

# CEMA Signal



## Chatham County Mosquito Control



### Beyond Mosquito Missions

Pilot Scott Yackel does not use the word dangerous when referring to his job; however, residents may not see it that way. When flying a mosquito control mission, Yackel and Pilot Mark Hansen typically fly only 200 to 300 feet above the tree tops. That's close, especially when you factor in cell phone towers that are not clearly marked and power lines that blend in with the horizon.

Yackel calls what they do "At Risk Flying" and

he says Mosquito Control agencies lose more crew members per capita than Law Enforcement, Firefigthing, and Search and Rescue aerial operations. Yackel says the success of Chatham County's Mosquito Control program is due to the development of an aerial program with protocols, processes, training and risk management to mitigate the dangers. He says hiring the right people to serve the public is paramount to making the system operate safely.

In the photo above, pilot Mark Hansen uses a handheld receiver that picks up a radio signal from a bracelet worn by a person with Alzheimer's or Autism. Using this technology, the success rate of locating a missing person is 100%. (Photo courtesy: Mosquito Control)

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Chatham County revises its "Special Needs" hurricane evacuation program. The revision **was necessary** to meet the new State and Federal Guidelines and include medical as well as functional needs clients.

#### NARROWBANDING

It has been almost two decades since the Federal Communications Commission began the "Reforming Initiative" now known as Narrowbanding. Are you ready for it? If not, you could be in violation of Federal law and subject to license revocation and/or a fine. Learn how to be in compliance.

#### READY GEORGIA

A recent survey shows more Georgia residents are prepared for an emergency than ever before; however, certain populations still need help. See who in your community may require additional resources.

continued on page 4

# A Message from the Director



As we bring you the latest edition of the CEMA Signal, I must point out the peak of hurricane season is September 10th. Despite the prediction of a normal or even by some, a below average season, we are still facing the threat of a hurricane. Remember, Category 5 Hurricane Andrew hit South Florida during a below average season. In fact, the storm formed in August making it the first named storm of the 1992 season. The reminder here is never to let your guard down; all it takes is one storm.

Next month marks National Preparedness Month, a time when residents are reminded and highly encouraged to get prepared. Get an emergency kit, make a plan and stay informed is the message CEMA hopes

residents will memorize and actually carry out. Throughout the month of September, CEMA will help residents find ways to prepare and deliver tips they can use. CEMA will also host another Community Emergency Response Team training course in October. The 20 hour program is free for Chatham County residents and teaches them various skills such as first aid, fire suppression, light search and rescue and hazardous materials awareness. Residents can sign up through the CEMA office.

It's with great pleasure to announce CEMA will receive two very much needed pieces of equipment in the near future. With the addition of a new mobile command vehicle and a mobile communications trailer, the CEMA staff will be able to provide on-scene support no matter where the incident is located. By the way, both projects are 100 percent Federal grant funded.

We continue to work with Hunter Army Airfield on securing

the site for the future County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The newly constructed EOC will be state of the art and will be located immediately inside the Montgomery Street Gate on the site of the old Tuttle Army Hospital and one of the county's highest land elevation points. The latest US Army Corps of Engineers topographical surveys indicate the site we are looking to build on is of sufficient elevation that will not flood even in a Category 5 hurricane.

The next big event we will be looking forward to is the 2012 Rock and Roll Marathon. Last year's race brought more than 23,000 runners to the streets of Savannah and this year the race is already sold out. Coordination among law enforcement, EMS, and other agencies is key to the success and safety of the run. We look forward to working with our partners for the event.

Until then, enjoy the rest of the summer and the hot days ahead.

**Clayton Scott**  
Director

## Damage Assessment: Moving Forward

The Damage Assessment Strategy was developed and scheduled for countywide review and final comments. Like many things, there are external changes that occur that need to be addressed. In this case, FEMA released the Preliminary Damage Assessment for Individuals Assistance Operations Manual (9327.2-PR) on July 25, 2012.

After an initial review of the manual, the county's Damage Assessment Strategy needed another rewrite to address changes, including the forms and placards. The Strategy has been modified and additional information incorporated to support the FEMA program. CEMA will be scheduling future meetings to address any concerns and finalize the Strategy.

The next deliverable after finalizing the Strategy is for each municipality to identify the damage assessment team leaders and team members. We are moving forward to develop and implement the Damage Assessment Training Program with the goal of conducting damage assessment exercises in the first Quarter of 2013.

**ESF 03b: Damage Assessment**  
Dave Grotyohann, EM Specialist, CEMA

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# Reaching the Entire Population: Preparedness, Warnings, & Alerts

The sky is black, the wind is increasing, and the rain is beating down. **All of a sudden the outdoor warning sirens are activated** informing residents outdoors to take cover; a tornado has been spotted. Now imagine, you're outside and you're deaf or hard of hearing (HOH), those sirens prove completely ineffective.

According to a 2007 study conducted by the Georgia Department of Labor, nearly 30,000 Chatham County residents have hearing loss or are deaf. That same study estimates there are almost 150 "signing deaf" people who use sign language, in Chatham County and the Georgia Council for the Hearing Impaired (GACHI) reports there are 48 deaf people in our county. These numbers place a responsibility on emergency management agencies to help develop ways to relay life-saving information to those who are deaf and/or have other disabilities.

**TASK FORCE:** CEMA is working closely with a number of partners in the community: GACHI, Living Independence for Everyone, and the Chatham County Association of the Deaf. The idea behind the partnership is to create an open line of discussion to address the roadblocks associated with public information and warning systems for people with disabilities and to ultimately identify solutions. These partners realize that it will take a combined effort to resolve this dilemma and are developing a "task force" that will bring all the players to the table. This task force will conduct research on the most effective ways to alert residents with disabilities and will develop processes that can help make delivery easier. The task force will also address ways to reach people with disabilities and provide them with essential preparedness information. "It is very important to find ways to alert the Deaf/HOH in times of emergencies in times of emergencies because every life is valuable. Hearing people can hear what's happening on the radio so Deaf and HOH must have a way to learn what's going on. We cannot afford to have someone die because they did not know what happened or what to do," said John Kim, Deaf and HOH Advocate Specialist for GACHI.

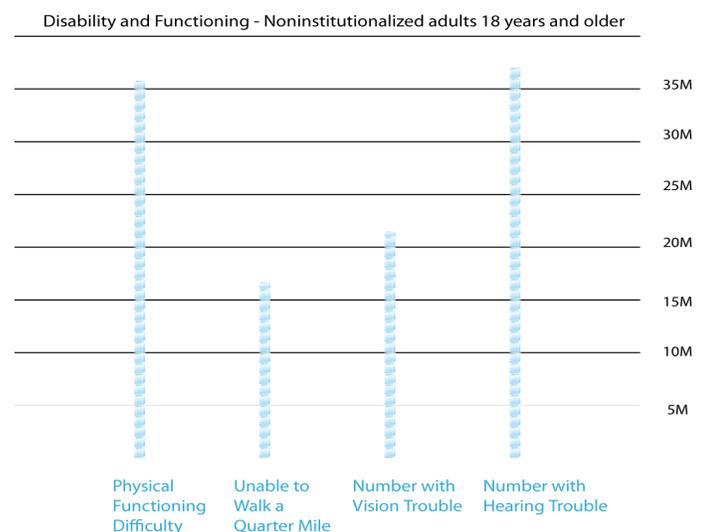
**EMERGENCY PLAN:** CEMA's Emergency Operations Plan includes ways to notify residents with disabilities. For example, the plan identifies interpreters and spells out how they will work during press conferences and if there was an evacuation, how they would support deaf or HOH people who will use public transportation. A few of the problems that Chatham County faces is the number of interpreters and also the number willing to stay behind if there is a mandatory evacuation issued for the county. One of the lessons learned during the statewide hurricane exercise held this past May, was that finding an interpreter available on the day of the general public evacuation exercise proved impossible. Due to their limited availability, and because local interpreters were either booked or working, there was no interpreter. It was determined that a reliable list and as much pre-planning as possible needs to go into securing interpreters for both exercises and emergencies, especially if the operational period goes beyond 12 hours.

**SMARTPHONES:** CEMA has developed and implemented text alert and mass email notification programs. GACHI reports that many deaf or HOH people are using smartphones to communicate

and receive messages. These messages can be life-saving not only for hearing people, but those with disabilities. CEMA distributes text/email alerts pertaining to severe weather, hurricanes, major road closures, and even wildfires. Registration is free as long as a cell phone can receive text messages. There are also applications for smartphones that are identical to weather radio alerts that can be set to be read aloud.

**THE FUTURE:** One of the worries in the deaf community is severe weather, specifically tornadoes. Adaptors such as strobe lights, bed shakers and vibrators to alert those who can't hear can be purchased for weather radios and large text printouts are available for those people who have a hard time seeing. The problem for many residents is the cost associated with outfitting a weather radio; and while there are grants available to purchase smoke alarms for deaf people, grants for weather radios are hard to come by. Adaptors can be hundreds of dollars; a tough burden for many residents with disabilities who live on fixed incomes. In the future, with the development of the task force, CEMA hopes to build upon the plans and programs that are already in place to find additional ways to reach those with disabilities. It's imperative that all those involved in public safety spend the time going beyond the norm.

If you are interested the task force and emergency warning issues that face individuals with disabilities, please contact the CEMA office.



Source: Summary Health Statistics for U.S. Adults: National Health Interview Survey, 2010



## Mosquito Control: The Sky Is the Limit

**It's 4:30 in the** afternoon and Mosquito Control pilot Scott Yackel is advised by CEMA that a fire on Wilmington Island is threatening homes. Yackel suits up and takes off in his MD 500N helicopter; however, this mission isn't to fight mosquitoes, it's to fight the two acre blaze. His last words before lifting off, "I bet I'll make it back in time for the sunset spray."

Yackel's principal job is to support Chatham County's Mosquito Control program, more specifically to conduct aerial operations. With 40 different mosquito species in Chatham County, two of which carry the potentially deadly Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus and West Nile virus (WNV), Yackel, along with pilot Mark Hansen, and more than two dozen staff, work daily to combat, contain, and eliminate the mosquito problem. The Mosquito Control (MOSCON) program was organized in 1957 and is based on an integrated mosquito management approach which incorporates physical, biological, and chemical controls. Using mosquito eating fish, source reduction, larvicide operations, stormwater catch basin treatment, and aerial spray operations, MOSCON is effective in keeping the mosquito problem at bay.

