

CEMA Signal



2015 Hurricane Outlook: Below-Normal Season Expected



The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) 2015 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook indicates that a below-normal hurricane season is most likely this year. The Atlantic hurricane region includes the North Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico. The main climate factor expected to suppress this hurricane season is El Niño, which has now been present for three years.

El Niño's expected impacts include a continuation of stronger upper-level westerly winds and increased vertical wind shear, thus suppressing the hurricane activity that typically develops from African easterly waves during August-October.

Many models predict this El Niño to further intensify as the season progresses. This phenomenon is already affecting the wind and rainfall patterns across the equatorial Pacific Ocean. Based on the current and expected conditions, NOAA is estimating that the 2015 hurricane season could produce:

- 6-10 Named Storms, which includes Tropical Storm Ana that formed in May
- 1-4 Hurricanes
- 0-1 Major Hurricanes

"A below-normal season doesn't mean we're off the hook. As we've seen before, below-normal seasons can still produce catastrophic impacts to communities," said NOAA Administrator Kathryn Sullivan, Ph.D., referring to the 1992 season in which only seven named storms formed, yet the first was Andrew - a Category 5 Major Hurricane that devastated south Florida.

It's been 11 years since the historic 2004 hurricane season, when four hurricanes affected Florida for the first time since record-keeping began: Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne. There were 15 named storms that season, nine of which were hurricanes. But those four hurricanes remain among the top 10 costliest hurricanes to hit the U.S.

New this hurricane season, NOAA introduced a new prototype storm surge watch/warning graphic from NOAA's National Hurricane Center, that highlights areas along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts of the United States that have a significant risk of life-threatening inundation by storm surges from a tropical cyclone.

The new graphic introduces the concept of a watch or warning specific to the storm surge hazard - often the greatest threat to life and property from a tropical cyclone. You can read more about these maps on page 13.

ESF 5: Emergency Management



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EXERCISE NEWS

Practice might not always make perfect, but it does make you more prepared. Learn more about CEMA's role in HURREX 2015 on pg. 8

KNOW YOUR RISKS

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2015 HURRICANE
NAMES:

Ana
 Bill
 Claudette
 Danny
 Erika
 Fred
 Grace
 Henri
 Ida
 Joaquin
 Kate
 Larry
 Mindy
 Nicholas
 Odette
 Peter
 Rose
 Sam
 Teresa
 Victor
 Wanda

A Message from the Interim Director

--On June 1st, Chairman Al Scott appointed Dennis Jones as the Interim Director of CEMA.



The 2015 Hurricane Season is well underway. The season officially began June 1st, but there seems to be a recurring pattern for systems to form earlier and get “named.” This year, Ana was named on May 7th; in 2012, Alberto was named on May 19th; in 2008, Arthur was named on May 31st; and in 2007, Andrea was named on May 9th. This trend supports the need for emergency management partners and their families to prepare earlier than normal for a hurricane threat. While much of the focus from a hurricane is where it makes landfall, we have seen the impacts extend far from center. It is important to remember that we are not immune to hurricanes. It’s not a matter of if we will see another storm impact Chatham County, it’s when. Never let your guard down. It only takes one storm.

CEMA has developed a thorough training program offering guidance on how to develop a family emergency and communications plan, what should be included in an emergency kit, and explaining how to properly account for your important family documents using the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Emergency Financial First Aid Kit checklist. CEMA staff are available to offer the training to your Neighborhood Association, Civic Group, or employees.

On August 1st we announced an aggressive new planning, training and exercise initiative that will take place over the next year. In an effort to increase participation, Local Emergency Partners and Team Chatham Members will receive a “Save the Date” flyer at the start of each month that lists upcoming events for a two month period. It is our goal to give key players and partners sufficient notification about important upcoming opportunities, that through involvement, helps strengthen our community. We have simplified the information so the recipient is able to quickly assess whether or not the event pertains to them or their department. Action items are also included to take the guess work out of registration.

We are in the process of finishing two significant planning documents. First, the County-Wide Recovery and Redevelopment Plan offers guidance on how the community transitions from response to recovery operations after a disaster. The plan offers procedural recommendations for addressing critical recovery areas to include long range planning, economic redevelopment, health and social services, community housing, infrastructure systems, natural and cultural resources, and volunteer support. Second, the County-wide Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) is updated every five years and defines potential mitigation projects needed for certain types of facilities. The HMP has been updated this year by local jurisdictions and submitted to the Georgia Emergency Management Agency for review.

In May, we hosted four exercises supporting the State’s Hurricane Exercise (HURREX) Program. The opportunity to meet with partners and discuss how we coordinate the evacuation process for our Functional & Medical need citizens and the general population provided valuable feedback on critical plan updates. The Full Scale Points of Distribution (POD) exercise allowed us to setup and operate a site designed to distribute emergency commodities during response and recovery operations. This POD Exercise was the first conducted in the state and partners from around the region attended to observe. It is only through exercises that we are able to test the theories identified in the plan. We are planning more exercises in the fall, winter and spring. Be on the lookout for more information and how to get involved. Be safe and thank you for your commitment to the safety of our community.

Dennis Jones
 Interim Director

Protecting Our Most Vulnerable



On April 23, 2015 Chatham Emergency Management Agency met with staff members from local Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCF) to discuss plans for the 2015 Hurricane Season. At the meeting, CEMA Interim Director Dennis Jones spoke with the attendees and stressed the importance of reviewing and/or updating annual evacuation procedures. All LTCFs received information in regard to Georgia's Hurricane Evacuation Preparation Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). The MOA, if signed by the LTCF, will serve as a secondary option for transportation in the event of a hurricane evacuation should the LTCF's primary mode of transportation fail. By signing the MOA, Georgia will work to provide ambulances, para-transport vehicles and coach buses for the facility. These vehicles will transport the residents to the facility's designated evacuation destination. CEMA has worked closely with the LTCFs of Chatham County to make sure each facility understands the importance of having a secondary transportation plan. Two weeks after the April meeting, CEMA set up a mock evacuation to exercise how procedures would be handled in a live occurrence. A call-in line was created for each LTCF to give CEMA information needed to evacuate that particular facility. It's important to regularly update how many patients each facility has and how each patient would be evacuating, i.e. ambulance, charter bus or van, in the event of a real emergency. The Hurricane Evacuation Preparation MOA is a lifesaving service that costs nothing until services are actually needed.

ESF 8: Public Health & Medical Services

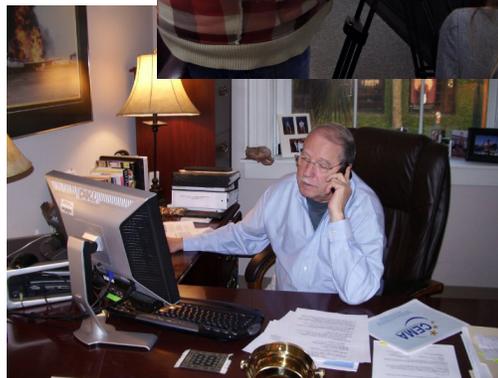
CEMA Says "Goodbye" to Long Time Director



After nearly two decades of service to Chatham County, CEMA Director Clayton Scott retired on May 29, 2015. He came to CEMA in 1997 as Deputy Director, and was promoted to Director in 2010. Over the course of 18 years, Scott has a long list of accomplishments. He is responsible for founding CEMA's Search and Rescue Program which now has more than 30 nationally certified members. Director Scott fought for a state supported emergency evacuation transportation plan, making it mandatory for long term care facilities to share their evacuation plans with their local EMA and he also developed a schedule of evacuation timelines and emergency plans that were adopted by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency and are now used statewide. His most recent success is the approval by the Department of the Army for construction of a new Chatham County Emergency Operations Center on Hunter Army Airfield.

