? This workshop will focus on the plan to provide continued medical care of our first responders and others working to stabilize the community.

**Preserving Savannah's History - Historical Preservation Practices**

Learn more from experts in the fields of mold removal, freezing, and drying services to public, cultural and records facilities statewide and nationally. The focus is after a disaster when it is essential to get damaged records stabilized.

**Damage Assessment: A Phased Reporting Schedule**

During the initial response, Damage Assessment Teams will be mobilized and focus on critical facilities. Liberty County recently completed a Damage Assessment Exercise and will share their program and lessons learned.

**Talk the Talk During a Disaster: How to Successfully Communicate With The Public**

If a hurricane approaches coastal Georgia, media will play a vital role in educating the public about the oncoming disaster. Panelists will details how information will be provided to the media and coastal residents.

**Can I Dump This Here? Planning Debris Management Sites**

Pre-disaster planning must include identifying Debris Management Site locations to temporarily store, reduce, segregate, and dispose of debris generated by the event. Based on lessons learned and best practices, this workshop will address considerations for establishing post event Debris Management Sites.

This year, pay through

**PayPal**<sup>™</sup>

REGISTER ONLINE: [WWW.CHATHAMEMERGENCY.ORG](http://WWW.CHATHAMEMERGENCY.ORG)

## 2011—The Year of the Tornado

*Ron Morales, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, National Weather Service—Charleston, SC*

### 2011 Tornado Facts

No matter how you look at it, the 2011 tornado related damage and fatality statics were simply mind boggling. According to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Storm Prediction Center (SPC), which is part of the National Weather Service, there were 1,725 tornadoes during 2011, which resulted in 551 deaths and led to billions of dollars in damage. The total number of tornadoes in 2011 represented an increase of approximately 35% compared to the annual ten year average of tornadoes in the United States. Approximately 60 tornadoes last year were considered "killer tornadoes", defined by the SPC as tornadoes that strike densely populated areas, or generate reports of exceptional damage. In the month of April alone, there were more than 758 tornadoes confirmed, which shattered the all time monthly record of 542 tornadoes previously set in May of 2003! However, tornadoes were not the only weather related disasters that plagued the United States in 2011. In fact, the combination of floods, tornado outbreaks, droughts, wild fires and Hurricane Irene, resulted in a

record breaking 12 billion dollar or greater weather related disasters for 2011, breaking the previous record of nine in 2008.

No meteorologist will disagree that the most active, destructive and deadly tornado period of 2011 was during the months of April and May. During these two months, there were several large and destructive tornado outbreaks, including the EF5 tornadoes that leveled portions of Joplin, Missouri on May 22 and El Reno, Oklahoma on May 24, and the EF4 tornado that ripped through Tuscaloosa, AL on April 27. Figure 1 shows the tornado near Tuscaloosa and Figure 2 reveals what this massive and deadly tornado looked like on Doppler radar. The period of April 25-30 was given the name "2011 Super Outbreak", with four tornadoes rated EF5 (winds of 200 mph+) and more than 330 tornadoes confirmed over a 21 state stretch from Texas to New York. The Enhanced Fujita Scale (EF) estimates tornado strength based on wind speeds that are typically required to cause damage left by a tornado (see Figure 3). The scale ranges from EF0 (weakest) to EF5 (greatest).



Figure 1: Tornado near Tuscaloosa, AL. Picture courtesy of Jimmy Jones, UPS driver hit by the tornado.

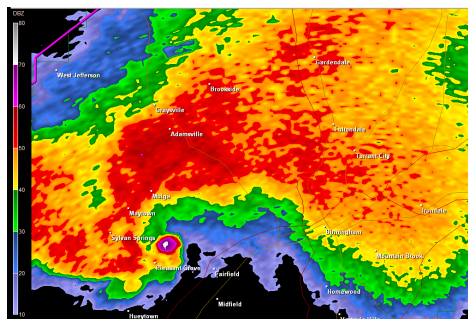


Figure 2: Doppler radar image of the approaching Tuscaloosa, AL tornado. The tornado was located within the "hook" shaped region.

OPERATIONAL EF SCALE	
EF Number	3 Second Gust (mph)
0	65-85
1	86-110
2	111-135
3	136-165
4	166-200
5	Over 200

Figure 3: The Enhanced Fujita (EF) scale used to rate the strength of a tornado.

### What Caused the Record Breaking Tornadoes?

This question has been haunting the minds of many meteorologists in the National Weather Service over the past year. During the spring of 2011, the global climate was under the influence of La Nina conditions. During La Nina, the sea surface temperatures over the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean are cooler than normal. Preliminary research done by NOAA scientists at the Earth System Research Laboratory (ESRL) indicated that La Nina was a major contributor to a much stronger upper level jet stream

entering the Pacific Northwest region of the U.S., then dipping southward into the central and eastern states. The presence of this jet stream would have been a big contributor to a more active severe weather season. However, a quick look at historical tornado outbreaks since 1900 reveals that nature is much more complex. Out of 20 tornado outbreaks identified since 1900, only seven were during La Nina episodes. Therefore, one cannot necessarily establish a direct link to a La Nina event over the Eastern Pacific Ocean with an active and



destructive tornado season over the Central and Eastern United States. If a link can be made between tornado outbreaks and large scale global climate patterns, such as La Nina and its warm brother El Nino, it might open the door to the possibility of making a more long range forecast of exceptionally severe weather periods or tornado outbreaks in the United States.

Another question you may ask is whether or not climate change played any role in last year's extreme levels of violent and destructive weather. Again, preliminary research done by scientists at ESRL indicated no such connection. There are many factors that have governed the observed trends in tornado activity over the past 50 to 60 years. For example, given their rarity and relatively small size, tornadoes would have been less likely to be observed by people 50 years ago versus today due to higher population density, increased ownership of portable cameras/video cameras, and the presence of better detection devices, such as the National Weather Service's Doppler radar network. As with La Nina and El Nino, much more research is needed over the coming years and decades to determine what influence climate change, in particular the part due to human activities, may have on the production of severe weather and tornadoes. This research will likely not focus solely on the number of tornadoes reported, since as seen above, that can vary due to things not related to climate, but on the actual atmospheric conditions produced by climate change that could/would be conducive to tornado outbreaks.

### **Surviving a Tornado**

The key to surviving the destructive power of a tornado is to be prepared by having a severe weather survival plan before a tornado strikes. It is also a good idea to understand the different types of hazardous weather for your region. Across our region of the southeast U.S., all types of hazardous weather are possible including: tornadoes, strong straight-line thunderstorm winds, large hail and flash flooding. For now, we will focus on how to increase your chances for surviving a tornado.

### **Before a Tornado Forms**

Before any tornadoes form, NOAA's Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma may issue a Tornado Watch. Notice the words "may issue" were used. Not all tornadoes or tornado events are preceded by a Tornado Watch. However, the stronger and more widespread killer tornado events will usually have a Tornado Watch in place before any tornadoes form. A Tornado Watch is meant to let you know that atmospheric conditions are favorable for tornadoes to form. These watches typically cover portions of one state or several states, for a time period of two to

six hours. At this point, you should be thinking about your severe weather plan, and what you will do to protect your life if a tornado threatens your region. Make sure you have a way to monitor the latest updates for severe weather warnings and watches from the National Weather Service. A great tool to monitor the weather is a battery powered NOAA All Hazards Radio, which can be bought for less than \$50 at most department or electronic stores.