MOSCON began large-scale aerial operations in 2003 when the chemical used to treat adult mosquitoes, Naled, was found to be most effective, especially when sprayed at sunset, the time of day mosquitoes are most active. In 45 minutes, Yackel and Hansen can treat more than 19,000 acres. Naled is non-toxic to humans and animals, and it only

takes a half an ounce to treat one acre. In 2011, Yackel and Hansen sprayed 1.4 million acres; in fact, they flew for 81 days straight last year covering WNV hot zones and sprayed up until New Year's Day. The aerial spray season typically runs from April to November.

Even with a busy year fighting mosquitoes, Yackel and Hansen managed to fit in other operations that have nothing to do with killing mosquitoes. Pilots aid in firefighting operations, law enforcement patrols, apprehension of criminals, search and rescue missions, and even reconnaissance support during hurricane evacuations. "Most citizens would say what we do is dangerous. We analyze every mission and complete a risk/benefit analysis to determine if and how the mission can be completed safely," said Yackel.

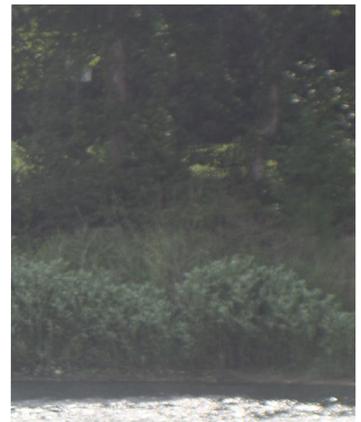
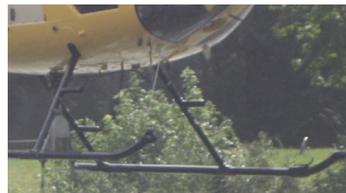
The three helicopters, named Eagle One, Two, and Three, and the fixed wing airplane, an Air Tractor 402A (Chatham One), can be regularly spotted flying unique operations. Just recently Yackel and Hansen assisted Savannah Chatham Metro Police Department (SCMPD) in the apprehension of a shooting suspect hiding in the Old Pink House restaurant in downtown Savannah. The "Birds" as Yackel calls them also support the Project Lifesaver program run by the Chatham County Sheriff's Office. All aircraft have equipment onboard that can pick up a signal from a bracelet worn by an Alzheimer's or Autism patient. If the person wanders the bracelet transmits a GPS signal. Yackel said they spotted the last missing Alzheimer's patient in



**A Missing Person.** Using the helicopters to maintain a perimeter, search for the individual, and check all possible sightings, has allowed ground searchers to be very successful. The Project Lifesaver and Aviation Programs have brought tools to the caregivers of individuals with Dementia, Autism, and Traumatic Brain Injuries. An Aerial Search Specialist Deputy from the Chatham County Sheriff's Office flies with the Pilot.



**A Missing Plane.** On March 5, 2010 CEMA requested assistance from Mosquito Control pilots to search for a missing aircraft. After searching all night, the next morning Eagle One radioed that the plane was possibly in a pond off Highway 204. SCMPD dive team members confirmed the plane's location and located the deceased pilot.



eight minutes.

In the blink of an eye, crew can reconfigure equipment and turn mosquito control helicopters into crime fighting tools. Through a partnership with SCMPD, pilots can outfit the Birds with a FLIR (thermal imaging camera), a giant spotlight, and pilots can don night vision goggles. Imagine a suspect outrunning a helicopter says Yackel; he hints that it's nearly impossible. "The collaborative effort between the SCMPD and the county is effective as well as efficient and has been nationally recognized by several entities. It has been an important tool to combat crime, and support agencies during manmade and natural disasters," said Yackel.

When the crime fighting mission is over, pilots can hook up a specialized bucket and help local fire departments combat wildfires. These (Bambi) buckets hold 120 gallons of water and pilots use nearby canals, rivers and the ocean as endless water supplies. Yackel managed 40 water drops in 30 minutes during one firefighting operation; that included the amount of time it took him to refill the bucket.

Yackel says the program is successful because the staff believes in it and they are very proactive. Instead of waiting for sunset spray time or for a radio call for aid to come across, he and Hansen are always on the

lookout. "I have the best of staff, they are all public servants first. I have a Director and a County Manager that support the operation, and most importantly a Commission that expects aviation to support the citizens during times of need. The aircraft have been an essential tool during emergency events and we are always evaluating our program to ensure the best use of the tools we are entrusted with," said Yackel.

Hansen jokes, saying one time he saved the world. He and a Tactical Flight Officer were conducting an aerial patrol when they spotted a wildfire burning dangerously close to homes. Hansen radioed the fire department, only to find that trucks could not reach the location. Hansen and Yackel flew into action, literally. All joking aside, they may not have saved the world, but they did save Chatham County residents from the heartache of losing their homes. Yackel says it's all in a day's work, as he races out the door for another operation; this one to protect Chatham County residents from mosquitoes.

**ESF 01, 04, 09, 13  
Kelly Harley, PIO, CEMA**

**TRANSPORTATION**

During a hurricane evacuation, pilots can land helicopters on Interstate 16 to bring in resources. They can also alert CEMA on which major roadways are clogged.

**FIREFIGHTING**

Bambi baskets can carry up to 120 gallons of water and the Air Tractor can hold up to 400 gallons. Pilots typically work 10 wildfires per year.

**SEARCH & RESCUE**

In 2011, 12.8 hours of flight time were devoted to SAR operations. One MOSCON employee and three SCMPD officers are also trained in aerial water rescue.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Select police officers must go through a 40 hour training program. Once trained, they become Tactical Flight Officers and rotate through a weekly on-call schedule.

# Georgia Power Helps Weather the Storm

Living on the Coast, afternoon showers, thunderstorms, and occasional tropical storms are facts of life. Hurricanes and tornadoes pose severe threats.

Georgia Power plans for storm activity year-round and is prepared to respond immediately when safe to do so. When a storm threatens, Georgia Power's Storm Center in Atlanta is activated 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Staffed by an organization of experts in their fields, these individuals:

- Monitor weather in advance
- Stage crews and coordinate personnel movement within Georgia and from other companies
- Coordinate and assess damage
- Serve as communications system for media – GEMA and other emergency organizations
- The Center remains activated until all restorations are deemed completed.

There are several ways customers can prepare in advance of a power outage:

- Adjust your temperature ahead of time, – (AC down in the summer – heat up in the winter) During and after the storm, keep doors and windows closed to hold on to temperatures

- Keep freezers closed and sealed, frozen food will keep 2-3 days in a well-stocked freezer
- Leave a front porch light on – this helps electric crews know when repairs were successful
- Disconnect any unnecessary appliances that could over load circuits when the power is restored
- Be patient, crews work as fast as safety allows

The safety of our customers and employees is our first priority. We work to restore service as quickly as possible. We now post regular storm updates on [twitter.com/georgiapower](https://twitter.com/georgiapower); to report and outage, call 1-888-891-0938.

Georgia Power has a network of more than 8,000 employees dedicated to getting your lights back on when the unexpected turns them off.

**ESF 12: Utilities**

**Swann Seiler, Corporate Communications, Georgia Power**

## Evacuation Assembly Area, Lessons Learned

A major effort is put forth each year to develop emergency plans and procedures for Chatham County. These plans are drafted, reviewed, updated and implemented. Many plans require annual updates as staffing and resources change. Once the plan is coordinated and drafted, it needs to be tested. The best way to do this is by bringing organizations together and conducting an exercise.

On May 15, 2012, Chatham County had a full scale exercise of the Emergency Assembly Area (EAA) which is the Pre-Hurricane Countywide Evacuation Center located at the Savannah Civic Center. After months of planning, the exercise brought together more than 17 organizations and gave them the opportunity to exercise their plans, policies, and procedures in support of the EAA Operations. The purpose of this full scale exercise was to evaluate the county Emergency Plan's ability to provide evacuation

The Evacuation Assembly Area is designed to help Chatham County residents without their own means of transportation leave the county during a mandatory hurricane evacuation.

support for those without their own means of transportation during a mandatory evacuation.

Following the exercise, the After Action Report meeting was held with the partners to compile the observations and recommendations. The observations that stood out: shortage of staff members in almost all sections of the EAA, better planning for courtesy escorts, increased security inside and outside the EAA, changes need to be made to the facility layout, and limitations of the different types of buses.

The commitment of our partners to support the EAA is commendable and most certainly appreciated, especially during times of non-emergencies, training, and exercises. Working together will ensure that during an emergency, Chatham County is more prepared and able to meet the needs of the community. This exercise showed the overall need for continued planning, plan and procedure development, and recurring and repetitive training.

**ESF 01: Transportation**

**Dave Grotyohann, EM Specialist, CEMA**

# Cooling Station Supports Residents Trying to Beat the Heat

On **Sunday July 1, 2012** a severe thunderstorm rolled through Chatham County leaving behind downed trees, standing water and thousands of people without power. At the height of the storm nearly 30,000 Chatham County residents were left in the dark.

Monday July 2, 2012 proved to be a hot day. Temperatures were expected to be in the upper nineties and the county was under a heat advisory. Because of the extreme temperatures and the fact that thousands of people still had no electricity; CEMA with the support of the American Red Cross, opened a cooling station in the Windsor Forest High School Cafeteria. The area was one of the hardest hit during the storm and the high school was a perfect location not only geographically, also because the school was not in session. Within hours CEMA and the Red Cross had access to the building as well as support staff on hand from the school.

According to Georgia Power there were nearly 20,000 outages in Effingham County as well due to the storm. Approximately 220 additional personnel from other Georgia Power locations, Mississippi Power Company, Jacksonville Electric Authority, and contractors from Georgia, Alabama, Florida and Mississippi helped with restoration efforts.