While the list continues, Scott says his real joy comes from his staff and local partners. "Emergency Management is not an easy field. We often have to plan for the worst but hope for the best. Sometimes our jobs are tough ones, but the CEMA staff manages emergencies with the utmost professionalism and are deeply committed to doing the greatest good for our community. That is an accomplishment to be proud of."

When asked what he will miss the most, Scott says it won't be the pressures of decision making. Moving forward the only decisions he will have to make is whether he should go golfing, ride his bike or relax in his pool. We congratulate him on his retirement and thank him for his service!





Tree Care Before and After Storms

Preparing for Storms:

Major storms can inflict severe damage to the tree canopy in a very short period. With proper advance care, much of the most severe damage to trees and property can be avoided. Here are seven suggestions for tree care before a storm strikes:

1. Remove All Dead Branches
2. Encourage Good Branch Angles: For most deciduous trees, narrow angles in the forks between branches indicate future points of failure. Angles should be at 10:00 and 2:00 o'clock or greater.
3. Encourage A Strong Branch/Trunk Size Relationship: Lateral branches should be no greater than $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ the diameter of the adjacent trunk.
4. Maintain A Stable Center Of Gravity: If a tree is leaning, remove or correctly prune branches on the leaning side and encourage branch growth on the opposite side.
5. Remove Temporary Branches: This includes water sprouts, suckers, and branches that are rubbing each other.
6. Don't Form Stubs When Pruning Branches: If a branch needs to be removed, cut it back cleanly to the trunk or to the main branch. Stubs invite insect infestation, fungal disease, and rot.
7. Remove Heavy Vine Growth: As attractive as it may be, heavy coverings of English Ivy, Wisteria, multiflora rose, Virginia Creeper, and other vines create additional wind resistance and add additional weight to limbs, often leading to failure in storms.

After the Storm:

In the immediate aftermath of a storm, many homeowners rush to clear away as much debris as possible, often making decisions to remove trees that could have been saved with proper treatment and care. Unless your trees are a life or safety issue, it is best to step back and prudently assess the tree damage. If a tree requires immediate attention, call a certified arborist. If a tree is leaning on wires, buildings, or snagged on other trees, professional assistance is needed. If the tree is on a city right-of-way, call 311 before having work done. Contact your insurance company before work is done to clarify their requirements; they may need to approve of any contractor you hire.

Don't Be Scammed. After a storm tree care "experts" come out of the woodwork, offering to remove your trees for a very low price. Unfortunately, one gets what one pays for and the end result of such work is often very unsatisfactory. Use these five questions to guide you in finding qualified tree-care specialists:

1. Is the person part of an established community business? Check for a reputable website or phone number. Do they even know what an arborist is?

2. Has the person provided evidence that they are regularly employed with the company? Some specialists work as independent contractors and have a limited relationship with the company they claim as their employers.
3. Is the person up-to-date on certification? Ask for current certificates of insurance for property damage, personal liability and worker's compensation.
4. Is the person a member of a professional association? While not essential, it is ideal that the individual be a part of a professional association of arborists, such as the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), the National Arborist Association (NAA) or the American Society of Consulting Arborists (ASCA).
5. Is the person offering a competitive price? If possible, obtain more than one estimate to ensure that the price offered is comparable with competitors. Clarify whether the price includes removal and clean-up.

If you are determined to work on a damaged tree, here are some pointers:

- Remove Broken Branches: Remove the jagged remains of broken branches. With large branches, remove the larger part of the branch up to 12"-24" from the trunk, then go back and carefully remove the stub close to the trunk. Smaller branches should be pruned back to their juncture with a larger branch.
- Repair Torn Bark: With a sharp chisel or sharp knife smooth the edges of wounds where bark has been torn or shredded. Do not expose the inner greenish cambium layer any more than necessary, since it is necessary for transport of food and water within the tree. Do not "paint" the wounds.
- Never Top A Tree: Professionals advise that topping your tree is a bad procedure. Not only does it weaken the tree by removing a large amount of food-producing foliage at a time when the tree is weakened by storm damage, but the great number of cuts and stubs open the tree up to fungal disease and insect infestation. Far better is selective pruning that reduces a lop-sided growth pattern or a lop-sided pattern due to storm damage, but retains as much of the original growth form as possible.

For Additional Information visit www.savannahtree.com.

GSU: A Safe Haven for County Workers

Critical Workforce Sheltering at Georgia Southern University. On May 22, 2015 CEMA, Chatham County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) and members of the United States Coast Guard (USCG) met with Georgia Southern University's (GSU) Public Safety Office to discuss the terms of the Mutual Aid Agreement between CEMA and GSU. GSU has been very generous to offer their facilities as a Critical Workforce Shelter in the event of a hurricane threat to Chatham County, and we are very thankful for their partnership.

After reviewing the previous agreement, it was brought to CEMA's attention that there was not enough refrigeration space or freezer space reserved for the Chatham County Health Department's storage of vaccines. To strengthen relationships and to see the amount space available, partners scheduled a visit to the campus. GSU was very accommodating and reassured CEMA, the USCG and CCDPH plenty of space was available for the assets that would need relocation during a storm. While many tasks can be handled easily by making a phone call, a face to face meeting is the best way to boost efficiency, understanding and build relationships.



Face to face work sessions are a vital part of emergency management.

ESF 6: Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing & Human Services

Residents with Functional or Medical Needs Urged to Register with the Health Department



The recent early arrival of Tropical Storm Ana serves as a reminder that being prepared year-round is important for the residents of coastal Georgia – especially those with functional and medical needs. The Functional and Medical Needs Registry is made up of residents who may require transport and medical assistance during a hurricane evacuation and have no other resources such as family, friends, neighbors, or church members to help them if they need to evacuate. Residents must apply to be on the registry.

Those on the Registry will be evacuated to an American Red Cross shelter in an inland county that will likely be in a gymnasium or similar setting and could be several hours away. The Registry is truly a last resort, but if a hurricane is threatening our area, it is important that health department officials know where the most vulnerable residents are located so that evacuation assistance can be provided to them. People living in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and personal care homes are not eligible for the Functional and Medical Needs Registry and must follow their facility's emergency plan.

Functional needs registrants are individuals who may need services to maintain their independence in a shelter. This includes children and adults with physical, sensory, mental health, and cognitive and/or intellectual disabilities affecting their ability to function independently without assistance. Medical needs registrants are individuals who require support of trained medical professionals. This includes those individuals who may need assistance with managing unstable, terminal, or contagious conditions that require observation and ongoing treatment.