### **Once a Tornado Forms**

If a tornado is detected on radar by a National Weather Service (NWS) meteorologist, is suspected to be forming, or has been sighted by a trained weather spotter, then your local NWS office will issue a Tornado Warning. This warning will be issued for a much smaller area (average of about 400 square miles) and time span (30-60 minutes) than a Tornado Watch. At this point, you should be taking immediate action to protect your life. This is where your severe weather survival plan is activated. Since homes usually don't have basements or storm shelters in our portion of the country, the best course of action is to get into any sturdy building. Once inside, move to the lowest floor, and into the most interior room, as far from windows and doors as possible. Some good interior locations include: closets, bathrooms, hallways, and even under stairways. If time permits, protect your head and body with a pillow or mattress. Also, make sure you have a way to monitor the progress of the tornado, such as your NOAA All Hazards Radio.

### **After the Tornado**

Be careful not to leave your tornado safe area too early. The best action is to wait for a statement from your local NWS office saying that the tornado has either dissipated or moved out of your area. Use your best judgment to decide when it is safe to move out of hiding.

### **References for Additional Information:**

*NOAA's Earth System Research Laboratory*  
<http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/csi/events/2011/tornadoes/climatechange.html>

*NOAA's Storm Prediction Center*  
<http://www.spc.noaa.gov>

*NOAA's National Climatic Data Center*  
<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/ncdc.html>

*NOAA's National Weather Service*  
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/safety.php>

### ***It's a Wrap: Severe Weather Awareness Week is a Success***

*Kelly Foster, Public Information Officer, CEMA  
ESF-15: External Affairs*



It's a week dedicated to educate Georgians about weather related topics, including family preparedness, NOAA weather radios, thunderstorms, tornadoes, lightening, and floods.

Governor Nathan Deal, in cooperation with the Georgia Emergency Management Agency, The National Weather Service, and CEMA proclaimed the week of February 6-10, 2012 Severe Weather Awareness Week (SWAW).

Since the awareness campaign began in 1978, severe weather events in Georgia have killed at least 350 people, including 23 in 2011. Urbanization and continued population growth increase the potential for severe weather to cause death and

destruction and by simply preparing and understanding these weather events, residents can protect themselves.

Each day of the week during SWAW, there was a designated weather related topic. On Wednesday during SWAW, Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools, other area schools, and a variety of businesses participated in the Statewide Tornado Drill.

The CEMA staff also appeared on several local television news channels promoting weather safety as well as provided life-saving information to the public.

### ***Did you Get the Memo?***

*Kelly Foster, Public Information Officer, CEMA  
ESF-15: External Affairs*

Did you get the text, receive the email, hear the siren, get a fax, or see the Tweet?

On February 8, in conjunction with the Statewide Tornado Drill, CEMA conducted an Emergency Communication Tools Exercise. One of the goals of CEMA's preparedness efforts is to ensure all of our emergency notification tools are working properly.

The following communication tools were successfully tested:

- Community Notification System
- Emergency Alert System
- Cable Override
- All Hazards Radio
- Email Alert
- Outdoor Emergency Warning Sirens
- Billboards
- CEMA Facebook/CEMA Twitter/Text Alerts
- Mass Fax
- CEMA Website



CEMA sends out alerts regarding emergency information, hurricane/tropical storm updates, major road closings, as well as important administrative information. If you're interested in receiving one or more alerts, visit [www.ChathamEmergency.org](http://www.ChathamEmergency.org).



**Register Your Number***ESF-02: Communications*

It's never been easier to stay informed of emergency situations happening in Chatham County. With landlines steadily decreasing, the effort to relay critical emergency messages to the public

has expanded. Through the Community Notification System (CNS), an emergency notification system, any Chatham County resident can register his/her cell phone number or voice-over IP phone such as Comcast or Vonage and receive short, informative calls with updates and public safety alerts.

CNS is an emergency notification system used by the County and the City of Savannah that sends an automated message to residents and businesses during emergency situations. The system is designed to get public safety messages to citizens quickly and efficiently. In the past, landlines were the only lines that could receive notifications.

Earlier this month, CEMA tested the CNS by selecting a small portion of the downtown Savannah area to receive a test phone call. During the test, more than 5,400 businesses and residents were called within 45 minutes.

Citizens can register a cell phone number or VoIP home phone by logging onto [www.ChathamEmergency.org](http://www.ChathamEmergency.org). A link can be found under the latest news section on the homepage.

Landlines are already in the system so citizens don't need to register those.

**HURREX 2012***Jennifer Rodriguez, EM Specialist, CEMA*

It's not Hurricane Season yet, but for some it already feels like it. That's because planning for the State Hurricane Exercise (HURREX) is starting to move fast and furiously. May 14-18 may still seem in the distant future, but when you are planning full scale exercises, time moves fast. Planners met in early February to kick off the planning for HURREX and discussed the three full scale exercises that Chatham County will plan and execute.

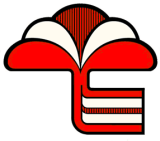
Each of the exercises focus on a different phase of Hurricane Response from Pre to Post-Storm. We are using this month to work with partner agencies and municipalities to meet their hurricane exercise objectives as well. If your agency or jurisdiction wants to participate, please contact Jennifer Rodriguez at [jlrodriguez@chathamcounty.org](mailto:jlrodriguez@chathamcounty.org). Full scale exercises mean that we will actually be setting up the facilities. For the General Evacuation Exercise we will be soliciting individuals to play the role of citizen's processing through the evacuation assembly area.

It is an exciting opportunity to be able to test and exercise our plans to ensure that we have the best procedures for our community.

**Exercise Schedule****Monday, May 14:** Special Needs Evacuation**Tuesday, May 15:** General Evacuation**Wednesday, May 16:** EOC/Joint Information Center/Damage Assessment Exercise**GA National Guard Exercise***1LT Michael Thompson, Public Affairs, 78th HRF*

The Georgia Army National Guard 78th Homeland Response Force will be conducting a tactical training exercise with the Savannah Port Authority from April 20-23, 2012 in Garden City. This tabletop exercise is designed to work with local, state, and federal agencies in a first responder capacity that will allow them to visualize a series of complex emergency related incidents and the capabilities of the 78th Homeland Response Force.

The 78th Homeland Response Force's mission is to man, train, and equip a response capability to assist civil authorities in saving lives and mitigating suffering in response to a chemical, biological, radiological, and/or nuclear incident. Agencies or media interested in more information please contact 1LT Michael Thompson, the 78th HRF Public Affairs Officer, at 770-375-1977 or [michael.e.thompson3@us.army.mil](mailto:michael.e.thompson3@us.army.mil).