The idea was to provide a place where people could “cool” off during the hottest part of the day. The station opened at 1 p.m. and remained opened until 7 p.m., when the last family left. Nearly a dozen volunteers, from both CEMA and the American Red Cross, manned the station and provided water and snacks for residents.

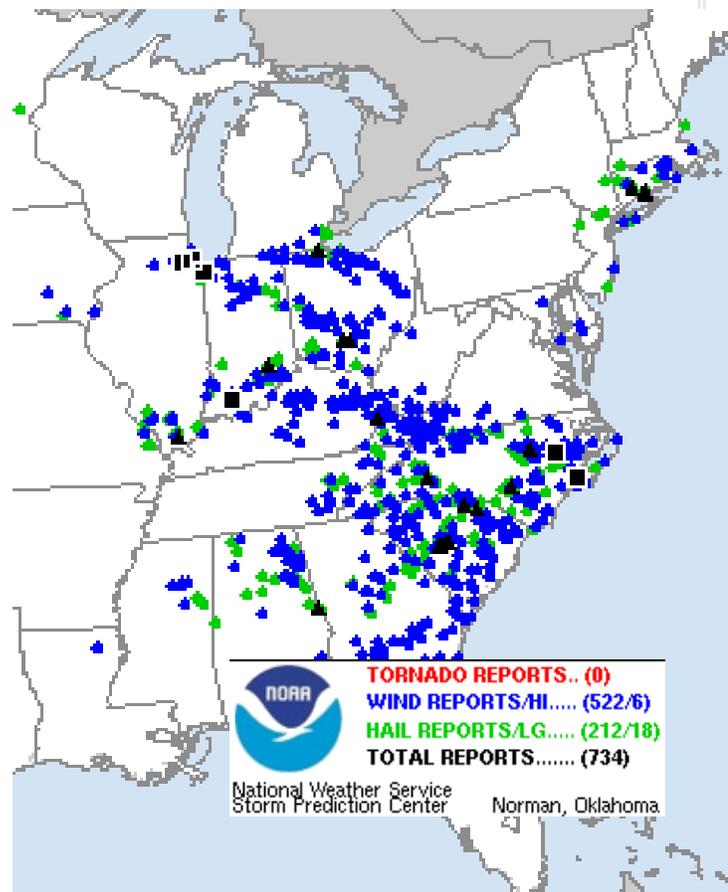
“The American Red Cross prides itself on providing the community safe alternatives in emergency situations. Normally, the American Red Cross doesn’t provide emergency shelters or cooling stations in power outages, but because of the extreme temperatures, the situation called us into action. The cooling station provided immediate relief for those in need and we were honored to play a part in helping our community,” said Esther Sheppard, Director of Public Support, Southeast Georgia Chapter, American Red Cross.

ESF 06: Mass Care



Savannah, GA - (7/1/12) Don Sullens, CEMA, briefs volunteers from the Red Cross and CEMA on the current situation regarding power outages. (Photo: CEMA)

## Filtered Storm Report 07/01/12



# 911 Calls Rerouted: The Backup Plan Worked



Communications Officer Claude Debnam dispatches a 911 call to a police officer using a handheld radio.

“Hard work and planning paid off with a seamless transition. We don’t wish for something bad to happen, but when it does, it’s great to see that we have plans in place that keep the county working.”

It’s something **you never want to happen**, a 911 dispatch center losing power. On May 30, the Savannah-Chatham dispatch center, located in the County Annex off Chatham Parkway, found out that it can and does happen. A construction crew cut through a power line on Chatham Parkway around 1:30 in the afternoon and sent the dispatch center into darkness. The uninterruptible power supply (UPS), a massive bank of batteries that keeps the center powered, kicked on until the generator came online and the building could be transferred over to the generator. The problem came when the generator experienced a hardware failure. The UPS had less than three hours of battery life, so dispatcher supervisors realized they had to resort to the backup plan. That plan was to use the County’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) as the temporary 911 dispatch center; it was the backup plan that had never before been tested or used.

CEMA staff began powering up laptops and converting the EOC Phone Operators room at the old courthouse to serve as the temporary 911 dispatch center. CEMA maintains two EOCs, the primary at the old courthouse and the secondary in the same building as the 911

center. CEMA’s Dustin Hetzel worked with AT&T and 911 Dispatch to make one of CEMA’s main numbers, the new telephone line that would ring when residents dialed 911. That number in turn rang to multiple phones in the EOC similar to a 911 center. “911 Dispatch Supervising staff called AT&T and started initiating the 911 center calls to the EOC on Bull Street. Once a number was given to AT&T, AT&T worked their magic on their side of the phone system, 911 calls were immediately transferred to CEMA office,” said Hetzel. By 3:26 p.m. the EOC became the 911 center answering point and nine dispatchers began answering calls. (Tybee Island dispatch center answered calls for about 15 minutes while the phone transfer took place to prevent calls from being lost.) Since the dispatchers were not working in the computer program used to dispatch calls, hand-held radios were used to dispatch calls to public safety personnel. For nearly three hours the EOC was used as the 911 dispatch center and the operation ran smoothly. “Hard work and planning paid off with a seamless transition. We don’t wish for something bad to happen, but when it does it’s great to see that we have plans in place that keep the county working. Many residents who used 911 during that time period probably had no idea what was going on behind the scenes,” said Hetzel. At 6:30 p.m. the County Annex was operational and all 911 calls were redirected back to the 911 center. It was to be expected that calls into 911 might be slower during that time, however, the backup plan proved to be effective in keeping one of the county’s most important systems online.

# Ready Georgia Campaign: More Residents are Prepared

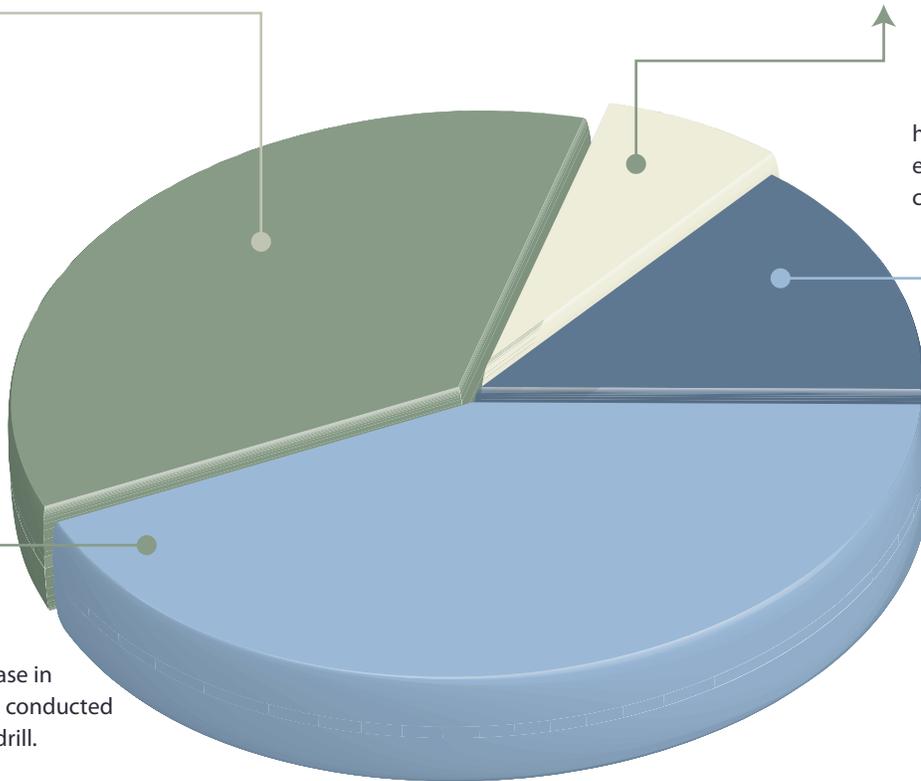
**37 percent** increase in households that put together an emergency kit for the car.

**13 percent** increase in households that have developed a home escape plan.

**22 percent** increase in households that have set aside extra prescription medications or copies of prescriptions.

**44 percent** increase in households that have conducted an evacuation or fire drill.

**Since the Ready Georgia Campaign launch in 2007 there has been an increase in preparedness among Georgians.**



**Commissioned by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security, Ready Georgia**, surveys people statewide to gauge their levels of emergency preparedness. One of the most significant findings of the 2012 research is that nearly three-fourths of Georgians now report being somewhat or fully prepared for a large-scale disaster, with a Ready kit of emergency supplies and a communications plan in place.

“The purpose for creating the Ready Georgia campaign almost five years ago was to get more Georgians prepared for emergencies. This research shows that we are steadily accomplishing our goal,” said Charley English, director of GEMA/Homeland Security.

In other positive trends, Hispanics are more prepared than the rest of the state, with a majority having flashlights, manual can openers and first aid kits on hand.

The research also reveals that there are still many Georgia residents who are unprepared. Only 38 percent of survey respondents believe they need to be prepared to survive for the recommended 72 hours following a large-scale emergency.

This year the survey also gauged preparedness levels for families with a member who has access and/or functional needs. This segment of the population has unique needs and challenges during emergency

situations, making it even more important for them to prepare. Nearly 25 percent of respondents identified having a family member with a disability or decreased mobility, but only slightly more than half reported that they have emergency resources available for that person.

That is why the Ready Georgia campaign has added new resources for individuals with functional needs to [www.ready.ga.gov](http://www.ready.ga.gov). The site now offers emergency preparedness videos in American Sign Language, informational documents in Braille, and all audio/visual materials on the site are available as written transcripts. The campaign has also added large-print versions of its promotional flyers.

“We are encouraged by the results but recognize that there is plenty of room for improvement,” said Charley English, GEMA Director.

# Are Your Pets' Rabies Shots Up to Date?

Hurricane season runs from June 1st through November 30th. Whatever plans you make for yourself, remember to include your pets. Hurricane Katrina taught us the hard way that the safety of our animals must be made a priority in the event of a disaster.

After Katrina the PETS Act was created to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to ensure that State and local emergency preparedness operational plans address the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals following a major disaster or emergency. This act ensures that pets are included in Federal, State, and Local Emergency Management plans. It also provides another layer of protection for individuals and their pets allowing for the evacuation of pets with their owners.