To apply, residents should call 912-691-7443. The application and protected health information authorization form can also be downloaded by going to www.gachd.org/chatham and clicking on the Functional and Medical Needs Registration Information link under Chatham County Information.

**Sally Silberman, Coastal Health District
ESF 8: Public Health**

CEMA SAR Team Training



CEMA SAR Team Members Included Above: Wanda Bello, Colin Elgood, Tom Johnson, Gary Hom, Fred Board & CEMA's Randall Mathews

On April 25-26, five members from CEMA's Search and Rescue Team headed to the Liberty County Emergency Management Agency facility to attend Rescue Specialist Training. This was a 14 hour course attended by approximately 30 people with a variety of backgrounds. Police, Fire, EMS, Emergency Management, as well as volunteers were all represented in this training event.

The course covered various facets of rescue operations, including search and rescue techniques for both ground and water, map reading, compass reading, as well as basic rope and knot tying. Students in the class were then able to apply these fundamentals during a small land navigation course where they practiced using a compass to follow azimuths assigned to them. Various scenarios were also presented to the class which would require specialized resources for a successful rescue, as well as how to acquire those resources. The class is one of GEMA's Field Delivered Training Sessions to promote continuous readiness among emergency management personnel.

ESF 9: Search and Rescue

Get Involved and Join the Movement

The Chatham County Organizations Active in Disasters (CCOAD) is a group of local private for-profit and non-profit businesses, faith-based community groups, and public agencies that have voluntarily come together to:

- strengthen community-wide disaster coordination in the Chatham County area by sharing information and identifying resources, and to
- simplify disaster-related resident access to available services in an effort to help satisfy the un-met needs of the community following a disaster.

Guided by the core principles of the 4Cs — cooperation, communication, coordination, and collaboration — CCOAD Members provide the leadership that builds a strong, resilient community and delivers hope in times of need. It serves as the forum where organizations and businesses share knowledge and resources throughout the disaster cycle — preparation, response, recovery and mitigation — to help disaster survivors in our community.

Our job is to identify and communicate to emergency managers the availability of business services, personnel and equipment that are needed-- but not identified as assets--for the emergency management specialists. We are the vital resource link the authorities will depend on for answers.

We meet our mission through functional coordination and assistance committees. These committees are composed of volunteer leaders like you, who through working together, provide the community expertise and knowledge to identify how and where those requirements can be found and met.

Are you an expert in your field? We need you to assist us in this most important endeavor and invite you to become a member. For more information, contact CCOAD Coordinator Meredith Ley at maley@chathamcounty.org. We look forward to your participation.



2015 CCOAD Meeting, Hosted by the Salvation Army on Bee Road

ESF 7: Logistics Management & Resource Support

10 Chatham County Flooding Facts

1. Chatham County's Local Flood Hazard: Areas of Chatham County that are located within low-lying coastal plains are susceptible to flooding from rivers and canals. Stormwater runoff is hampered by flat terrain, low elevations and tidal influence. These are major natural factors, common to coastal regions, which cause the County as a whole to be at risk for flooding during long periods of moderate rainfall followed or during high volume, short duration rainfall events.

2. What You Can Do To Protect Your Property:

Know your flood hazard. Check with the Chatham County Department of Engineering at 652-7800 to find out what flood zone you are in and what the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) is for your lot. Note that flood zone determination letters and elevation certificates are submitted upon request at no charge. Requests are to be made in writing and can be faxed to Chatham



County at 652-7818 or emailed to floodletters@chathamcounty.org. Please include the property mailing address and Parcel Identification Number (PIN) if you have it. Elevation certificates are available on-line and can be accessed by visiting Engineering.ChathamCounty.org.

3. Flood Insurance: Chatham County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). By doing so, local insurance agents can sell a Flood Insurance policy, which is separate from regular property insurance, at subsidized rates set by the Federal Government. The Federal Government passed a law making it mandatory for owners to obtain a Flood Insurance policy if the structure is in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) and the loan is Federally backed. Flood Insurance can cover the structure alone or cover a combination of the structure and building contents. Renters can buy content's coverage, even if the owner does not have structural coverage. Increase Cost of Compliance (ICC) assists in bringing a non-compliant structure up to the NFIP standards if the building is substantially damaged or repetitively flooded. **YOUR HOMEOWNERS' INSURANCE POLICY DOES NOT PROTECT YOU FROM FLOOD DAMAGE.**

4. Property Protection: In order to protect your property, electrical panel boxes, heat pumps, washers and dryers and water heaters should be elevated or relocated to areas less likely to be subjected to flood waters. Elevate and anchor fuel tanks. Raising the furniture and other valuables on blocks also will offer protection. If you have a basement, take preventive measures from flooding due to sewer backup or sump pump failure by having a back water valve installed. Know what options there are to retrofit your house. Retrofitting means to alter the building to eliminate or reduce flood damage. There are several options to consider: elevation, flood barriers, dry floodproofing, and wet flood proofing.

5. Natural and Beneficial Functions of Flood Plains: Natural floodplains include marsh areas and low lying areas along canals. Open parks such as Henderson and Wilmington Island Golf Courses also have natural floodplains. Natural floodplains reduce damage by allowing flood waters to spread out over large areas, aiding absorption into the ground, reducing flow rates and acting as a flood storage area to reduce downstream peaks. We must all do our part to keep floodplain and floodplain waters free of contaminants such as oil, paint, anti-freeze and pesticides. These chemicals pollute the marsh waters, decreasing the water quality that local wildlife depend upon. Local barrier islands, such as Little Tybee, Ossabaw, Cabbage and Wassaw Islands, serve as a natural protective barrier to incoming hurricane forces such as wave attack, and reduce tidal and wind energies.

6. Flood Warning System: In Chatham County, CEMA manages the flood warning system. Once CEMA receives a potential dangerous warning, sirens are activated. The sirens can give as little as fifteen minutes warning time. When you hear the sirens, information can be heard on the television or on the radio at WCHY (94.1) for what to do. Information can also be heard on the NOAA weather radio broadcast at frequency 162.40. Local evacuation routes can be found in the phone book.

Flooding Facts Continued On Page 16...

HURREX 2015

Each year, Georgia Emergency Management Agency sets aside one week in May for a series of statewide hurricane exercises known as HURREX. Dozens of local, state and volunteer agencies participated in the Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security Hurricane Exercise May 11-13 in Atlanta and Savannah. The drill simulated landfall along the Georgia coast of "Hurricane Ashley," a catastrophic Category 3 hurricane with 111-129 mph winds. These exercises are designed to establish a no-fault learning environment for Players to evaluate and validate Chatham County's Emergency Operations Plans. It also provided an excellent forum for familiarizing departments and personnel with roles and responsibilities and encouraged open discussion to enhance coordination.