### **VOAD is Changing in Chatham County**

*Don Sullens, EM Specialist, CEMA*

*ESF-07: Resources & Logistics*

The name may be changing, but the focus is still the same when it comes to volunteer organizations helping during a disaster or emergency. For years, Chatham County volunteer organizations as well as other key players operated as Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD); however, due to how the group was functioning it was proposed to make a change. At the last VOAD meeting held in 2011, it was approved by the quorum present to change the structure of the organization from VOAD to Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD). The organization is now officially called "Chatham Community Organizations Active in Disasters" or CCOAD. Recognizing differences between VOAD and COAD may be challenging; however, there are some important ones.

Participation in a VOAD is

intended to be primarily made up of volunteer, not-for-profit, and non-government agencies and organizations. Even though organizations from the business communities and government can attend and lend support, their relationship with the VOAD is informal and those business and government organizations have no real representation regarding the activities and focus of the group.

A COAD-based organization includes business and government agencies and organizations, and full participation in all aspects of organizational activities is encouraged. If you reflect on how Chatham County has been doing business, the County has actually been operating as a COAD-based organization for several years.

The mission statement of the CCOAD is this: To strengthen communitywide disaster coordination

in Chatham County by sharing information and resources, and by simplifying resident access to available services in an effort to help satisfy the unmet needs of the community following a disaster. In order to carry out its mission, the CCOAD will bring together community leaders from non-government, volunteer, faith-based, and other not-for-profit organizations and government agencies from all levels as well as from the private business sector and industry.

The CCOAD is not intended to be a competing agency, but an umbrella organization of existing agencies. With the move to the CCOAD, new partners have come aboard and the group hopes to recruit several additional partners this year. If you are interested in learning more about CCOAD, please contact Don Sullens with CEMA at 912-201-4500.



Above: More than 18 agencies were represented at the first CCOAD meeting of the New Year.

Below: Pam Terekhova, CCOAD Secretary; Chip Grefski, Fmr. CCOAD President; Sharyn Baggett, Fmr. CCOAD Vice President.





### ***Managing the Search***

*ESF-09: Search and Rescue*

One of the most important elements of a search involving a missing person is organization. To help compliment the CEMA Search and Rescue (SAR) Team our agency hosted a Search Management Course for staff and area law enforcement personnel.

The intensive two-day course focused on the technical skills necessary for the person serving as a search manager or as part of a search management team. This class highlighted Incident command, search tactics and strategy, operational considerations, resources and resource allocation, search psychology, lost person behavior, managing external influences, and pre-planning. Participants were able to apply what they learned in a tabletop search exercise at the end of the two days.

Anthony Marzano, Director of the Brunswick County Emergency Services in North Carolina, taught the two-day course. Before accepting the Director's position,

Marzano served as the Search and Rescue (SAR) Coordinator for the State of Illinois and is currently a member of the SAR Standards Committee and the National Association for SAR. "Common sense will only take you so far when a person is missing. Beyond that, thorough investigation, detailed planning, and effective use of resources are critical. The first hours after someone goes missing are the most critical, so training helps speed response and maximize success," said Marzano.

CEMA currently manages a nationally certified SAR Team with more than 15 active volunteers. In 2011, CEMA assisted local law enforcement in six searches involving missing people. The team has been trained in lost person behavior, land navigation skills, man-tracking, and clue identification. The team trains monthly and is available for callout when requested.

### ***Practical Skills for SAR***

*ESF-09: Search and Rescue*

Think you have what it takes to be a part of the CEMA Search and Rescue (SAR) Team?

In March CEMA will sponsor a 47-hour course in the area. The course, Practical Skills for Search and Rescue, will provide the knowledge concerning the general responsibilities, skills, abilities, and equipment needed by volunteer searchers assigned to field operations during a SAR mission.

The course also provides the student with practical exercises and is based around the urban, rural, and wilderness environments.

#### **Who Should Attend:**

Those interested in becoming involved or have just become involved with the CEMA SAR Team. You must be in good physical health, like the outdoors and be willing to commit to both training and immediate callout. (If you do become a member of the CEMA SAR team, you must be aware of the devotion it takes on your part and realize the commitment that goes into being an active member.)

#### **Prerequisites:**

IS 100, IS 200, IS 700.a, IS 800.b, IS 809

#### **Contact:**

Kelly Foster, CEMA  
(912) 201-4500



Left: CEMA's Jennifer Rodriguez; CEMA SAR Team Captain Kevin Strickland; and two Glennville police officers work through a tabletop exercise involving two missing boys.

***The American Red Cross: 100 Volunteers in 100 Days***  
*Harry Walker, Disaster Public Affairs Volunteer, American Red Cross*  
*ESF-07: Logistics*

The American Red Cross; 100 Volunteers in 100 Days?

If someone were to ask you, "What do you know about the American Red Cross", what could you tell them? Almost everyone would say, "They operate a Blood Mobile, teach First Aid, CPR and go to disasters." They would be correct; however, there are many more things that could be added to the list that most of us are unaware of. For example: Red Cross Services to the Armed Forces mission is to provide care and comfort to the members of the United States Armed Forces and their families. The American Red Cross serves 1.4 million active duty members, 800,000 National Guard and Reservists, 24 million veterans and 3 million family members.

The "You'd Look Good in Red" campaign is to recruit 100 volunteers in 100 days.

You could add that the Red Cross is a humanitarian, nonprofit organization that responds to more than 70,000 disasters each year. Around 63,000 of those are local disasters such as home fires not requiring a large personnel response. The Red Cross also offers, free of charge, educational presentations to organizations, clubs

and companies in advance of disasters. These would include how to prevent, prepare for and respond to Home Fires, Hurricanes, Earthquakes, Floods, and Tornados, as well as Extreme Heat and/or Extreme Cold condition classes. The Red Cross' mission is to make sure that disaster victims who need a place to stay are sheltered. Those who have no food are fed. Those who have lost medications or eyeglasses due to a disaster get them replaced. Mental health counseling for disaster victims who are traumatized is made available. It is all accomplished from private and public donations as well as fundraising efforts, and not funded by the federal government. The Red Cross is proud to say that it spends (.91) cents of every dollar donated on services to support disaster relief efforts.

Major disasters require a major response of personnel, supplies and equipment. When a major disaster happens, Red Cross volunteers and employees come together at a pre-determined location and work hand in hand with other organizations charged with disaster relief operations. This location is known as the Emergency Operations Center. The Red Cross is never immune from shortages of personnel and or funds. Presently, the Red Cross has many opportunities for new volunteers (which are greatly needed) to get involved. The "You'd Look Good in Red" campaign is a volunteer recruitment program to recruit 100 volunteers in 100 days. As the Hurricane season

approaches it is necessary to begin training new volunteers now so we can meet the needs that we will face this Hurricane season. This campaign has ten major roles that need to be filled. They are:

Disaster Responder Volunteers provide on call, immediate assistance (food, shelter, and clothing) to those affected by local disasters such as fires and floods. When it is necessary to open a shelter for these clients, volunteers are needed for shelter operations (set-up, feeding, dormitory management).