Evacuations are not only stressful on humans, beloved family pets also get upset. Scared and stressed animals are more likely to bite or scratch their owners, other people, and other pets. In addition to injury and potential infection from bites and scratches, bites from dogs, cats, and ferrets may present a risk for rabies.

State law requires all dogs and cats to have a current rabies vaccination. This especially becomes important during mass evacuations occurring ahead of an approaching tropical storm/hurricane. For pet owners utilizing public transportation to evacuate, it is mandatory their pets' rabies vaccination is up-to-date. Vaccinations will not be available during an evacuation. Pets without a current shot record cannot be allowed to mix with evacuees and the general pet population.

Pet owners' emergency plans must include ensuring their pet's rabies vaccination is current. With this in mind, Chatham County Animal Control periodically offers low cost Rabies Clinics to help prevent the potentially deadly disease. The next Rabies Clinic is scheduled for September 29, 2012, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the County Animal Control Shelter at 7215 Sallie Mood Drive (behind the Humane Society). The cost of the rabies vaccination is \$6. Chatham County's Animal Control Unit Commander Lt. Boulware reminds us "the vaccination is inexpensive and the protection is priceless."

For additional information contact Chatham County Animal Control at 912-652-6575.

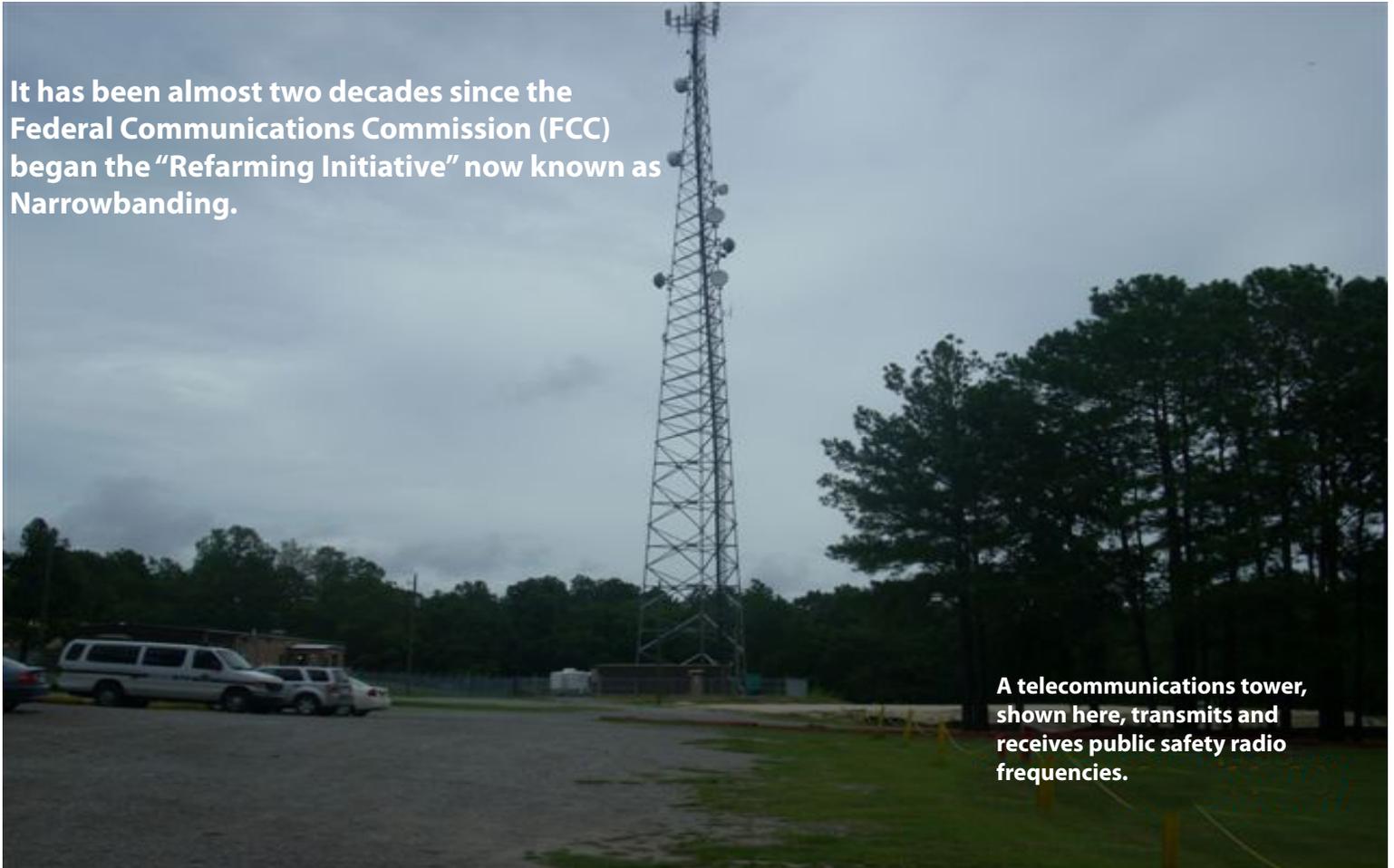
**ESF 11a: Pets and Animals**  
**Don Sullens, EM Specialist, CEMA**



DVM Beth Martin of Eastside Animal Hospital gives one of the shelter dogs the Rabies Vaccine shot. Martin volunteers with Savannah-Chatham Animal Control.

# FCC Narrowbanding Deadline Rapidly Approaching

It has been almost two decades since the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) began the "Refarming Initiative" now known as Narrowbanding.



A telecommunications tower, shown here, transmits and receives public safety radio frequencies.

On January 1, 2013 all public safety and business industrial land mobile radio systems operating in the 150 – 174 and 421 – 470 MHz radio bands must cease operating using 25Khz efficiency technology, and begin operating using 12.5Khz efficiency technology. The reason for narrowbanding is to increase the number of frequencies available within the same radio spectrum; this is known as Phase 1. Phase II will then change the 12.5Khz and cut it in half to 6.26Khz to increase more frequencies. As of this time the FCC has not set a date for PHASE II.

If you or your agency presently has an FCC license you must modify your license for the 12.5Khz operation and make sure that all of your radios can be programmed to operate in this configuration, most all radios manufactured after 1997 are capable of operating at 25Khz and 12.5Khz. If you have equipment that cannot operate in the new configuration you will need to replace the radio. Next you should set a date and change your operation over to the 12.5Khz mode; in the new mode not only does your channel bandwidth cut in half but the amount of audio that is transmitted will also be cut from 5Khz to 2.5Khz. You may notice a decrease in your radio coverage from what you have today after you "Narrowband"; if there are areas that have been marginal in the past more than likely you will experience a complete loss.

Failure to modify your FCC license and retuning, reprogramming or replacing your equipment will have major enforcement consequences.

Licenses operating in wideband mode 25Khz after January 1, 2013 will be in violation and subject to revocation, and/or monetary forfeitures of up to \$16,000 for each such violation or each day of a continuing violation, and up to \$112,500 for any single act or failure to act. The amount is subject to further adjustment for inflation. The FCC is tracking on a daily basis the licenses that are being modified, your FCC license may contain the emission designators for wideband and narrowband during migration and then remove the wideband by January 1, 2013. There is no frequency coordination required to change the emissions designator for narrowband; however, if you wish to make changes in location, antenna height, effective radiated power, or switching from analog to digital emissions, you must go through frequency coordination.

In Phase I you may continue to operate in the Analog mode as you do today, you are not required to go to a digital format. In Phase II at 6.25 KHz radios will be required to operate in a digital format. You may voluntarily convert to the 6.25 KHz at this time if you want.

For further information visit the FCC website, <http://www.fcc.gov/pshs/public-safety-spectrum/narrowbanding>, or your equipment vendor.

**ESF 02: Communications**  
**Don Bigbie, Owner, Savannah Communications**

# Beam Me Up Scotty: Chatham is Going Mobile

## MOBILE SATELLITE TRAILER

A Mobile Satellite Trailer will operate in an environment with little to no basic services, including no electrical service, no phone lines, and no cell towers.

In 2011, CEMA applied for a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Grant to purchase a FEMA Type III, Mobile Satellite Trailer. Our agency was awarded the grant which means the equipment is 100 percent DHS funded and no local money is needed to purchase and outfit the trailer. With that said, the time has come for CEMA to purchase and start building the capabilities outlined by FEMA to qualify as a Type III Mobile Communications Center. That will take place this fall and once completed, the trailer will be used to support a variety of incidents in and around Chatham County.

**Capabilities:** Once on-scene, with one push of a button, the trailer will provide voice and internet services to the first responders. For events such as a "Missing Person" that require maps to be printed for first responders and the CEMA Search Team, the trailer will come with two high speed printers and will also carry a plotter capable of printing 24" maps. If the Chatham County Mosquito Control Helicopter is in the air helping provide aerial surveillance, the trailer will also be outfitted with an antenna receiver to view "live" video fed from the helicopter on two high definition televisions.

This unique feature will be beneficial when it comes to supporting cleanup efforts after spills in our waterways. The helicopter can conduct aerial surveys of the water and beam the video back to the Unified Command to help make decisions on protection and cleanup. This same system that is used to send video from the Mosquito Control helicopter to the trailer is also the same system that agencies such as the Georgia State Patrol use assisting with surveillance during events like Savannah's St. Patrick's festivities.

**Communications:** Among other items needed to be considered a FEMA Type III Mobile Communications Center, a Motorola APX series radio will be installed in the trailer to allow staff to communicate with local, State and Federal partners as well as the United States Coast Guard. The trailer will be self-sufficient when it comes to power; it comes with an onboard generator and has an additional shore line power plug to pull power from another AC source if the generator fails. There will be two uninterruptible power supplies (UPS) for the electronics to help protect them from power fluctuations or power loss.

The Mobile Satellite Trailer and the Mobile Command Center will allow the emergency response community to have real time data and voice access in the field during emergency situations. - Dennis Jones, Deputy Director, CEMA

## MOBILE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

A Mobile Emergency Operations Center will operate as a forward Emergency Operations Center and can sustain long term deployment as well as short-term responses.