This year's exercises focus on:

- Evacuation Assembly Area (EAA): A Tabletop Exercise designed to evaluate the County's EAA Plan in providing public resources for those without their own means of transportation during a mandatory evacuation.
- Functional and Medical Needs (FMN): A Tabletop Exercise designed to evaluate the County's FMN Plan that includes registering medical patients at an evacuation staging area and preparing them for out-of-area medical evacuations.
- Rehearsal of Concept (ROC) Drill: An Evacuation Planning Drill developed by GEMA, where State and Local ESFs and EMAs are invited, along with Ga State Patrol, Ga Power, Parris Island.
- Points of Distribution (POD): A Full Scale Exercise (FSE) designed to evaluate the County's Plan to provide resources during a disaster to assist the citizens of Chatham County. PODs are established post-incident for distributing life-sustaining commodities (such as water, ice, food, tarps, and other bulk resources) to the public within the first 72 hours following a disaster or extraordinary incident.

By participating in HURREX 2015, emergency personnel were able to identify the appropriate methods of preparing for, responding to, and recovering from a major crisis like a hurricane. By working together during the exercise, partners were able to expose the limitations of existing plans, such as procedural gaps or training needs.

ESF 5: Emergency Management

HURREX: Evacuation Assembly Area Tabletop Exercise



Lieutenant Kim Lewis of SCCPSS Campus Police takes part in the 2015 EAA Tabletop Exercise at the Savannah Civic Center.

Planning models estimate approximately 5,000 people could come through the EAA during a county-wide evacuation. Research has shown 10% of families and people have pets which must be evacuated as well. The EAA Plan has been in place for years and routinely updated, but HURREX 2015 provided the perfect opportunity to exercise the plan and work with key players to discuss the preparation, activation and demobilization of the EAA.

The Exercise was designed to have each EAA Unit work together at a table. The participating agencies understood their functions and worked well as a team. The exercise identified a few gaps in the job aids and in the plan itself. As with any exercise, areas of improvement were identified through the evaluation process. The participating agencies worked well together and had detailed discussions about their roles within the plan and the duties that may need to be shared among agencies. Local partners are familiar with their staffing assignments within the EAA, but through this exercise became concerned about staffing and whether or not sufficient staff will be available. This is also the case concerning the number of volunteers and animal support resources needed.

The communicated issues within each Unit have been identified in the After-Action Report/ Improvement Plan. Each issue will be responded to with a resolution. CEMA will host a workshop with partners on August 20th to further discuss the issues addressed in the after action report and review the Improvement Plan. Another full scale EAA Exercise will be scheduled in May of 2016 in conjunction with HURREX.

HURREX: Functional/Medical Needs Tabletop Exercise



ESF 6 & 8 Partners gather at the Pooler YMCA to work through the FMN Tabletop Exercise.

On May 11, 2015, as a part of the state Hurricane Exercise, CEMA hosted a Functional and Medical Needs (FMN) Tabletop Exercise (TTX). The exercise kicked off with a review of the event scenario and objectives were identified as a group.

Persons with a FMN are encouraged to have their own plan for evacuation, but with vulnerable lives on the line, a back up recourse must be available if Chatham County is threatened by a hurricane requiring a county-wide evacuation. There are some which have no other choice but to utilize county support in order to evacuate, due to the fact that they do not have friends, family or resources near by. These individuals use a registration process hosted and managed by the Chatham County Public Health Department. Registration is year round; however it is anticipated people will call at the last minute as a hurricane threatens the area.

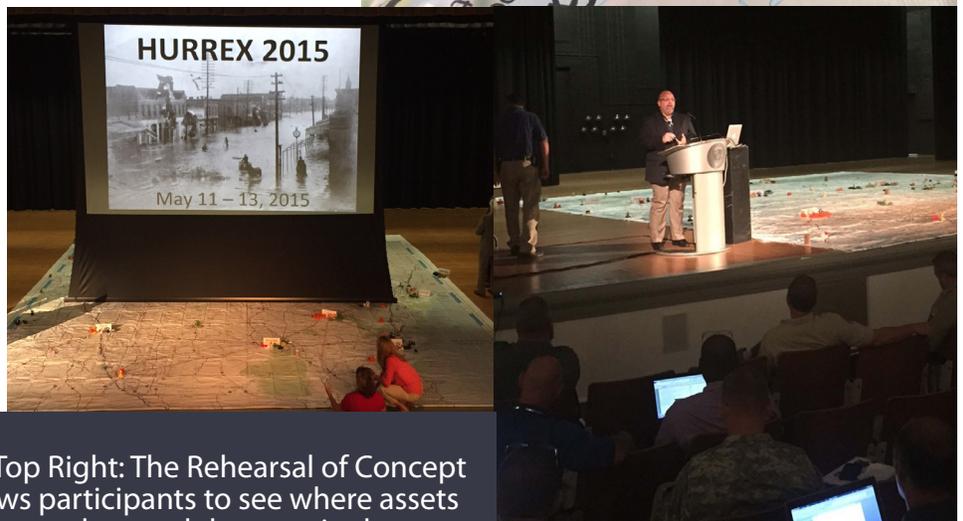
The exercise was well received and had excellent participation from the partners involved with the FMN Plan. Players left with a better understanding of shortfalls with in the plan, but also with a sense of accomplishment for the work done up to this point. A full scale exercise is scheduled next year as a part of HURREX 2016.

HURREX: Rehearsal of Concept (ROC) Drill

On May 12th, dozens of federal, state and local agencies convened in Savannah to discuss pre-landfall activities and available resources if a hurricane were to strike the Georgia coast. This years HURREX included a Rehearsal of Concept (ROC) Drill which is a detailed, step-by-step exercise of a planned operation using a large map and various moveable icons. The icons depicted responders and resources from all ESFs around the state and their locations. The ROC Drill was comprised of a series of "turns"; each "turn" representing a different stage in the hurricane timeline. This visual exercise allowed participants to better understand each other's roles, identify any conflicts in the plan and better synchronize the activities of all supporting organizations.

Representatives from the state offices of transportation, public safety, natural resources and defense, as well as Georgia Power and medical ambulance providers carefully moved their icons and described where their assets were located and how they would respond to each turn in the timeline. The scenario closely aligned with several of the Operating Conditions (OPCONs) that are included in the Georgia Hurricane Plan. Players used a Hurricane Decision Making Timeline matrix that illustrated the OPCONs and the activities associated with each one. This Drill began in OPCON 4 with potential impacts within 120 hours, and slowly through the other focused on post landfall and immediate response.

All players had the opportunity to identify where their critical resources were within the timeline, the types and quantities of their most critical resources, what shortages are possible and how they would alert their agency if the situation were to change.



Above & Top Right: The Rehearsal of Concept Map allows participants to see where assets might be located around the state in the event of a hurricane.
Right: Interim Director Dennis Jones reviews CEMA's actions during OPCON 4.

HURREX: Point of Distribution Full Scale Exercise

Chatham County conducted the final 2015 HURREX Exercise on May 13, 2015. While the Point of Distribution (POD) was the last exercise, it required the most planning and was perhaps the most difficult. The POD Full Scale Exercise was a first for Chatham County and the State of Georgia. Because no blue print existed, the exercise had to be built from scratch. Advanced communication and coordination between partners was crucial to the success of the exercise.