Work in Health Services to assist disaster clients with their medications and medical equipment- Disaster Health Nurses provide emergency and preventive health services to support people adversely affected by disasters, both victims and volunteers.

Provide emotional support to Red Cross volunteers and to clients- Provide counseling, crisis interventions, mental health screenings and emotional care support to Disaster workers and clients for disaster related stress and grief.

Public Affairs-write articles for the newsletter, local media-work with local media outlets to help explain the role of the Red Cross during disasters. Assist with developing and maintaining good media relationships. Write press releases, take photographs and represent the Red Cross on disaster scenes and for general media reports.

Logistics Volunteers Supports activities and services necessary to



conduct disaster relief operations; including the securing of facilities, supplies and equipment required to operate a disaster response.

Human Resources management- manage all aspects of overseeing a volunteer workforce-Help recruit, screen and interview new prospective volunteers. Place them in positions that match their individual skill sets or desired position.

Community Development Presenters- Teach members of your community how to prevent, prepare and respond to disasters-assist Red cross in educating community organizations and agencies to prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies.

Administrative Volunteers - Greet visitors at the front desk and answer the phone. Perform administrative activities such as filing and simple computer operations.

Fundraising Volunteer- Assist the financial Development team with Red Cross fundraising initiatives.

Social Media Volunteer-Use your skills to assist the Red Cross with keeping their mission in the social media world. Post updates to Twitter, Facebook and the Chapter Website.

Do you know more now than you did?

The founder of the Red Cross, Clara Barton, had a vision of establishing an organization dedicated to helping disaster victims. The Red Cross has been on the

scene of disasters since 1861 and will always be there in the future. In order to maintain our presence and continue to provide assistance, it is important that we constantly continue to enlist the help of more volunteers. We encourage volunteers of all ages and professions to become active in the Red Cross and especially encourage seniors, retirees and couples to join our forces and share your experiences with our teams. Remember, you are the Red Cross.

For more information contact:

Judy McKinney,  
Savannah Chapter,  
American Red Cross  
(912) 651-5300



The Savannah Chatham of the American Red Cross was established St. Patrick's Day 1917 and provides oversight for Red Cross Services in a 31 county region. Services provided in the past year include:

- 2,217 local residents who lost their homes when disaster struck received emergency food, shelter, clothing and other necessities to make a new start.
- 5,000 adults and young people attended disaster preparedness briefings.
- 19,254 of our neighbors obtained critical lifesaving skills in first aid, CPR, aquatic safety and other Red Cross Programs.
- 18,655 deploying or returning U.S. armed forces members were welcomed home by Red Cross volunteers at Hunter AAF and Fort Stewart, GA.
- 33,869 local military families helped with emergency messages and deployment briefings.
- 727 volunteers delivered Red Cross services.

### ***Safe Shelter Needs Shelter***

*Sharyn Baggett, Emergency Services Program Manager, American Red Cross*

*ESF-06: Mass Care*

On November 19, 2011, Kathie Perkins, American Red Cross (ARC) Duty Officer, received a phone call with a request to open a shelter for the 45 residents of Savannah's Safe Shelter. Safe Shelter is a private, non-profit agency that offers food, shelter and support to victims of domestic abuse. One of the sprinkler heads on the second floor of the building had been damaged by a resident and caused more than 1,500 gallons of water to flood the structure.

Typically, the American Red Cross does not open shelters for businesses or other non-profits, but this incident proved to be an exception. Upon talking with Safe Shelter's Executive Director, Cheryl Branch, it was determined that there were no other shelters in the surrounding areas that could take their residents and all of the local shelters were at capacity. Approval was given to open the shelter and Ms. Perkins contacted CEMA for assistance in activating our partner government agencies to help us with sheltering.

Dustin Hetzel, CEMA Duty Officer, placed calls to the Chatham County Health Department to inspect and approve the building, Savannah Chatham County Public School System Police Department to open and orientate ARC with the building and to the Savannah Chatham Metro Police Department (SCMPD) to provide protection for the shelter residents. Within a few hours from the initial request, the shelter was opened at Southwest Middle School.

The shelter at Southwest Middle School remained open for three days until the residents could be moved to other facilities and repairs could be completed to their building. I am so thankful for the excellent working relationship between the ARC, CEMA, the Chatham County Health Department, the Board of Education, and SCMPD. It truly makes a difference to our staff, volunteers and most importantly, to our clients.

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### ***From the Fire Line***

*Hugh Futrell, Assistant Chief, Fire Operations, Southside Fire/EMS/Security*

*ESF-04: Firefighting*

Welcome to 2012. First, all of us involved in ESF-04 would like to remind all citizens, including our fellow ESF partners, to check your smoke detectors! Unfortunately, here in coastal Georgia, even during our mild winter, there have been numerous fire deaths where smoke alarms were not installed or failed to work. Remember, others depend on you: check those smoke detectors now.

ESF-04 has met a couple of times already in 2012. Currently, through The Association of Fire Chiefs in Chatham County, our partners are working on finalizing a grant project. This grant will bring approximately \$136,000 into Chatham County's various fire services. This will not only improve communications during multi-agency events, but also will deliver hundreds of VHF pagers programmed and set for the FCC mandated narrowbanding into the hands of hundreds of volunteer firefighters and medical first responders throughout Chatham County.

In other news, we are prepping for the annual St. Patrick's Day events. Again this year, with several days of increased population, we will be expecting all emergency services to help in the time of need. ESF-04 is no exception. As in the past, we will be coordinating mutual aid fire services at the CEMA Emergency Operations

Center on March 17th if needed. Also, we are looking forward to the State's Hurricane Exercise (HURREX 2012) in May: an event that promises to give us all a good look at what works and what does not work for emergency response during a hurricane. Those wishing to participate should contact CEMA and get into the mix on the planning for this exercise.

Be safe, be prepared, and we'll see you at the big one.





### *There's Plenty of Space*

*Tony Whitmire, Captain, Georgia Tech Police/Savannah Division*

Prior to my assignment to the Savannah campus, I was the Training Division Commander for the Georgia Tech Police Department at the Atlanta campus. In that role one of my goals was to move the training program from a static program that never left the classroom, to one in which we focused more on practical applications and training exercises. We were able to greatly increase the amount of "hands on" training, but not without obstacles to overcome.

Besides the lack of instructors, one of my largest roadblocks to conducting practical training and exercises, especially large scale exercises, was finding a suitable space that was large enough to accomplish the training goals. Even with as large a campus as we have there, it was still very difficult to find training space that would not interfere with other income producing activities. So I know that training and exercise space, or the lack thereof, can be an issue for first responder organizations.

Now that I am at the Savannah campus, I no longer have the lack of space issues. It's sort of a moot point for me, though, since I am no longer responsible for the department's training program, and I still don't have any instructors. However, I have been authorized by

the Administration Director of the campus to offer the property for the use of any first responder agency that wants to use it for training or exercises.