A Mobile Emergency Operations Center (MEOC), Mobile Communications Vehicle (MCV) or Mobile Command Center (MCC) is a self-sufficient command vehicle capable of bringing technology that is found in fixed facilities such as a 911 Dispatching Center or the local Emergency Management's EOC to the field to support the Incident Commander. The vehicle may carry equipment to communicate on local radio frequencies such as 800Mhz, VHF and UHF.

Later this year, Chatham County will purchase a MEOC and over the next few years, expand on its capabilities. In early 2012, CEMA was awarded a Department of Homeland Security Grant that will pay a portion of the cost of the MEOC. The grant awarded to the county will allow CEMA to purchase a 46' MEOC with three slide out side walls to expand the inside of the vehicle. Inside the vehicle, the infrastructure will be installed to support a minimum of 12 workstations.

A large print 24" HP Plotter and high speed LaserJet printer will be installed in a printer nook so when the MCC is deployed and items such as maps or documents need to be printed for first responders, they can be printed in a timely fashion. Initially, the MCC will have a six line, cell based phone system to make and receive phone calls, but in the near future with other grants, a Voice Over IP (VOIP) based system will be installed in the vehicle to expand the phone capabilities. Along with the updated phone system expansion, a satellite system will be installed in the vehicle to bring internet services to the staff. Currently, cell based wireless devices will be used until a satellite system can be purchased.

Future expansion of the MEOC will also include a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) console that will be tied back into the Savannah Chatham 911 Dispatch Center allowing direct dispatching of emergency units on scene at an incident, such as the Imperial Sugar Refinery disaster. Expansion of the communications inside the MEOC will include 800Mhz, VHF and UHF radios and equipment similar to Raytheon ACU series interoperability gateway or Motorola Motobridge IP interoperable system. This radio expansion will be coordinated with the South East Georgia Regional Radio Network (SEGARRN) that oversees communications in Southeast Georgia and covers a large portion of the 12 Area 5 counties.

Until CEMA can fully complete the MEOC to meet FEMA's Type I rating of a Mobile Command Center, the Mobile Satellite Trailer (MST) that is referenced in this article will augment some of the items needed when the MEOC is deployed. The MST will be brought on scene and tethered to the MEOC. The trailer will have FOUR VOIP phones and satellite internet. The trailer also has additional printers if needed as well as the Chatham County Mosquito Control Helicopter downlink system to allow a live video feed to be streamed from the helicopter to the Incident Commander or Unified Command.

Minimum Capabilities	TYPE 1 - Mobile Emergency Operations Center	TYPE 3 - Mobile Satellite Trailer
Chassis	48'-53' custom trailer, bus chassis, conventional cab/van chassis, or diesel motorhome chassis with or without slide-out room	25-35' Gas or diesel motorhome chassis, or custom trailer (trailer does require additional tow vehicle)
Interior	6-10 workstations, with private meeting area for Command Personnel	2-4 workstations
Radio Frequency Transceivers	RF Communications with adjoining agencies, state agencies through mutual aid transceiver and any other frequencies	RF Communications with adjoining agencies, state agencies through mutual aid transceiver
Internet Access Video Teleconferencing High Speed Fax	High Bandwidth capabilities via satellite such as INMARSAT or V-Sat Cellular system; Faxing through cell or satellite system (4800 bps)	
Voice Communications through Landlines, Cell Lines and Satellite	PBX office-style telephone system & Cellular PBX System (ML500 or similar)	PBX office-style telephone system
On-Scene Video Monitoring	Through camera/video system	
Computer Assisted Dispatch	Yes	Yes
Computer/Server Capabilities	Hardwired and wireless LAN. Workstations should have Ethernet connection and 120 VAC protected receptacle. All computer based software packages pre-installed	Hardwired and wireless LAN. Workstations should have Ethernet connection and 120 VAC protected receptacle. All computer based software packages pre-installed
Personnel	IT Support, Driver/Operator with CDL certification and Communications Support	Driver/Operator

with CEMA's partners that also have MEOCs and will allow sharing of information from vehicle to vehicle. Some of the agencies that have a MCC that CEMA will coordinate and train with include Savannah Fire, Savannah Chatham Metro Police Department, and Port Wentworth Fire.

An inside look at the Verizon Business Mobile Command Center Emergency Operations Center.

# Coalition to Preserve the Georgia Archives

**Savannah Heritage Emergency Response** group is a constituency of public and private non-profit sites, institutions and collections, first responders and emergency management personnel who *implement and maintain* heritage emergency planning, networking, communication, and disaster response measures.

Savannah Heritage Emergency Response (SHER) formed after an Alliance for Response Forum was funded by Heritage Preservation, a national non-profit organization. The Georgia Archives was instrumental in bringing Heritage Preservation's program to Savannah when another city was unable to follow through due to severe budget cuts. Ironically, now SHER is being asked to lend support and help save the Georgia Archives from further crippling budget cuts. The Georgia Archives has been reduced to being open to the public two days per week and has a staff of 16 in a building designed for 90.

The Georgia Archives has served as the lead agency in disaster planning for cultural institutions in Georgia and provided invaluable training sessions and workshops for Savannah's cultural institutions, which are so vital to our city's economy and unique atmosphere. The Georgia Archives also offers vital services to our government and our citizens, researchers, and visitors. In a democracy, it is unacceptable for public records, which are public property belonging to the citizens, to be inaccessible the majority of the time.

In a democracy, it is unacceptable for public records, which are public property belonging to the citizens, to be inaccessible the majority of the time.

In mid-August, Kaye L. Minchew and Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Co-Chairs of the Coalition to Preserve the Georgia Archives, will meet with Governor Nathan Deal and make a personal appeal for the restoration of adequate funding. Kaye and Ken would like to bring at least 100 letters of support from Georgia's cultural heritage organizations' leaders. SHER and others are asking the Georgia Archives be adequately funded and open to the public a normal five business days per week. In consultation with the Office of the Secretary of State, the Coalition to Preserve the Georgia Archives has determined that the amount of funding restoration currently needed is \$225,000.

SHER's next meeting will be on Thursday, September 6 at 3 p.m. at Mickve Israel. Kate Busbee from CEMA will explain the importance of continuity of operations plans (COOPs) and how-to create one. We are strongly encouraging our members' financial staff, IT staff, and leadership to attend.

**ESF 11c: Natural, Cultural, Historic**  
**Laura Seifert, Chairperson, SHER**



NATIONAL ARCHIVES SOUTHEAST REGION

THE GEORGIA ARCHIVES

# Is That Reimbursable?

Trying to understand the Public Assistance (PA) Program with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) can sometimes be overwhelming, especially if an individual is new to the field. There are rules and regulations found in the Stafford Act and the Code of Federal Regulations that support FEMA's PA Program. There are four components that can be deemed eligible for assistance. **They are Cost, Work, Facility and Applicant.**

Eligible Costs are pretty straightforward and fairly easy to understand. In most cases, costs that can be directly tied to the work required after a disaster are deemed as eligible costs. The costs must be reasonable and necessary to accomplish the work, compliant with Federal, State and local requirements for procurement, and lastly reduced by all applicable credits, such as insurance proceeds and salvage values.

**Eligible Work** is where a lot of the confusion comes in. Eligible work is work that is required as a result of a major disaster event, must be located within a designated disaster area, and be the legal responsibility of the eligible applicant. There are two categories of work: Emergency Work and Permanent Work. Emergency work is short term work that has to happen immediately following a disaster, and is broken into two categories:

- Category A: Debris Removal
- Category B: Emergency Protective Measures.

**Permanent Work** is the long term work that will require more time and resources to complete. Permanent work is broken into five categories:

- Category C: Roads and Bridges
- Category D: Water Control Facilities
- Category E: Buildings and Equipment
- Category F: Utilities
- Category G: Parks, Recreations Facilities, and Other Facilities

An eligible facility is any building, works, system, or equipment

that is built or manufactured, or any improved and maintained natural feature that is owned by an eligible public or private nonprofit applicant with certain exceptions. The facility must be the responsibility of an eligible applicant, be located in a designated disaster area, not be under the authority of another Federal Agency, and it must be in active use at the time of the disaster.

There are four types of eligible applicants. If an entity meets the requirements of one of the types, the applicant may be eligible to receive Federal disaster assistance. Those four types of eligible applicants are:

- State Government Agencies
- Local Governments and Special Districts
- Private Non-Profit Organizations
- Federally recognized Native American Indian Tribes, Alaskan Native Tribal Governments, Alaskan Native Village Organization or authorized tribal organization and Alaskan Native Village Organization.

For more information regarding eligible costs you can visit <http://www.fema.gov/public-assistance-eligibility>.

## Disaster Finance

Kate Busbee, EM Specialist, CEMA

# Ensuring You're Insured

A tornado hits your community, what next? It seems as though more and more communities are being affected by tornados and other disasters resulting from severe weather. Some people wake up one day thankful that they had homeowner's insurance and others wake up regretting not having it. The good news about having homeowner's insurance is that your company should guide you in the proper direction after the disaster to help get you and your family back to normal as quick as possible. One thing to keep in mind is that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will play a big role in your community if the disaster is a Presidentially declared event. You will need clearance from FEMA before you can start rebuilding your home.

If you find yourself in the category of not having homeowner's

insurance you can get in contact with disaster assistance agencies that may be set up in a Disaster Recovery Center either in or near your community. Within that Disaster Recovery Center you will find representatives from American Red Cross, FEMA, your State Emergency Management Agency, Salvation Army, Department of Family and Children Services, and even the Small Business Administration (SBA). SBA is an agency that provides low interest rate loans (the maximum interest rate is four percent) to individuals affected by the disaster. It is important to remember that you must first register with FEMA immediately after the disaster in order to apply for a loan. Often times people will learn that they are underinsured, in which case they may find themselves also applying for a loan through SBA.

What can you do before a disaster? Everyone should contact an insurance company to determine eligibility for homeowner's insurance, and then obtain a policy. If you cannot afford insurance, the SBA will be there for you when a disaster strikes.