A POD is a centralized location where the public can pick up life sustaining commodities following a disaster or emergency. If basic services are not restored to fully serve the returning population of the area affected by a disaster or emergency, PODs may be opened to provide commodities and essential supplies. Dedicated POD workers are as essential to the POD as the commodities being distributed. POD workers are asked to make their evacuation plans at the beginning of hurricane season, know where they will evacuate, take their evacuation possessions with them and be ready to return as soon as called upon.

This scenario involved Chatham County being evacuated for a Hurricane and recovery operations started after the "all clear" was given. The old Chatham County Public Works Site on Sallie Mood proved to be the ideal location for the deployment of supplies to residents using a Single POD in Chatham County. This location is not included in the POD Plan, but it worked well to test the process without interfering with normal daily activities. If this were a real event, schools throughout the County would be used for distribution of commodities.

CEMA coordinated with the Georgia Department of Defense (GADOD) to support to our trained volunteer Chatham County POD Management Team. The Georgia Emergency Management Agency provided POD Kits, while GADOD provided forklifts, tents, additional equipment and manpower.

Evaluations showed that the necessary guidance was provided in the POD Plan. The checklists, forms, supplies and equipment proved to work. The start time for distributing goods was 11:00 AM, but the team was ready to go at 10:45 AM. Due to an aggressive media blitz, citizens had already began lining up for commodities, so the decision was made to open the POD early. The distribution was a huge success and well received within the community. This was evident due to the fact that supplies were depleted early, causing a shutdown of the POD at 1:45 PM, 15 minutes ahead of schedule. As expected, there are some identified issues that will be reviewed and resolved in the Improvement Plan. The next step will be an update to the Plan followed by training. The long-term goal is to have a larger trained Chatham County POD Management Team. There are plans in place to exercise the POD Plan again in 2017.

ESF 5: Emergency Management



Top to Bottom: POD Staff Receive a Morning Briefing Before the Exercise Begins, Volunteers Assess Unloading Strategy, Citizen on Motorcycle Refuses Donation- Stopping in to Say "Thank You" to Crews, POD Teams Load Vehicle with Supplies

New Procurement Regulations

On May 28th, FEMA held a Procurement Disaster Assistance Training class in Atlanta to inform Finance personnel of changes in the Code of Federal Regulations in regards to procurement procedures before and after a disaster. These changes were effective December 26, 2014, however, sub-grantees have one fiscal year before they have to begin following the new regulations. During this grace period, the sub-grantee must state which set of procurement regulations are being followed in the event of a disaster.

The Department of Homeland Security Office of the Inspector General (OIG) audits every FEMA disaster grant for compliance. Failure to comply with these regulations can result in termination of the award, withholding of future awards, disallowing of costs, suspension or disbarment proceedings, and other legally available remedies. Common audit findings include: non-competitive contracts, failure to include required contract provisions and failure to employ required procedures to ensure small/minority/women-owned firms are used when possible.

FEMA allows for multiple types of procurement, any method of procurement must fall within one of these types:

- Micro Purchase Procedures: \$3,000 threshold, no quotes needed if price is reasonable
- Small Purchase Procedures: \$150,000 threshold, three quotes from qualified sources
- Sealed Bids: must be publicly advertised, bids must be opened publicly
- Competitive Proposals: used when sealed bids are not possible, must be publicly advertised, must be solicited from an adequate number of qualified sources
- Non-competitive Proposals: used when one or more unusual conditions exist – one source, exigency/emergency, approval of awarding agency, and/or inadequate competition
- Socioeconomic Contracting: Must take all necessary affirmative action steps to assure minority-owned, women-owned and surplus area firms are used

When beginning the procurement procedure and throughout the entire process, it is very important to document each decision made and the reasoning behind each decision in case of questions during an audit. Also, it is important to adhere to general procurement standards such as contractor oversight to ensure the contractors perform in accordance with purchase orders, review of all purchases to make sure they are necessary and related to the work ordered, avoidance of conflict of interest and maintenance of proper records.

Creating and maintaining up-to-date procurement procedures can prove to be invaluable in any situation. With the release of the new regulations, you may want to review your procurement procedures to ensure they are in-line with the FEMA standards, this may help reduce any failure to comply audit findings should disaster assistance be needed. For additional information, please visit the "Media Library" section on the FEMA website at www.fema.gov.



Disaster Survivors in Michigan Receive FEMA Registration Assistance at Disaster Recovery Centers

ESF 7: Logistics Management & Resource Support



Our CEMA Support Team has been busy! See what they've been up to on page 17!



Evacuating Large Animals

Take a trip up I-16 and you will notice a plethora of families who have dedicated their lives to farming. But a life in agriculture in this region brings with it weather challenges you don't find in other parts of the country. With the threat of hurricanes from June 1 to November 30, there is a wide time frame during which you may have to make the call to stay or evacuate ahead of a hurricane or a tropical storm. In the event of an impending storm, you must prepare for yourself as well as your animals. This includes large animals such as cows, goats, horses, etc. Early planning is the key to everyone's safety. Planning should include ensuring your property is weather-ready and making evacuation, transportation and shelter arrangements for your large animals.

If you decide to stay at home during an event, there are some things to consider. Are you going to keep your animals in a barn or outside? Your animals may be safest outside if they have room to move (at least ¼ acre per animal), the fences are strong and will not collect debris that will cause them to fall and there are no overhead power lines. Inspect the property at the beginning of hurricane season where the animals will be kept. All debris needs to be removed before storm watches or warnings are issued. Remember, tree limbs, old lumber, fencing and other "junk" can become wind blown hazards. Have several troughs of water for your animals. Once full, they are heavy enough that they will not be blown over in high winds and will provide water for several days. Double check your supplies to make sure you have all medical records for your animals including Coggins papers for horses, pictures or videos for identification and basic veterinary supplies. Important documents should be stored together in a water tight plastic bag or container to protect them.

Do not wait until it is time to evacuate to find a safe shelter for your animals. The best time to plan is before hurricane season starts. Start by networking with your friends, as they may have a place already lined up in case of an evacuation. Check with your vet for evacuation and boarding suggestions. The internet is a great way to find places that accept animals during an evacuation and often give specific details on types of animals accepted, vaccinations needed, fees, etc.

When it's time to go, have an evacuation route thought out well in advance and plan to leave at least 48 hours before the anticipated arrival of the storm. If you are transporting your animals yourself, make sure the tow vehicle has a full tank of gas, properly inflated tires, a spare tire, extra gas and oil, etc. Your trailer should have the tires properly inflated (including the spare tire), all lights should be in working order, loaded with emergency kits and extra feed and water. It is a good idea to practice loading and unloading your animals. You don't want to waste precious time or cause undue stress because your animals won't load. If someone else is transporting your animals, get in touch with them as soon as the warning has been issued to discuss further details.



Photo courtesy of the Georgia Department of Agriculture

How to Build a Disaster Kit for Farm Animals:

- 2 cotton lead ropes
- longe line
- 2 rubber buckets
- 4 double end snaps
- duct tape
- masking tape
- fly mask
- pocket knife
- scissors
- hole punch
- legwraps
- towels
- handi-wipes
- leather or cotton halter
- black permanent marker
- halter/bridle tags (at least 6)
- pen and notepad
- photocopies of paperwork (not originals) coggins/vaccine records/ registration papers enclosed in ziplock bags
- Flyspray
- hoofpick
- hoof knife
- wire cutters
- trash bags
- shovel
- tarps
- bungee cords
- heavy gloves
- maps of area
- small tool kit (screw drivers, pliers etc),
- small ABC fire extinguisher
- first aid kit
- hand bottle/can opener
- roll of string,
- flashlight & extra batteries.