Our campus is at 210 Technology Circle, off of Jimmy Deloach and Crossroads Parkway. We are on the north side of Jimmy Deloach and the property sits on a circle in an otherwise undeveloped office park. We own or lease about 50 acres total, with another 50 or so empty acres adjoining us. The adjoining property is owned by SEDA and as long as we do not change the landscape, such as cutting trees or plowing, we can use that property too. About half the property is wooded, including some wetlands, and the other half is open fields, with enough room for a helicopter LZ. There are also two ponds and some streams on the property. The roadway circling the property is about one mile long and the back side is seldom used for traffic.

There are lots of possibilities for using the property. The fields could be used for disaster exercises or practical scenarios for police training. The roadway could be used for traffic stop training and/or Simunitions scenarios. Savannah Fire occasionally uses the circle for truck driving practice. Some of their

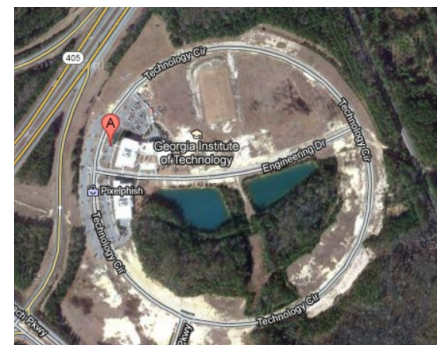
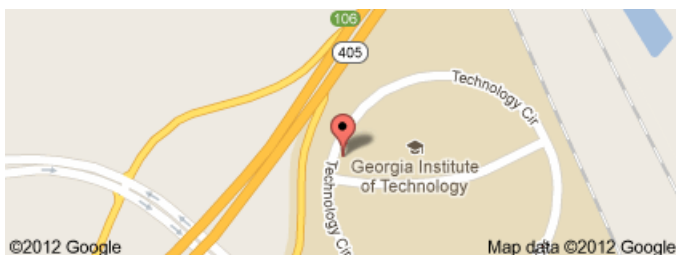
divers have also been in the ponds and I am trying to get final approval for them to place training tools and equipment in the ponds for future training, which should be forthcoming. The ponds could also be used for pump training (a firefighter told me the technical term for that but I have forgotten it), as long as the water was sprayed back into the pond. The wooded areas could be used for basic search and rescue exercises or land nav training. Possibilities are limited only by your other necessary resources. The only training venue that is not readily available is indoor space. Because of ongoing classes and tenants leasing space in our buildings, we do not always have free space inside, but we can still work that out if necessary.

In addition to training and exercises, the property is also available for staging equipment and resources in the event of a disaster response.

If you are interested in using the property, please contact me.

Captain Tony Whitmire  
Georgia Tech Police-  
Savannah Division  
Office: 912-966-7925  
Cell: 404-798-0664

[Anthony.whitmire@police.gatech.edu](mailto:Anthony.whitmire@police.gatech.edu)





## Welcome Home: New Re-entry Passes

ESF-01: Transportation

This Hurricane Season Chatham County will be operating under new re-entry guidelines. The purpose of the guidelines is to establish consistent re-entry phases for those counties likely to be impacted from an Atlantic Hurricane. The new guidelines will allow local and state personnel with responsibility for emergency management, access control and public information to understand the differences between each re-entry phase and be able to better support local operations. The re-entry phases will be in the 2012 edition of the Georgia Hurricane Plan and will be immediately incorporated into the GEMA Disaster Critical Workforce Re-Entry Permits Standard Operating Procedures.

There are four phases of re-entry following a hurricane landfall in Georgia. It is further recognized that each of these phases may be subdivided or have additional restrictions based on current conditions.

The Chatham County Command Policy Group will make the determination following a partial or full evacuation of the County, as to when conditions in the affected area(s) allow for citizens to return (re-enter). The affected area(s) may be limited in size; could include all Chatham County; or possibly extend into several counties in the region. When announced, a progressive, three-phase plan will be initiated to ensure an orderly re-entry into the affected area(s) of Chatham County.

### PHASE I- Render Safe Task Force

*ID Requirements: First Responders and other designated Emergency Response Personnel re-entering during Phase I must be in*

*possession of an official Local, State, or Federal Government/Department Photo ID Card.*

**Phase I Defined:** This phase is the initial phase of re-entry in which teams from state and local response agencies as well as private sector utility providers will gain access to impacted areas. The primary objective of personnel operating in this condition is to render the area safe for follow on first responders conducting life safety operations.

#### Planning Assumptions for

**Phase I:** In most situations members of the Render Safe Task Forces will be co-located immediately before re-entry operations begin in defined staging areas inland. These teams will be the first officials to enter restricted areas, therefore re-entry passes are not required as law enforcement officials restricting access will be imbedded in this response element or will not be posted to restrict access due to operating conditions. Nearly all elements of this group will likely be operating emergency response type vehicles with obvious agency or company markings.

Re-Entry into Chatham County during Phases I and IIA will be restricted to First Responders and other designated Emergency Response Personnel to include but not limited to:

- Law Enforcement
- Fire Services
- Search and Rescue Resources
- Emergency Medical Services
- Government Officials

**DETERMINING ACCESS.** Law Enforcement and other designated security personnel will exercise discretion at County Re-Entry Control

Points. If personnel at the control point are not able to make an appropriate determination regarding access, the EOC will be contacted for resolution.

***Being in possession of a Re-Entry Permit WILL NOT allow access into Chatham County prior to Re-Entry Phase IIB.***

### PHASE II- Emergency Response and Life Safety

**IIA - Critical Workforce Conducting Life Safety Operations**

*ID Requirements: First Responders and other designated Emergency Response Personnel re-entering during Phase IIA must be in possession of an official Local, State, or Federal Government/Department Photo ID Card.*

**Phase IIA Defined:** This phase will likely consist of personnel conducting life safety operations such as search and rescue, emergency medical services, fire suppression; hazardous materials control and containment, preliminary damage assessment, essential relief staff to critical medical facilities and immediate utility restoration to critical incident facilities.

**Planning Assumptions for Phase IIA:** Personnel entering during this phase that are responding in non-marked public safety or local utility vehicles should be expected to present employment credentials as well as a valid state issued identification card to public safety personnel controlling access. In limited situations, private sector personnel may be required to have State of Georgia Critical Workforce Re-Entry passes. These passes are

issued to local private sector personnel through the Local Emergency Management Agency Director.

**IIB** - Essential infrastructure emergency support personnel

*ID Requirements: First Responders and other designated Emergency Response and Support Personnel re-entering during Phase IIB must be in possession of an official Local, State, or Federal Government/Department Photo ID Card; OR Disaster Critical Workforce Re-Entry Permit.*

**Phase II B Defined:** This phase should consist primarily of those individuals from the public and private sector that support the re-establishment of critical infrastructure to support the re-entry of the general public. These critical infrastructure systems include but are not limited to petroleum and food distributors, non-emergency medical facilities such as dialysis centers, pharmaceutical providers, members of the media, medical facility support staff and local government essential workers.

#### **Planning Assumptions for**

**Phase IIB:** This phase will require close coordination between county emergency operations centers, as well as local public safety officials controlling access to ensure the appropriate individuals are allowed into damaged areas.