# Coordination & Preparation Guidelines: Nursing Homes, Assisted Living, Inpatient Care

CEMA places tremendous importance on coordinating with nursing homes, assisted living and citizens requiring inpatient care (Hospice); providing guidance in the development and preparation of evacuation plans and procedures that will aid in the safety of these facilities and residents.

CEMA provides instructions and procedures that will guide each facility in emergency preparation should they need assistance in evacuation in times of natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods. CEMA provides nursing homes, assisted living facilities and inpatient care (Hospice), an evacuation plan format which serves as a guideline to assist them in emergency preparation and planning. CEMA also makes available a transportation guideline to serve as a resource to aid these facilities during an evacuation or an event that would require residents and staff to shelter in place.

CEMA provides emergency support to any facility's administrator in establishing their emergency plan. CEMA also provides an in-house manual titled Nursing Home & Assisted Care Facility Evacuation Planning Guide. The use of this guide is available to all nursing homes and assisted living facilities in Chatham County. This planning guide is encouraged because the invaluable information can be used to aid in emergency preparation that may threaten our area. This manual can be downloaded from CEMA's website at [www.ChathamEmergency.org](http://www.ChathamEmergency.org) or can be obtained from the office, 124 Bull Street, Suite 140.

Nursing homes, assisted living and inpatient care facilities are also required to complete an annual survey providing an update on their facility; primary and alternate points of contact are also required and assured transportation resources meet the residents' needs. These resources include wheelchairs, canes, walkers, those on life support and other requirements. The annual survey includes a detailed facility summary, a residents summary and also an emergency evacuation summary. Each summary entails specific information regarding the facility to include private information that is kept confidential with CEMA. The resident's summary entails the capacity of the facility and information regarding the residents. The survey covers the Emergency Operations Plan, an evacuation transportation contractor,

transportation resource requirements, preparation time, specialty equipment and the facility evacuation shelter destinations.

CEMA also provides transportation guidelines to include requirements for staff and residents of the facilities. Transportation guidelines include:

- General information regarding disaster readiness and transportation plans.
- Contracts (Transportation available and contracts renewed annually).
- Supplies (Determine if resident's and supply transportation are the same). The method by which the supplies will be taken to host facilities.

The method by which the supplies will be taken to host facilities.

- Residents (Ensuring proper supplies for residents such as food and medications).

- Communication (Include telephone numbers of appropriate authorities, roster of family members and their contact information, alternative numbers and backup communications).

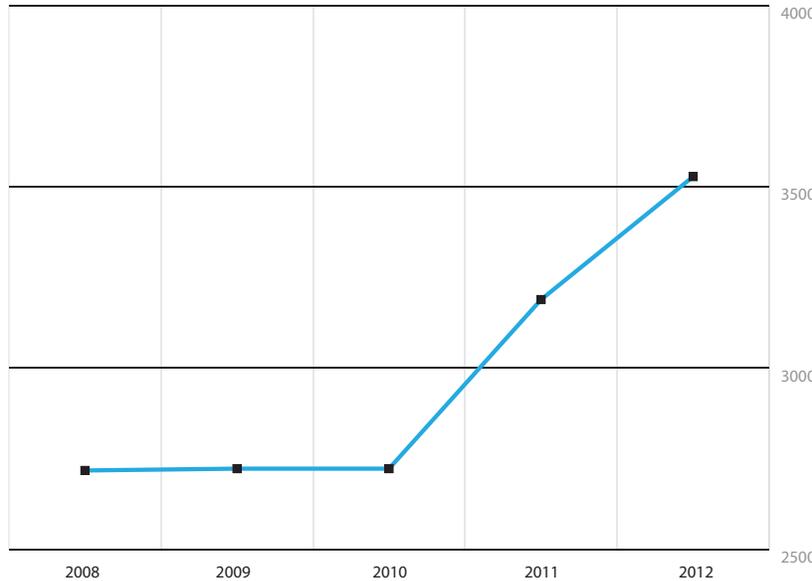
- Re-entry (Confirming regulatory authorities have approval to return to their facility and ensuring adequate staff replacements for all departments).

In addition to community coordination with nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and Hospice, CEMA promotes the use of detailed check lists for facilities throughout Chatham County.

This guidance supplements, but does not supersede or replace, State or Federal requirements

in the development of an evacuation plan. It contains detailed information, instructions and procedures that can be engaged in any emergency situation threatening or occurring at a Nursing Home, Assisted Living Facility or Hospice.

CEMA makes a special effort to provide support to serve senior citizens and the disabled of Chatham County who cannot help themselves. CEMA's primary purpose is to provide for the safety and welfare of its citizens especially residents of our community residing in nursing homes, assisted living and Hospice.



The graph shows the growth in the number of residents in Chatham County nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and Hospice facilities.

# Contingency Planning: Functional & Medical Needs Registry

The importance of contingency planning for the members of our community with **unique needs that must be addressed during emergencies** cannot be overemphasized. Those with disabilities often require transportation and medical assistance because they have no family or friends to help them if they must evacuate because of adverse conditions threatening our area.

In keeping with new **State and Federal guidelines**, Chatham County has recently revised its “Special Needs” hurricane evacuation program which was formerly exclusive to medical issues, to a more inclusive “Functional and Medical Needs”. Functional Needs Support Services are defined as services that enable individuals to maintain their independence in a general population shelter. This includes a reasonable modification to policies, practices, and procedures; durable medical equipment; consumable medical supplies; personal assistance services and other goods and services as needed. It is important to note that residents of nursing homes, assisted living facilities, hospitals, and personal care homes are not eligible for this service and must follow their facility’s emergency plan.

**Residents of nursing homes, assisted living facilities, hospitals, and personal care homes are not eligible for this service and must follow their facility’s emergency plan.**

This new Public Health Department administered program is designed to accommodate individuals who may need services to maintain their independence during transport and in a shelter. The Functional Needs program now includes both children and adults that have physical, sensory, mental health, and cognitive and/or intellectual disabilities affecting their ability to function independently without assistance. Others that may benefit include women in late stages of pregnancy, elders, and people needing bariatric equipment. The Medical Needs portion of the program anticipates clients that may require the support of trained medical professionals to include managing intravenous therapy, tube feeding, receiving dialysis and oxygen, and operating power dependent equipment to sustain life.

In accordance with Federal guidelines, the general assumption is that with proper support the majority of persons with functional needs can manage perfectly well in a general population shelter. An additional assumption is that the person with the access or functional need has the right to self-determination to assess their own needs, receive education about their options and be involved in the decision making process. With the proper support, individuals with access and functional needs benefit equally from the services provided in general population shelters and should almost always be housed in those shelters.

Previously, the Special Needs program was focused on medical

requirements which categorized clients into one of five levels of need: Level 1 and 2 clients, or those with non-disabling constraints who did not have personal transportation were directed to the Civic Center by Chatham Area Transit for subsequent general-public evacuation. Level 3 and 4 clients included those who required special medical transport such as Teleride or ambulance; they were to be taken to an inland Special Needs shelter. Dependent upon their level of mobility, Level 5 clients were to be taken to either a local hospital or an inland shelter.

Now, clients are simply categorized into those that require trained professionals to provide functional and medical needs assistance and those that don’t. If they do not require special assistance, they are included in the county’s general evacuation program which will be taken by bus from the Civic Center to inland shelters.

It is extremely important that clients with special needs recognize that in the event of an evacuation, local hospitals will not accept emergent clients with Functional and Medical Needs. Therefore, one of the most important aspects of this program is advance registration prior to an evacuation. Clients may register by simply calling the Department of Public Health at (912) 353-3255 or by downloading an application at the Coastal Health District website at: [www.gachd.org/emergency-preparedness](http://www.gachd.org/emergency-preparedness) and following the instructions. Those residents that require unique levels of assistance but do not register, will need to make their own evacuation plans.

**In the event of an evacuation, local hospitals will not accept Functional and Medical Needs clients. If residents do not register they will need to make their own evacuation plans.**

**The Registry is a last resort** for individuals who have exhausted all other resources and require assistance for evacuation and shelter. Once clients are registered, in the event an evacuation is ordered, they will be picked up by Teleride or ambulance and taken to an inland Red Cross shelter which is expected to be quite austere; accommodation may likely be in a gymnasium.

When danger is past and re-entry is approved, the evacuation process will be reversed and clients will be returned to their homes.

# Active “Shooter” on HAAF: Installation Exercises EOC Operations

## HUNTER ARMY AIRFIELD BRINGS REALISM TO THE EXERCISE

On August 2, 2012 CEMA was invited to evaluate the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) operations at Hunter Army Airfield’s (HAAF) Active Shooter Full Scale Exercise. The EOC is located in a newly renovated room that supports a video teleconferencing system that ties Hunter’s EOC back to Ft. Stewart’s Incident Operations Center (IOC) in Liberty County as well as displays the security cameras on the base. The exercise began shortly after 9 a.m. when a disgruntled employee started shooting fellow co-workers in a building on the back side of HAAF. The “shooter” in the exercise and other Military Police participants involved in the scene were given protective equipment and paintball guns to add to the realism of the scenario. Once the facility initiated a lock down, Hunter Staff began rapidly arriving in the EOC to coordinate base operations. These staff included the Fire Department, Police Department, Public Works, Communications and Family Services. EOC staff utilized WebEOC software to log information coming into the EOC. This is the same program that both CEMA and the State use in their EOCs.

The Garrison Commander and Deputy Commander coordinated base activities from the EOC to secure and protect the families and staff on the installation. Once families and staff were accounted for,

the Garrison Commander focused the IOC towards the incident at hand which was the active shooter and the media inquiries about the “shooting”. The HAAF Police set up a Command Post a short distance from the structure the “shooter” was reported in. Once military police gained control of the scene, the EOC started working with their Public Affairs Officers to keep the media informed of the situation and to provide as many details as deemed necessary.

When the exercise was over, an exercise hot-wash was conducted to identify what went right and what could be improved. The EOC Staff commented that the newly renovated EOC was much bigger and better laid out than the old EOC. The one thing that the staff identified as needing improvement was communications. Like most exercises and real world events, communications is always something that can be improved upon.