National Weather Service Hurricane Storm Surge Maps

The National Weather Service recognizes the tremendous danger to lives and property posed by storm surge from hurricanes and even strong tropical storms and has recently taken steps to improve the communication of the hazard to the public. Many folks are not aware that the threat of surge exists well away from the immediate coastal areas, especially across southeast South Carolina and southeast Georgia given the low elevation of the region and the numerous waterways that extend inland.

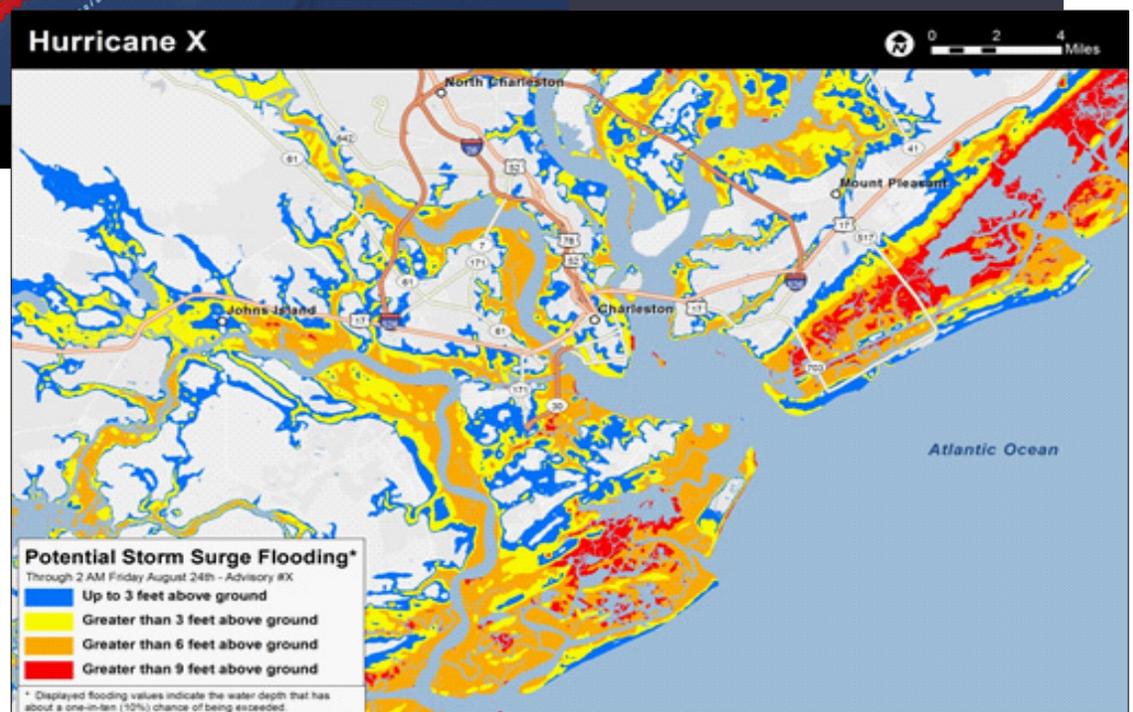
There is a new experimental graphic (Figure 1) for the 2015 hurricane season that will be issued to indicate areas in danger from a life-threatening storm surge. Note that official Storm Surge Watches and Warnings will not begin until 2017. In addition, the experimental map showing reasonable worst-case water heights above ground (Figure 2) that was issued beginning in 2014 will continue to be available this season. Keep in mind that this map shows the surge heights that people should prepare for before the storm given the uncertainties in the forecast.

For more information about storm surge, check out the National Hurricane Center website at www.Weather.gov. There, you can find changes to the National Hurricane Center's products and don't forget to check out our local hurricane guide to help determine your vulnerability to surge.



Robert Bright
National Weather Service, Charleston
ESF 5: Emergency Management

Left: Experimental Storm Surge Watch/Warning Graphic.
Below: Experimental Potential Storm Surge Flooding Map.



Search & Rescue Wilderness Exercise & K-9 Training

On Saturday, June 6, 2015 the CEMA Search and Rescue Team took to the woods of the Dorchester Shooting Preserve in Midway, Georgia to practice various SAR techniques. The Team's first simulation: search the area for a couple that went missing overnight. A scent article was given to the bloodhounds, and the woodland search began.

The scent dog immediately caught on the scent trail of the missing persons, and lead the search team to their location within a matter of minutes. This gave the K-9 Team a realistic scenario, and allowed them to conduct a search in the same manner that they would during a real life scenario. The Man Tracker Team that followed the K-9 team was able to practice search techniques while integrating with the K-9. The tracker team was able to search for and gather evidence that may have been missed by the K-9 Team.

After conclusion of the K-9 Training, the SAR Team then set out on their next mission: a simulated cadaver recovery mission that required a grid search to be performed. When the search area had been identified, the team set their course and lined up next to each other at double arm intervals to ensure a thorough sweep of the designated area. The team navigated through thick terrain, while providing pinpoint location updates to the command post to plot on the maps of the area the search team had designated clear. Grid searches can be slow and labor intensive, but their hard work paid off as they located the simulated victim after covering a 300 meter by 100 meter area. The team then relayed the location to the command post which then simulate calling in the necessary supporting elements.



ESF 9: Search & Rescue

Above Right: SAR Team Receives Missing Persons Briefing
Right: CEMA SAR Team Performs a Grid Search

Municipal Updates Complete

Each year as Hurricane Season approaches, CEMA works diligently to ensure that the plans in place are exercised appropriately during a disaster. Every other year, CEMA staff takes time to sit down with each municipality to gather information crucial to Hurricane Season. The years in between, updates are done via phone or e-mail. It is CEMA's goal to equip every government entity with the knowledge and awareness of what their responsibilities are, and make sure they are prepared to exercise those responsibilities. Last year CEMA met one-on-one with each municipality; its a practice that aids the information gathering process but also strengthens relationships.

When updating the Appendices to the Emergency Operations Plan, special attention is given to the Critical Facility Restoration Locations, the Road Clearing Priorities as well as the Re-Entry Strike Teams/Render Safe Teams. CEMA is also in the process of updating the Hurricane Evacuation Routes and Traffic Control Points, as well as the Emergency Fuel Management Plan within the Emergency Operations Plan. The Savannah Area Geographic Information System (SAGIS) is always instrumental in helping update the maps associated with the Traffic Control Points and the Road Clearing Priorities, as well as locations for Critical Facilities throughout Chatham County. CEMA would like to thank each municipality and other area partners who are always willing to work together to ensure the appropriate changes are made to these important plans.

Health District Officials Encourage Mosquito Precautions

Summer is under way and as more people make their way outside for summertime activities, Coastal Health District officials want to remind residents to take precautions to avoid mosquitoes. Mosquito bites are annoying but can also cause diseases such as West Nile Virus (WNV), Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), and Chickungunya.