#### **PHASE III- Residents, Property and Business Owners**

ID Requirements: Local public safety officials will likely ask those attempting to gain access to show a valid state issued identification card as well as some type of document or proof that they have a reason or interest to enter the impacted area. Types of documentation to validate the need for entry for these individuals include but are not limited to driver's

license or state issued identification with an address in the impacted area, property deed, recent utility bill verifying address, current voter registration card, recent property tax statement, business credential or pay stub from local business.

**Phase III Defined:** This phase includes all residents, property owners and business owners.

Planning Assumptions for Phase III: This phase may come one week or more after phase I and may be the hardest to control for various reasons. Residents and individuals entering during this phase should expect to have their residency or affiliation with a local business challenged.

\*Phase III may have specific restrictions in place such as:

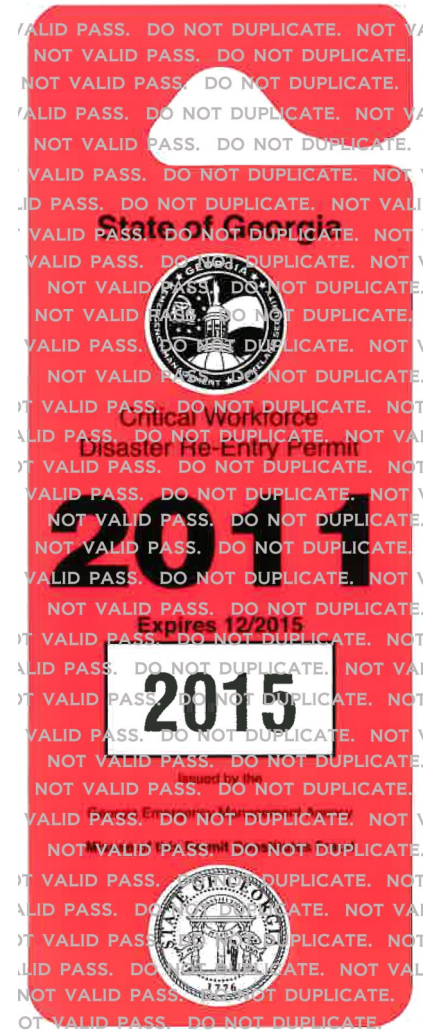
- Limited to portions of the impacted county
- Restrictions allowing access only during day-light hours

#### **PHASE IV- Public Limited Access** *ID Requirements: NO SPECIAL ID REQUIREMENTS*

**Phase IV Defined:** This is the final phase of re-entry in which local officials may determine all or portions of their county are relatively safe for the general public to enter.

\*Phase IV may likely have specific restrictions in place such as:

- Limited to portions of the impacted county
- Restrictions allowing access only during day-light hours



Above: Sample pass.

If you applied for and were approved new passes for this hurricane season and still have not picked up them up, please do so from the CEMA office.



### **River Run 2011**

*David Loiacono, Officer, Customs and Border Protection*

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the United States Coast Guard, and multiple federal, state and local agencies took part in a full scale maritime security exercise on July 20, 2011.

Participating in a full scale emergency management exercise allows partners to validate the major aspects of crisis and consequence management programs, and involves all levels of participating organizations. The exercise tests the basic elements within crisis and consequence management operations, plans, and organizations in a stressful and realistic environment. It includes the mobilization of personnel and resources and the movement of crisis and consequence management personnel to demonstrate coordination and response capability.

Exercise "River Run 2011" was a one day full scale maritime security exercise coordinated, planned and executed through the Savannah Maritime Inter-Agency Center of Operations (MICO). Participating agencies included U.S. Customs and Border

Protection (CBP), the United States Coast Guard (USCG), and multiple federal, state and local agencies. MICO is a maritime domain awareness situation unit comprised of over 30 agencies, led jointly by CBP, USCG, and ICE.

The exercise was conducted at local marinas and on portions of the Inter-Coastal Waterway near the port of Savannah and simulated a small watercraft arriving at a private marina without notification. Upon arrival, CBP officers concluded immediately that the crew was in possession of fraudulent documentation and found assorted bomb making materials both on the vessel and dock side. CBP officers secured the crew and scene and made proper notifications to federal,

state and local partners. Ultimately, as the scenario progressed, a Unified Command was established. The Unified Command structure brought together the "Incident Commanders" of all major organizations involved in the incident in order to coordinate an effective response while at the same time carrying out their own jurisdictional responsibilities.

Area Port Director Mrs. Lisa Beth Brown stated, "The maritime security exercise was another excellent opportunity to work with our long-standing partners. The exercises are necessary for us to enhance our existing protocols. Each exercise improves our readiness."



(Photo courtesy: MICO)

## ***Savannah Spill Response Corporation Quadruples River Protection***

*Tom Wright, Secretary, SSRC  
ESF-10: Hazardous Materials*

The Savannah Spill Response Corporation (SSRC) has placed the first Port Security Grant-funded resources on the Savannah River: two 20 foot containers, each with 2000 feet of boom and associated support materials at strategic locations up and down the river. Each container has 2000 feet of 18" containment boom with associated line, floats and anchors. Each container also has absorbent boom, cleaning material, eye wash and a first aid kit.

The SSRC has replaced the previous boom reel with two containers, increasing resources from 1000 feet to 4000 feet of boom to help contain a spill on the river and to protect the Savannah River's natural and historic value to the residents of Chatham County and the State of Georgia.

The SSRC's goal by the first part of the year is to increase the overall response resources on the Savannah River from 12,000 feet to 28,000 feet of containment boom,

adequate for any major response. Congratulations to SSRC's Executive Committee, Nick Baker, Randy Cornwell, Mike Northcutt and Jim Baker, Grant Manager Scott Rasplicka, and Moran Environmental Recovery with Bernie Reagan who worked the Federal Grant that was a 75% Federal dollar, 25% local match paid through the SSRC.

**Right: Each container has 2000 feet of 18" containment boom with associated line, floats and anchors. Bottom: Interior of the containers. Each container also has absorbent boom, cleaning material, eye wash and a first aid kit.**

**(Photos courtesy: Tom Wright, SSRC)**



**MACS/EMPG 2011 Program Accomplishments****PLANNING AND OPERATIONS**

- EOC Activated for six events:
  - o St. Patrick's Day
  - o Westboro Baptist Church Protest
  - o Tropical Storm Emily
  - o Hurricane Irene
  - o Troy Davis Protests
  - o Rock & Roll Marathon
- CEMA staff deployments to support seven emergency operations throughout the state (fires & tornadoes).
- CEMA Duty Officers responded to 37 local and county emergency incidents.
- Coordinated Firefighter Task Force Deployments to Wildland Fires.
- The Search and Rescue Team participated in six missing person search and rescue operations.
- Developed, coordinated and published the following documents to meet or exceed state and federal standards:
  - o Disaster Awareness and Preparedness Strategy
  - o Joint Information Center and System Plans
  - o Volunteer Reception Center Plan
  - o Disaster Recovery Plan – Debris Strategy, Road Clearing Priorities and Critical Facility Restoration Annexes
  - o Disaster Recovery Plan – Evacuation Routes and Evacuation Assembly Area Operations Appendices
  - o Emergency Operations Plan – Integrating Defense Security Cooperation Agency Annex
  - o Operations Center -- Phone Operations Plan