**Training and Exercise**  
**Dustin Hetzel, EM Specialist, CEMA**

## Hurricane App: Coming to a City Near You

A new American Red Cross Hurricane App puts help in the hands of people who live in or visit hurricane prone areas. Best of all, it’s free and available for both iPhones and Android phones.

The app has a number of features that let people share vital information with their Facebook friends and Twitter followers. People who need to get out of harm’s way quickly can tap the “I’m Safe” button to post a message to their social accounts, letting friends and loved ones know they are okay. These features will help friends and families stay in touch during hurricanes, reducing much of the fear and uncertainty for loved ones and property owners far away.

The Red Cross app also gives people the ability to receive location-based NOAA weather alerts for the United States and its territories and share those on their social networks too. Even if someone doesn’t live full-time in a coastal area, users can receive alerts for vacation spots, or where loved ones live. It’s a feature that can give peace of mind to frequent travelers and those with elderly relatives or college students in coastal areas.



# Keeping Track of Critical Facilities: 2012 Updates Now Complete

As part of the Chatham County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Planning effort, a comprehensive list of critical facilities has been collected from both government and private non-profit entities. "Critical facilities" are defined as those structures from which essential services and functions for victim survival, continuation of public safety actions, and disaster recovery are performed or provided. Shelters, emergency operation centers, public health, public drinking water, sewer and wastewater facilities are examples of critical facilities. Though not explicitly included in the definition, supporting life-line infrastructure essential to the mission of critical facilities must also be included in the inventory when appropriate.

Of all the critical facilities identified, several have been selected for Priority Restoration post disaster. These priority critical facilities are considered the most valued. These structures and infrastructure locations are necessary in supporting critical workforce personnel and

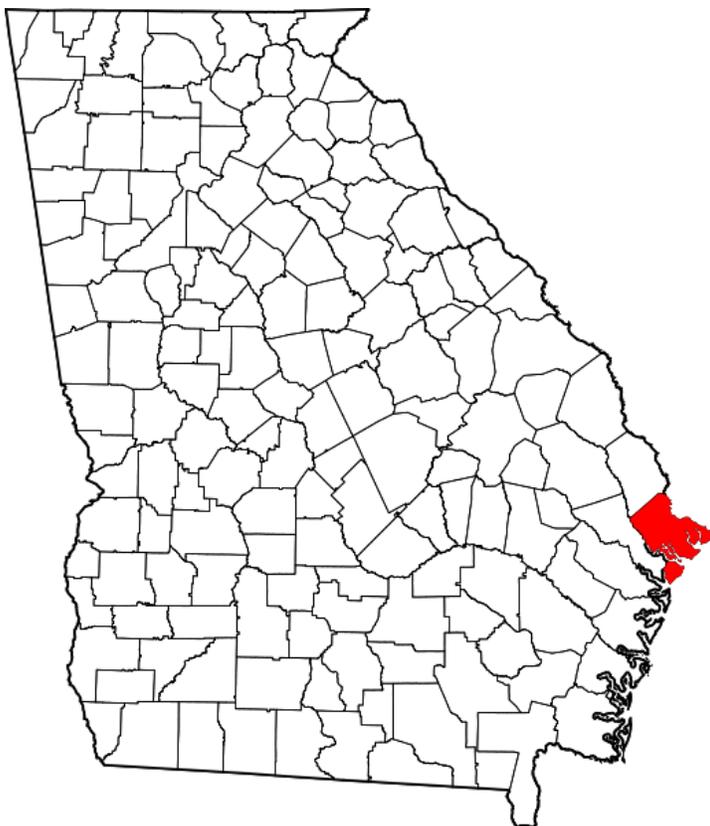
are key to the protection of life and property. It is the responsibility of each Chatham County municipality to annually review and update their Priority Critical Facilities list. In addition, they need to ensure they will be inspected and services restored as soon as possible following a disaster.

The 2012 updates have been completed and are available in the Disaster Recovery Plan, Annex A, Critical Facility Restoration Priority.

**ESF 14a: Hazard Mitigation**  
**Dave Grotyohann, EM Specialist, CEMA**

## CRITICAL FACILITIES, RESTORATION PRIORITIES

The chart below is an example of how CEMA identifies critical facilities. There are certain factors taken into consideration when identifying the facilities; to include: does the agency support continuity of government, are they crucial to life safety, what type of generators do the facilities have and how many. Below is a list of some of Chatham County's Critical Facilities.



Reason					Generator Spec				
COG	Life Safety	Debris	Support	Other	On Site	Phase	KW	Amp	Fuel
X					Y	3	175	486	Diesel
X	X		X		Y	3	240	830	Diesel
		X	X		Y	3	60	200	Diesel
X				X	Y	3	350	850	Diesel
X			X		Y	3	300	1000	Diesel
X			X		Y	3	300	1000	Diesel
	X		X		N	3	350	850	Diesel

# Who is Watching the “hen house”?

It has been said that the largest most expensive cost from a disaster is the pick up and disposal of debris. Debris cost for Hurricane Ike in Harris County, Texas exceeded \$19.8 million. Not only could a community be devastated if not prepared but the lack of oversight of the management of the debris could open the door for fraud and theft at the government’s expense.

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act authorizes the FEMA Public Assistance Program to award Federal funding to state and local governments. Guidance for managing debris is given by FEMA through publication 325, Public Assistance Debris Management Guide. Over the years dishonest contractors have found methods to cheat the system such as;

- Failing to empty trucks and getting paid twice for the same load of debris
- Charging excessive mileages
- Payment for ineligible debris
- Mixing debris to inflate billings
- Overcharging of partial loads

To guard the “hen house”, FEMA in recent years has closed the door to fraud and theft by allowing third party debris monitors to become eligible for disaster reimbursement funds. Chapter 11 of FEMA 325 provides guidance for the debris removal program. Monitoring debris removal operations achieves two objectives:

1. Verifying that the work completed by the debris removal contractor is within the contract scope of work, and
2. By providing the required documentation for Public Assistance grant reimbursement.

Debris monitoring contractors, through well a written scope of work, can be accountable to measure, certify, control, validate and ensure that debris removal work under the Public Assistance Program is eligible in accordance with public assistance criteria.

**ESF 03a: Debris Management**  
**Robert Drewry, Director, Public Works & Park Services**

# Food Safety During and After a Power Outage

Chatham County is no stranger to power outages. Due to the above ground utilities and thick subtropical tree canopy; seasonal weather (and the occasional squirrel) **causes the lights to go out quite often**. Most of the time these power outages don’t last long, but on rare occasions we are in the dark for an extended period of time. So, how long can food stay in the refrigerator and/or freezer before it goes bad?

## During a Power Outage

- Keep refrigerators and freezers closed to help them stay cold inside. An unopened refrigerator will stay cold for about four hours. An unopened full freezer will hold its temperature for about 48 hours (24 hours, if it’s half full).

- Dry or block ice can help, if you stocked up before the power cut. Figure on 50 pounds of dry ice to keep an 18-cubic foot, fully stocked freezer cold for two days.

- If you plan to eat refrigerated or frozen meat, poultry, fish, or eggs while they’re still at safe temperatures, cook them thoroughly.

- It may be difficult to do, but if in doubt, throw it out!

## After a Power Outage

- Refrigerated foods should be safe as long as the power is out for no more than four hours. Discard any perishable foods (such as meat, poultry, fish, eggs, or leftovers) that have been above 40 degrees Fahrenheit for two hours or more.

- If you kept an appliance thermometer in your freezer, check it. If it’s 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below, the food is safe and may be refrozen. No thermometer in the freezer? Check each package of food. Look for ice crystals - a sign that the food is still safe -- or items that are 40 degrees Fahrenheit or colder. Don’t just go by smell or appearance.

- It may be difficult to do, but if in doubt, throw it out!

# Savannah Spill Response Corporation

There is one local non-profit cooperative that is seldom in the news or discussed except along the Savannah River. The existence of this group is **extremely important to the economy of Chatham County.**

The Savannah Spill Response Co-op (SSRC) was formed in the 1990's to provide coordinated and efficient response for all participating companies in the Savannah River basin under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90). SSRC provides their members with the training and resources to work together to protect our environment and meet regulatory requirements on or near the Savannah River.

Members include Arizona Chemical, Hawthorne Services, Colonial Terminal, Imperial Sugar, Phillips 66, NuStar Asphalt, EPIC Midstream LLC, Petroliance, Fuji Vegetable Oil, Strickland Oil Co., GAF Materials Corp., Vopak Terminal, Georgia Power and Weyerhaeuser. The response partners are Moran Environmental Response, O'Brien's Response Management, and TriState Bird Rescue and Research.

Governmental and regulatory partners include the United States Coast Guard, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, CEMA, Savannah Fire

Department and Garden City Fire Department.

SSRC has eight response trailers and five boom reels dispersed at various locations on the Savannah River. There are 28,500 feet of boom currently available which is maintained by Moran Environmental Recovery and available for all emergency response.

Earlier this year Moran responded to a fuel oil spill on the Savannah River. A local terminal alerted the Coast Guard that a container ship was leaking fuel while at its berth at the Garden City terminal. Moran, the contract holder for SSRC, deployed their Moran Emergency Management Team personnel to manage the incident. Within two hours, combinations of SSRC and Moran assets were used to fully contain the spill and begin clean-up operations.

The SSRC is an extremely valuable emergency response asset for Chatham County that we hope will not be used very often, but we know they are always ready to go.

## ESF 10: Hazardous Materials

### OPA 90

**Signed into law** largely due to rising concerns following the Exxon Valdez incident, the act improves nation's ability to prevent and respond to oil spills.

### BOOM REEL

Designed to ease the transporting of large sections of boom, the boom reel provides reliability during cleanup efforts.

### OIL BOOM

Typically orange or yellow in color, booms are **barriers used to contain** oil spills in the ocean and prevent oil from washing onto the shore.

### RESPONSE TRAILERS

Stocked with containment boom with associated line, floats and anchors. Also has absorbent boom, cleaning material, eye wash and first aid kit.



One of SSRC's Response Trailers along the Savannah River.