WNV is transmitted by the bite of infected mosquitoes. About 80 percent of people infected with WNV will not show any symptoms at all; however, cases can range from mild to severe. Mosquitoes that carry the West Nile Virus are more likely to bite during the evening, night, and early morning. EEE is a mosquito-borne virus that causes swelling of the brain. In horses, it is fatal 70 to 90 percent of the time. Horse and large animal owners are encouraged to vaccinate their animals against the virus and to clean out watering sources, such as buckets and troughs, every three-to-four days to prevent mosquitoes from breeding there.

The most common symptoms of Chickungunya are fever and joint pain and symptoms usually begin 3–7 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), reported cases of Chickungunya thus far in 2015 have occurred in travelers returning from affected areas including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

“The common thread among these illnesses is that they are transmitted through mosquito bites,” said Diane Weems, M.D., Coastal Health District Health Director. “The more precautions we take against getting bitten by mosquitoes the better our chances are of avoiding any mosquito-borne diseases.”



Mosquito Prevention

The best way to prevent mosquito-related diseases is to avoid mosquito bites. Mosquitoes breed in standing water which is why it is important to remove water-holding containers (buckets, barrels, flower pots, tarps, etc.); drill holes in tire swings so water drains out; keep children's wading pools empty and on their sides when they're not being used; change water frequently in pet dishes; change bird bath water at least twice a week; and avoid using saucers under outdoor potted plants.

The following tips can help lessen the risk of getting bitten by mosquitoes:

- DRAIN all standing water.
- Avoid DAWN and DUSK when mosquitoes are most active.
- DRESS appropriately in long sleeves and pants.
- DEFEND or DEET yourself against mosquitoes with an effective repellent. Repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, and oil of lemon eucalyptus and para-menthane-diol products provide long lasting protection.
- DOORS and windows should be in good condition.

**Sally Silberman, Coastal Health District
ESF 8: Public Health & Medical Services**



Information When You Need It

Developing a family preparedness plan and getting up-to-date emergency information has never been easier thanks to the new Chatham Emergency Management Agency App. With the touch of a finger, users can access:

- Live Weather Radar
- Breaking Emergency Alerts
- Live NOAA Weather Radio Feed
- Helpful Emergency Planning Tips
- Build your Disaster Plan, Organize your Emergency Contact List, Save Medications Information then share with friends or family!
- Submit Damage Reports



The CEMA App is free and available on all iPhones and Android devices. To download, visit the App Store and search “ChathamEMA”.

Flood Facts Continued

7. **Permit Requirements:** Chatham County's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance (FDPO) require that all construction, additions, conversions and/or development located in areas of special flood hazard comply with certain minimum standards intended to minimize damage from floods. For example, houses and certain other structures are required to be built one foot above the 100 year base flood elevation (BFE). The FDPO also requires building permits be obtained from the Chatham County Department of Building Safety & Regulatory Services prior to construction. The FDPO and the County Stormwater Management Ordinances have restrictions on the placement of fill in areas of special flood hazard. Chatham County's Land Disturbing Activities Ordinance (LDA) requires permits for certain land disturbing activities and requires soil erosion control--best management practices for construction even if an LDA permit is not required. To obtain a building permit, contact your building official. The Chatham County Department of Building Safety and Regulatory Services are located at 1117 Eisenhower Dr., Savannah, GA and can be reached by calling 201-4300. If you see someone working without a building permit or if you have any other questions or concerns about permits, please do not hesitate to call the number listed above.

8. **Substantial Improvement Requirements:** Any substantially improved or substantially damaged home or structure must be brought up to the NFIP and County's FDPO requirements. This is known as the 50% Rule, which states if the lowest finished floor of an existing house is below the base flood elevation (BFE) plus one foot and the cost of repairs or renovations exceed the structure's Fair Market Value by more than 50%, therefore the lowest finished floor elevation must be raised or elevated to at least the BFE plus a one foot free board. In the VE, the bottom of the lowest horizontal member must be brought up to or exceed the BFE plus one foot free board. Also note that additional Chatham County floodplain requirements may apply.

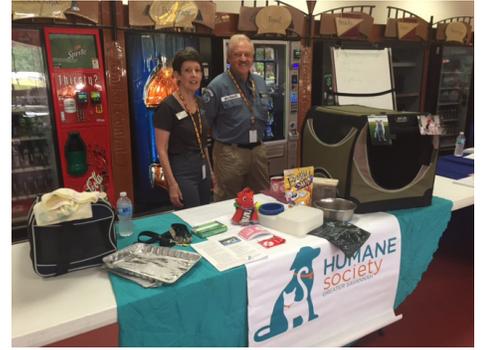
9. **Drainage System Maintenance:** Never sweep or blow yard waste into the street or storm water system. This blocks the pipes and prevents water from draining. If your property is adjacent to a drainage ditch, keep the banks clear of brush and debris. Dumping in open ditches and streams is prohibited by Chatham County. To report a violation, please contact the Chatham County Public Works Dept. at 652-6840.

10. **Unincorporated Chatham County Flood Prone Areas:** Review the following map to determine if you are in a low, moderate or high flood risk area. Properties located in low and moderate (Flood Zone X and X-500) flood zones are not required by FEMA to carry a flood insurance policy. However, it is recommended that all Chatham County residents have protection from flood damages. Your homeowner's policy does not provide coverage from rising flood waters. Properties located in the high flood risk zone (AE and VE flood zones) are required to carry a flood insurance policy if there is a federally backed mortgage on the property. If you need assistance in making this determination, please contact the Chatham County Department of Engineering at 652-7800. Call this office to see if you are in a flood prone area. You can also review the flood zone map at sagis.org. Chatham County residents should visit engineering.chathamcounty.org for additional information. If you need a Flood Zone Determination Letter, please see #2 above.

Note: Additional information can be obtained by contacting your local Chatham County Floodplain Administrator. They are as follows:

LOCAL JURISDICTION	CONTACT
CHATHAM COUNTY	Michael Blakely, CFM (912) 652-7814, mblakely@chathamcounty.org
CITY OF SAVANNAH	Tom McDonald, CFM (912) 651-6530 ext. 1895, tmcdonald@savannahga.gov
CITY OF THUNDERBOLT	Caroline Nguyen, (912) 629-4650, cnguyen@thunderboltga.org
CITY OF TYBEE ISLAND	Lisa Schaaf, (912) 472-5033, lschaaf@cityoftybee.org
CITY OF POOLER	Kim Classen, CFM (912) 748-7261, kclassen@pooler-ga.gov
CITY OF GARDEN CITY	Ron Alexander, CFM (912) 966-7777, ralexander@gardencity-ga.gov
CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH	Brian Harvey, (912) 964-4379, bharvey@cityofportwentworth.com
CITY OF BLOOMINGDALE	Diane Proudfoot, (912) 748-0970, dproudfoot@bloomingdale-ga.com

Festivals Make Preparedness Fun



Hurricane season is well underway, and while much of the year is spent reviewing emergency plans and coordinating possible recovery efforts, a large part of CEMA's job revolves around public emergency preparedness and education. Summer months have proved to be the ideal time to expand outreach efforts through a variety of community festivals and educational events. In the past, CEMA's involvement was minor, with one or two tables for storm information. With public engagement in mind, the CEMA Support Team's Festival Committee has grown exponentially, gaining volunteers who know how to make learning fun!