**TRAINING AND EXERCISE**

- Conducted Hurricane Conference for 320+ attendees
- Conducted more than 125 emergency management training opportunities for county and municipal staff
  - o Emergency Operations Center Staff (250+ attendees)
  - o Emergency Operations Center Section Chiefs (22 attendees)
  - o Community Emergency Response Team
  - o Lost Person Behavior Training
  - o Weather Spotter Classes
  - o ICS 300 & ICS 400
  - o Basic Public Information Officer
  - o ICS/EOC Interface
  - o IA/PA Training
- Coordinated and/or Participated in 25+ Internal and External Exercises. Notables include:
  - o Three Emergency Operations Center exercises
  - o Disaster Mortuary Exercise coordinated by

## Department of Defense

- o Savannah Hilton Head International Airport Air-Crash Exercise
- o Air National Guard Exercise
- o Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Full Scale Exercise
- o Hunter/Ft. Steward Full Scale Exercise
- o Region J Hospitals Full Scale Exercise
- o National Emergency Alert System Test
- Produced multiple online Training Videos
- Two CEMA staff received Georgia Certified Emergency Manager accreditations; one received International Association of Emergency Manager's accreditation

**COMMUNITY AND MEDIA OUTREACH**

- Conducted nearly 50 Hurricane presentations for various community groups and schools
- Created and distributed quarterly CEMA Signal Newsletters
- Created a Chatham County YouTube Channel
- Created the National Preparedness Month Campaign
- Created a Blog for Chatham Emergency Management Agency and the Program
- Coordinated Media and Volunteers for the National Hurricane Center's Hunter Army Airfield Hurricane Expo
- Coordinated "Inside the Emergency Operations Center" Day for Local Media Outlets
- Produced nearly a dozen articles for the "Chatham County Connection" and other county-wide publications.
- Established a Hug-A-Tree Program in Chatham County and conducted the training at several elementary schools
- Developed and participated in numerous live media events for Hurricane and Severe Weather Awareness
- Participated in numerous business & industry Community Expositions
- Presented at the National Hurricane Conference in Atlanta
- Partnered with La Voz Latina to develop Spanish Material during Preparedness Campaign
- Represented as a Member of the International Paper Community Advisory Council
- Represented Member of the "CrimeStoppers" and InfraGard Boards of Directors
- Represented Member of the Planning Committee for both State & National Hurricane Conferences
- Represented on and EM Staff serve as Regional Chair for local, State & National Emergency Management Boards





Left: This is why drinks without lids are not allowed in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Someone spilled a liquid beverage down the side of one of the fabric panels. Fortunately no equipment was damaged, but you can see just how close the liquid came to the computer hard drive.

So remember, if you plan to have a drink while in the EOC, please cover it!

## Spotlight

Kate Underwood



Kate Underwood was raised in Effingham County and attended school at Effingham County High School. After graduation in 2000, she moved to Valdosta, Georgia to pursue a higher education at Valdosta State University. In 2005, she graduated with her Bachelors of Business Administration with an emphasis in management and a minor degree in Spanish. Immediately after graduation she attended the Masters of Public Administration program at Valdosta State University.

In December 2006, a quick year and a half later, she completed the Masters program. While working on her Masters degree she began working for Teamtemps Personnel Staffing, Inc., the largest staffing firm in southwest Georgia. Her work at Teamtemps was quite extensive as she managed the Accounting Department. Her responsibilities included processing payroll and liabilities for more than 500 temporary employees, accounts receivable and payable for 100 plus vendors, and other accounting responsibilities.

Ms. Underwood began working for CEMA in June of 2008. Her responsibilities as Financial Officer include processing payroll and accounts payable and receivable. She also serves as the Chief Planner, where she makes sure Emergency Operation plans are current and follow State and Federal guidelines. She has had extensive training on how the Incident Command Structure operates and has attended many training sessions for the Finance Section should the Emergency Operations Center need to be activated. Another duty Ms. Underwood is responsible for is planning the annual Chatham County Hurricane Conference, which grows each year.

Other job responsibilities include but are not limited to; understanding the Emergency Management Public Assistance Process, grants management, as well as formatting internal documents for continuity.

Ms. Underwood is a Georgia Certified Emergency Manager.

# CALENDAR

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## Meetings

**March 6, TBD**  
**HURREX EAA FSE MPC**  
CEMA Annex EOC  
Jennifer Rodriguez  
(912) 201-4500  
jlrodriguez@chathamcounty.org

**March 6, TBD**  
**HURREX SN FSE MPC**  
CEMA Annex EOC  
Jennifer Rodriguez  
(912) 201-4500  
jlrodriguez@chathamcounty.org

**March 7, TBD**  
**HURREX EOC, JIC, DA, FSE MPC**  
CEMA Annex EOC  
Jennifer Rodriguez  
(912) 201-4500  
jlrodriguez@chathamcounty.org

**March 7, 2PM**  
**SAGIS TAC Meeting**  
TBD  
Noel Perkins  
perkinsn@thempc.org

**March 12, 7PM – 9PM**  
**Fire Chief's Assoc. & ESF-04**  
SSFD 7th District  
Dustin Hetzel  
(912) 201-4500  
djhetzel@chathamcounty.org

**March 14, 7:30AM**  
**Chatham EMS Advisory Council**  
Memorial Health  
Tricia Cordray  
(912) 819-6220

**March 15, 10AM – 11AM**  
**EMAG Area 5**  
Liberty County EOC  
Dennis Jones  
(912) 201-4500  
dtjones@chathamcounty.org

**March 21, 10AM**  
**LEPC Meeting**  
TBD  
Noel Perkins  
(912) 651-1477  
perkinsn@thempc.org

**March 29, 8:30AM**  
**Coastal Law Enforcement Organization (CLEO)**  
SCAD  
Wynn Sullivan  
Wynn.Sullivan@armstrong.edu

**April 4th, 2PM**  
**SAGIS TAC Meeting**  
TBD  
Noel Perkins  
perkinsn@thempc.org

**April 9, TBD**  
**HURREX EOC, JIC, DA, FSE MSEL Conf**  
CEMA Annex EOC  
Jennifer Rodriguez  
(912) 201-4500  
jlrodriguez@chathamcounty.org

**April 10, TBD**  
**HURREX EAA FSE MSEL Conf**  
CEMA Annex EOC  
Jennifer Rodriguez  
(912) 201-4500  
jlrodriguez@chathamcounty.org

**April 10, TBD**  
**HURREX SN FSE MSEL Conf**  
CEMA Annex EOC  
Jennifer Rodriguez  
(912) 201-4500  
jlrodriguez@chathamcounty.org

**April 11, 7:30AM**  
**Chatham EMS Advisory Council**  
Candler Hospital  
Tricia Cordray  
(912) 819-6220

**April 17, 10AM – 12PM**  
**MACS Meeting/EMPG**  
TBD  
Jennifer Rodriguez  
(912) 201-4500  
jlrodriguez@chathamcounty.org