SPOTLIGHT



**KELLY FOSTER HARLEY**

Kelly Foster-Harley is an Emergency Management Specialist with Chatham Emergency Management Agency. She joined CEMA in August 2010 as the Public Information Officer to oversee media relations. Kelly also serves as the Volunteer Coordinator and handles the Community Emergency Response Team program.

Kelly is no stranger to the media. She was a television reporter and anchor for seven years. Kelly started as a weekend assignment editor at WFTV in Orlando, Florida. After six months, she moved to Rapid City, South Dakota where she spent a year and a half as the crime reporter and weekend anchor. In 2006 she accepted a job at WJCL/FOX 28 in Savannah, Georgia as the government reporter and weekend anchor. She ended her time there as the main anchor for FOX 28 and liaison for the Alzheimer's Association.

During her time in the news media, Kelly covered a variety of stories, including blizzards, fires, hurricanes, tornadoes, St. Patrick's Day festivities, two Presidential visits, and the explosion at Imperial Sugar Refinery. She even climbed to the top of Mount Rushmore to cover the first ever cleaning of the historical monument.

Her excitement for the unexpected led her to CEMA. Kelly understands the importance of getting the facts out in order to keep a more informed and safer public. Kelly enjoys playing an active role in her community and working to better the lives of those who live in Coastal Georgia. Since joining CEMA she has worked in a Joint Information Center during the Okefenokee Swamp wildfire, spoke on social media at the National Hurricane Conference in Atlanta and served as the PIO for numerous Emergency Operations Center activations in Chatham County.

Kelly graduated summa cum laude from the University of Central Florida with degrees in both Broadcast Journalism and Political Science. She will complete her certified Georgia Emergency Manager program in September.

# Response and Recovery: Hand in Hand

In the event of a large scale disaster in Chatham County, such as a hurricane, numerous plans are in place, people and equipment are prepositioned, and priorities are set. While response is the initial focus, the recovery period begins almost as soon as the response period and it may be behind the scenes such as establishing a perimeter, clearing roads, and conducting search and rescue missions.

The diagram below gives a better visual of how disaster recovery interacts with emergency response and the emergency operations plan.

As you can see, when response is at its highest, there is little to no recovery activity, but as the response continues, even when at a high peak, the recovery portion begins to ramp up and becomes more active. There are many things that must be considered before citizens are allowed to re-enter. For example, where are they going to live if their homes are destroyed or uninhabitable? What are we going to do to help people get back to earning an income? How are we going to get schools back open? This can't be a last minute decision, it takes time to collaborate and develop an effective operational plan. It is a

gradual process to transition from response to recovery and it is typically dictated by the complexity of the disaster itself; however, despite that complexity we cannot wait until the response is over to begin the recovery planning.

Chatham County uses various plans and programs to guide the activities of county functions, agencies, departments, and resources in response to the requirements necessitated by the particular situation. The plans will be implemented in concert with the recovery plan and day to day agency functioning will also continue during disaster recovery.

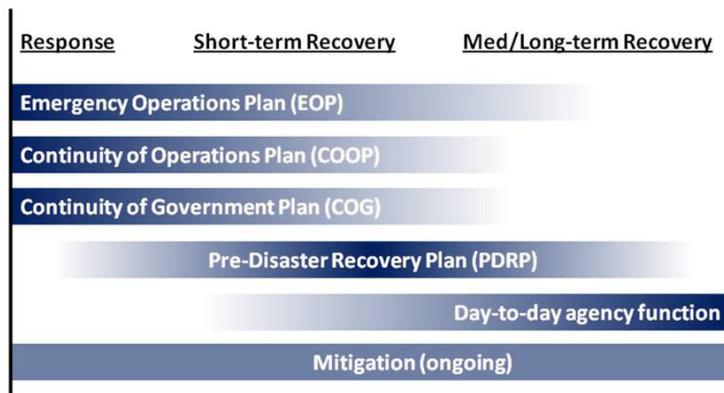
The overall goal of disaster recovery planning is to rebuild our community and create our new normal. We must

do this in concert with all of our other plans. As planners, we simply cannot wait until the disaster is over to start thinking about how we need to recover. It may seem backwards to begin recovery planning while we are putting out fires and clearing roads for transport, but we think forward as to where we want to go as a community, so that we know how to get to there, when the time comes.

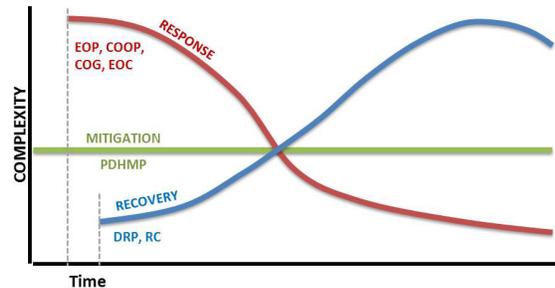
**ESF 14b: Recovery**

**Jennifer Rodriguez, EM Coordinator, CEMA**

**Plan Synchronization**



Time



# Calendar

## MEETINGS

**Sept 18, 10AM**  
**ESF 01 Quarterly Meeting**  
 EOC Annex  
 Dave Grotyohann  
 (912) 201-4500  
 dsgrotyohann@chathamcounty.org

**Sept 18, 1PM**  
**ESF 07 Quarterly Meeting**  
 EOC Annex  
 Don Sullens  
 (912) 201-4500  
 dwsullens@chathamcounty.org

**Sept 19, 10AM**  
**LEPC Meeting**  
 Sav Civic Center, Bryan Room  
 Noel Perkins  
 perkinsn@thempc.org

**Sept 25, 1PM**  
**ESF 11a Quarterly Meeting**  
 Chatham Animal Control  
 Don Sullens  
 (912) 201-4500  
 dwsullens@chathamcounty.org

**Sept 27, 10AM**  
**ESF 03/12 Quarterly Meeting**  
 EOC Annex  
 Dave Grotyohann  
 (912) 201-4500  
 dsgrotyohann@chathamcounty.org

**October 10, 7:30AM**  
**EMS Advisory Council Meeting**  
 Candler Hospital  
 Jennifer Rodriguez  
 (912) 201-4500  
 jlrodriguez@chathamcounty.org

**October 18, 8AM**  
**ESF 15 Quarterly Meeting**  
 Hunter Army Airfield  
 Kelly Harley  
 (912) 201-4500  
 kharley@chathamcounty.org

## MEETINGS

**October 23, 10AM**  
**MACS Meeting**  
 Coastal Georgia Center  
 Dennis Jones  
 (912) 201-4500  
 dtjones@chathamcounty.org

**October 25, 8:30AM**  
**CLEO**  
 SCAD, Westin House  
 Wynn Sullivan  
 wynn.sullivan@armstrong.edu

**November 2, 10AM**  
**ESF 13 Quarterly Meeting**  
 Thunderbolt Police Dept.  
 Don Sullens  
 (912) 201-4500  
 dwsullens@chathamcounty.org

**November 12, 7PM**  
**Fire Chiefs' Association Meeting**  
 TBD  
 Dustin Hetzel  
 (912) 201-4500  
 djhetzel@chathamcounty.org

**November 15, 6PM**  
**CERT Quarterly Meeting/  
 Communicating with Those  
 Who Are Impaired**  
 Sycamore Church/Savannah  
 Kelly Harley  
 (912) 201-4500  
 kharley@chathamcounty.org

**December 20, 8AM**  
**ESF 15 Quarterly Meeting**  
 TBD  
 Kelly Harley  
 (912) 201-4500  
 kharley@chathamcounty.org

## TRAININGS

**September, TBD**  
**CEMA SAR Training**  
 TBD  
 Don Sullens  
 (912) 201-4500  
 dwsullens@chathamcounty.org

**September 20, 10AM**  
**DA Team Training**  
 EOC Annex  
 Dave Grotyohann  
 (912) 201-4500  
 dsgrotyohann@chathamcounty.org

**October, TBD**  
**CEMA SAR Training**  
 TBD  
 Don Sullens  
 (912) 201-4500  
 dwsullens@chathamcounty.org

**October 10, 8am to 5pm**  
**EOC Staff Training**  
 EOC Annex  
 Jennifer Rodriguez  
 (912) 201-4500  
 jlrodriguez@chathamcounty.org

**October 20, 21, 27, 28**  
**CERT Training**  
 Southside Fire Station #3  
 Kelly Harley  
 (912) 201-4500  
 kharley@chathamcounty.org

**November, TBD**  
**CEMA SAR Training**  
 TBD  
 Don Sullens  
 (912) 201-4500  
 dwsullens@chathamcounty.org

**November 8-11**  
**NASAR Tech II Certification**  
 North Carolina  
 Don Sullens  
 (912) 201-4500  
 dwsullens@chathamcounty.org

## EXERCISES/SPECIAL

**National Preparedness Month  
 September**  
 Countywide  
 Kelly Harley  
 (912) 201-4500  
 kharley@chathamcounty.org

**Outdoor Siren Test  
 Sept 5, Oct 3, Nov 7, 12PM**  
 Countywide  
 Dustin Hetzel  
 (912) 201-4500  
 djhetzel@chathamcounty.org

**Statewide WebEOC Exercise  
 October 24**  
 Statewide  
 Jennifer Rodriguez  
 (912) 201-4500  
 jlrodriguez@chathamcounty.org

**Recovery Exercise  
 Dec 6, 8:30AM to 11:30AM**  
 Tybee Island  
 Jennifer Rodriguez  
 (912) 201-4500  
 jlrodriguez@chathamcounty.org

# 2012 Home Depot Hurricane Expo

Hot temperatures, no breeze, and little shade didn't keep hundreds of Chatham County residents from attending the 2012 Home Depot Hurricane Expo on July 21. The annual event draws residents to the Home Depot on Abercorn Street where they can talk to numerous agencies and businesses about hurricane preparedness. This year CEMA and volunteers from the Community Emergency Response Team shared preparedness tips with residents. Volunteers Colin Elgood and Greg Tsiopanos enjoyed sharing how they stayed prepared.



## 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:

CLAYTON S. SCOTT  
DIRECTOR

DENNIS JONES  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

- **Submissions emailed to:** Kelly Harley, Public Information Officer (kharley@chathamcounty.org)
- **Deadline:** November 9, 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 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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