Above: (L-R) Gary Hom discusses emergency kits with a JCB employee, CEMA Festival Volunteer Team after the JCB Hurricane Preparedness Event, Humane Society Director Lynn Gynsamer and Charlie Maynard take a break to smile for the camera.

Below: CEMA Volunteer Erin Tatum reviews the Hurricane Evacuation Timeline with Home Depot Festival attendee.



With citizens leading the charge, the festival committee created a curriculum that has the flexibility to grow or shrink depending on the event and the number of attendees. CEMA volunteers walk citizens through the dangers of storm surge, the hurricane timeline, how to build an emergency "go kit" and discuss the options available for emergency food storage and water purification. In June, the support team hosted their first hurricane preparedness event at JCB. While transplant employees from overseas were the target audience, even locals stopped by to brush up on their storm knowledge and some were surprised by what they learned. It was a wonderful event and a great kickoff to hurricane season.



Above: Larry Yawn discusses water purification with a young attendee at the Home Depot Expo, Gary Hom talks personal preparedness with concerned citizens, Virgil Moore reviews storm safety.

The team was invited back to the annual Home Depot Hurricane Preparedness Expo, now in its 15th year. On July 11th a dozen team members donned their "CEMA Volunteer" shirts and braved the heat to help teach their neighbors about storm readiness. Over the course of the day, the team had the opportunity to share important, possibly lifesaving information to hundreds of festival-goers. Many of the attendees commented on how they look forward to seeing CEMA and the volunteers because they enjoy speaking with a knowledgeable team. Call us biased, but we believe that our volunteers are the best in the region. CEMA is thankful for all they do and for their continued support. We couldn't do it without them!

2015 CEMA Support Team Training & Appreciation Dinner

"We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give." — Winston Churchill



CEMA's volunteers come from all walks of life and different backgrounds, but the one thing they have in common is their sense of responsibility for their neighbors. To celebrate their servant spirit and all the good they do for our community, CEMA decided it would be nice to serve them for a change! On August 1st a special event was held at the Frank G. Murray Center where the volunteers were the guests of honor. All they had to do was show up and relax. They were treated to some homemade BBQ with all the trimmings, prepared with love by the CEMA staff. The evening provided some much needed fun and fellowship, new volunteers met long-time team members and many left with new friendships.

Since preparedness is their passion, no event would be complete without the opportunity to learn. CEMA would like to thank Southside Fire for taking time out of their busy evening to come and provide Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training at the gathering. It was nice to see that after a big dinner, the volunteers were still hungry to learn something new. Thanks to an up close question and answer session, the volunteers learned that AEDs are easy to use and safe, so they should not be afraid of the device.

Life is busy, but evenings like this one that are spent together helps to strengthen the bond of the group, thus making it more effective. As the evening drew to a close and things started to quiet down, a team member came to me and shared this word of wisdom: "Nurturing positive relationships is like adding currency to a bank account. The richer you are, the more you have to give." If we were to measure our wealth by our relationships, I would say our volunteer team is worth millions.

Meredith Ley
CEMA Public Information Officer &
Volunteer Coordinator



If you are interested in becoming a volunteer with our CEMA Support Team, or would like to know more about how the program can benefit your business or community, e-mail maley@chathamcounty.org or call 912-201-4500.



2015 TRAINING

Search & Rescue Training August 8	Disaster Finance Training September 16	Search & Rescue Team Training October 10
Situational Awareness & Common Operating Picture Training August 10-13	Search & Rescue Training September 19	Damage Assessment Full Scale Exercise November 5
Evacuation Assembly Area Workshop August 20	Joint Information Center Seminar September 23	Search & Rescue Team Training November 10
Functional Medical Needs Workshop September 3	SSRC NPREP TTX September 29-30	US Coast Guard AMSP Full Scale Exercise November 17-1
Damage Assessment Team Training September 9	Emergency Operations Center Supervisor Training October 8	Search & Rescue Team Training December 12

2016 TRAINING

Search & Rescue Team Training January 16	Emergency Operations Center Full Scale Exercise February 24	Georgia Ports Authority Table Top Exercise/ HURREX May 16-20
Response/CPG Tabletop Exercise January 25-29	Continuity of Operations Plan Training March 10	Evacuation Assembly Area Full Scale Exercise May 19
Emergency Operation Center Staff and Web EOC Training January 28	Search & Rescue Team Training March 12	Search & Rescue Team Training May 21
Department Training- Personal Preparedness (January-April)	Functional/Medical Needs Seminar March 23	County Recovery FE June 1
Emergency Operations Center Supervisor Training February 10	Functional Medical Needs Full Scale Exercise April 8	Emergency Operations Center Staff & WebEOC Training June 16
Evacuation Assembly Area Seminar February 19	Chatham County Hurricane Conference April 18	Emergency Operations Center Supervisor Training June 17
	Disaster Finance Training April 28	

TO BE SCHEDULED

- ICS 300/400
- ICS/EOC Interface
- Hazmat Awareness
- Basic Storm Spotter Training
- Staging Area Manager Training
- Point of Distribution Manger
Training
- Shelter Manager Training
- Finance/Administration Section
Chief L-973
- Situation Unit Leader L-94
- Incident Commander L-958
- Tornado Awareness
AWR-326
- Disaster Awareness for Caregivers
of Senior Citizens AWR-308
- Disaster Awareness for
Community Leaders AWR-310

American Red Cross Shelter Training



Photos courtesy of the Red Cross

Recently CEMA has revamped its Volunteer program and divided it into many different areas that some of the volunteers may specialize in. One of those programs is the Critical Workforce Shelter Team which will eventually be comprised of at least 15 volunteers who have been trained by the American Red Cross to be Shelter Managers.

In May, CEMA hosted the first round of training where four volunteers were successfully completed the Shelter Fundamentals course which is a prerequisite to the Shelter Manager's Course. Upon completion of the Shelter Manager's course these volunteers will officially be members of the Critical Workforce Shelter Manager Team. These team members are crucial to the operation of our critical workforce shelters. They will need to make sure everyone is accounted for, that they have the necessary essential items needed, that they are fed and other general housekeeping duties.

We are very appreciative of the American Red Cross for offering their training to ensure our volunteers have proper training and guidance on how a shelter should operate. While these particular shelters are not American Red Cross Shelters, there will at least be continuity on how shelters are ran. If you are interested in becoming part of this volunteer team please reach out to CEMA and let us know. We will be hosting more shelter trainings in the near future.

**ESF 6: Mass Care, Emergency Assistance,
Housing & Human Services**



Have an Idea for the Signal?

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:

DENNIS JONES
INTERIM DIRECTOR

MEREDITH LEY
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

- **Submissions emailed to:** Meredith Ley, maley@chathamemergency.org
- **Deadline:** October 2nd, 2015
- **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 Address)
- **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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