**April 24, TBD**  
**HURREX EAA FSE FPC**  
CEMA Annex EOC  
Jennifer Rodriguez  
(912) 201-4500  
jlrodriguez@chathamcounty.org

**April 24, TBD**  
**HURREX SN FSE FPC**  
CEMA Annex EOC  
Jennifer Rodriguez  
(912) 201-4500  
jlrodriguez@chathamcounty.org

**April 25, TBD**  
**HURREX EOC, JIC, DA, FSE FPC**  
CEMA Annex EOC  
Jennifer Rodriguez  
(912) 201-4500  
jlrodriguez@chathamcounty.org

**April 26, 8:30AM**  
**Coastal Law Enforcement Organization (CLEO)**  
SCAD  
Wynn Sullivan  
Wynn.Sullivan@armstrong.edu

**May 4, 2PM**  
**SAGIS TAC Meeting**  
TBD  
Noel Perkins  
perkinsn@thempc.org

**May 14, 7PM**  
**Chatham County Fire Chiefs Association Mtg (CCFCA)**  
165th ANG Fire Dept. Hosting  
Dustin Hetzel  
(912) 201-4500  
DJHetzel@chathamcounty.org

**May 24, 6PM**  
**Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Qrtly Meeting**  
Grace United Methodist Church  
Kelly Foster  
(912) 201-4500  
klfoster@chathamcounty.org

**May 31, 830AM**  
**Coastal Law Enforcement Organization (CLEO)**  
SCAD  
Wynn Sullivan  
Wynn.Sullivan@armstrong.edu

# CALENDAR

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## Training

**March 2, 6PM**  
**CEMA Search & Rescue Team**  
Urban Search, TBD  
Kelly Foster  
(912) 201-4500  
klfoster@chathamcounty.org

**March 14, 8AM – 5PM**  
**EOC Staff Training**  
CEMA Annex EOC  
Must Pre-Register  
Jennifer Rodriguez  
(912) 201-4500  
jlrodriguez@chathamcounty.org

**March 23 – April 1 (two weekends)**  
**Practical Search and Rescue Skills**  
CEMA Annex EOC  
Must Pre-Register  
Kelly Foster  
(912) 201-4500  
klfoster@chathamcounty.org

**April 2, 6PM**  
**CEMA Search & Rescue Team**  
Wilderness Search, TBD  
Kelly Foster  
(912) 201-4500  
klfoster@chathamcounty.org

**April 11, 8AM – 5PM**  
**EOC Staff Training**  
CEMA Annex EOC  
Must Pre-Register  
Jennifer Rodriguez  
(912) 201-4500  
jlrodriguez@chathamcounty.org

**April 21,22,28,29, 8AM – 5PM**  
**CERT Training**  
Must Pre-Register  
Kelly Foster  
(912) 201-4500  
klfoster@chathamcounty.org

**May 5, 1PM**  
**CEMA Search & Rescue Team**  
Urban Search, Tybee Island  
Kelly Foster  
(912) 201-4500  
klfoster@chathamcounty.org

## Exercises

**April 21 – 22, two days**  
**GA DoD Functional Exercise**  
CRCT  
Jennifer Rodriguez  
(912) 201-4500  
jlrodriguez@chathamcounty.org

**April 24, 5PM**  
**USPS Hazmat FSE**  
USPS Office  
Jennifer Rodriguez  
(912) 201-4500  
jlrodriguez@chathamcounty.org

**May 14 – 18, Weeklong**  
**HURREX 2012**  
Statewide  
Jennifer Rodriguez  
(912) 201-4500  
jlrodriguez@chathamcounty.org

## Special

**March 4, 12PM**  
**Full System Siren Test**  
County Wide  
Dustin Hetzel  
(912) 201-4500  
DJHetzel@chathamcounty.org

**March 15 – 18, TBD**  
**St. Patrick's Festivities**  
All Locations

**March 26 – 30**  
**National Hurricane Conference**  
Orlando, FL

**April 4, 12PM**  
**Full System Siren Test**  
Chatham County  
Dustin Hetzel  
(912) 201-4500  
DJHetzel@chathamcounty.org

**April 16 – 20**  
**IAEM Region IV Conference**  
Myrtle Beach, SC

**April 27, 7PM**  
**CEMA Volunteer Appreciation Banquet**  
Kelly Foster  
(912) 201-4500  
klfoster@chathamcounty.org

**May 1, 8AM – 5PM**  
**CEMA Hurricane Conference**  
Sav. Intl. Trade & Conv. Center  
Kate Underwood  
(912) 201-4500  
kunderwood@chathamcounty.org

**May 2 – 4, 8AM – 5PM**  
**State Emergency Management Conference**  
Sav. Intl. Trade & Conv. Center  
Dennis Jones  
(912) 201-4500  
dtjones@chathamcounty.org

**May 4, 12PM**  
**Full System Siren Test**  
County Wide  
Dustin Hetzel  
(912) 201-4500  
DJHetzel@chathamcounty.org



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## *Changes, Retirements, and New Positions*

Zach Shuman retired from the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department earlier this year. Zach began his career in public safety on December 12, 1987 as a street paramedic and also served as the coordinator for ESF-13 since the position was created. CEMA thanks Zach for his dedication to strengthening the emergency management and law enforcement partnership. In retirement, he plans to establish a security business for agencies that need to upgrade or implement security.

CEMA also wishes the best to Sergeant Chip Grefski with the Savannah Chatham County Public Police Department. After 12 years working for the school district, he is moving on to work for a private corporation. Chip was instrumental in the county's Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters, serving as the President for the past several years.



Chatham Emergency Management Agency

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ChathamEmergency.org

Facebook and Twitter: ChathamEMA

**Clayton S. Scott**  
*Director*

**Dennis Jones**  
*Deputy Director*



This Newsletter focuses on activities and accomplishments for each Emergency Support Function and other areas of the Emergency Management System throughout Chatham County. The Newsletter is an available conduit for our partners who may have an interest in submitting a short article or to advertise an upcoming meeting, training event or exercise. For those interested in submitting content for the upcoming Newsletter, please follow the submission criteria below:

- **Submissions emailed to:** Kelly Foster, Emergency Management Specialist/PIO (klfoster@chathamcounty.org)
  - **Deadline:** May 11, 2012
  - **Article Length:** 100 - 750 words
  - **Article Submissions:** Include Article Title, Author Name, Title and Agency
  - **Meeting Notices:** Include Meeting Title, Date, Time, Location and Point of Contact (Name, Phone and Email)
  - **Training Notice:** Include Training Title, Date(s), Time(s), Location, Prerequisites, Registration Deadline, Costs, Point of Contact (Name, Phone and Email Address)
  - **Exercise Notices:** Include Exercise Title, Date(s), Time(s), Location and Point of Contact (Name, Phone and Email Address)
  - **Editorial Note:** The Editor has the discretion to edit submissions. If changes are considered substantive, the author will be contacted to review the changes prior to publication.
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