

CEMA Signal



Emergency Management Where Do You Fit?

Disaster *Readiness* In 2013

In 2012, much of the United States was affected by natural disasters. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, there were 47 Major Disaster Declarations, 16 Emergency Declarations, and 49 Fire Management Assistance Declarations. Hurricane Sandy struck many states in late October including Massachusetts, Washington DC, Virginia, New York and New Jersey. More than eight million people lost power during the storm. Rewind to August when Hurricane Isaac hit several states; Florida and the Gulf Coast states of Louisiana and Mississippi were faced with major devastation. Flooding was a major cause of damage, and served as a reminder that flooding is the country's number one natural hazard.

Hurricanes weren't the only natural disaster in 2012. Wildfires raged in the Western and Midwestern states. Residents of Oklahoma, Montana, South Dakota, Wyoming and Texas were putting out flames that claimed not only homes, but lives as well. Alaska

was faced with severe storms and flooding and even those off the mainland in Hawaii had to deal with flooding and landslides.

2012 shows us that disasters cross state lines, socio-economic groups, and time zones. None of us are immune to Mother Nature nor can we prevent natural disasters. What we can do though is work together to mitigate the devastation that disaster brings. Whether it's coming together to develop a continuity of operations plan or securing training that will allow volunteers to manage other volunteers, we must realize that we are part of a much bigger plan. It's not just police, fire, emergency management or government leaders who will save the day when emergencies happen; it's everyone working together as a team. In 2013, the goal is to continue those partnerships we have established in Chatham County and find ways to improve our operations for preparedness, response and recovery. So how do you fit in?

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

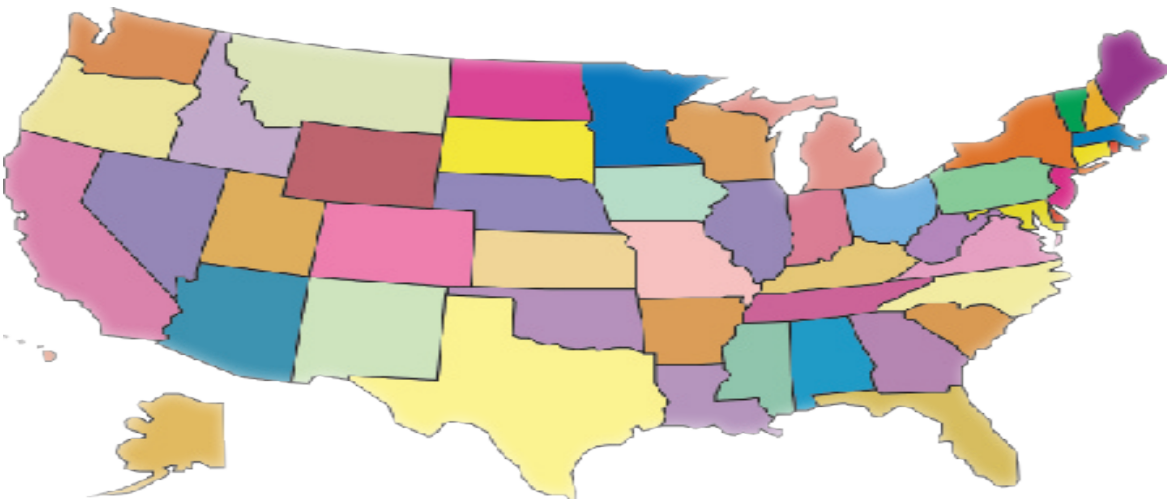
Local volunteers remain in New England helping people recover following Superstorm Sandy. We bring you some of their stories and show you how the American Red Cross helped by providing vehicles, resources, and people.

CONFERENCE 2013

This year the 13th Annual Chatham County Hurricane Conference is expected to be bigger than ever before. Speakers travel from New York, New Jersey and Texas to bring you lessons learned from Superstorm Sandy as well as numerous other topics focused on disaster preparedness.

MACS IN CHATHAM

A detailed look at how you fit into the Multi-Agency Coordination System. CEMA and its partners break down the 2013 objectives for each Emergency Support Function. Read more on what you can expect.



A Message from the Director



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2013; time sure does fly when you're having fun, or in our case, staying busy. CEMA is looking forward to the upcoming year and one of our top priorities is to expand our emergency management partnerships to include more business and industry. We have set clear objectives for each Emergency Support Function and have identified ways to enhance existing plans and policies; we will also focus on new ideas and strategies to prepare, respond and recover from a variety of disasters.

In late December, CEMA had the opportunity to brief the new Chatham County Commissioners on our activities and what they can expect from us this year. It was nice to sit down with the new members and it was evident we have their support as we move forward.

As many of you know we are planning to build a new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in an area that will not flood due to rising storm surge. We are working with Architects Design Group based in Winter Park, Florida, to design the new state-of-the-art facility. It will have adequate space to coordinate response and recovery operations

following a disaster, meeting and training facilities, a Joint Information Center, a media staging area, as well as space for eating and sleeping. The site we are negotiating for is on Hunter Army Airfield immediately on the right after passing the Montgomery Street security checkpoint.

We continue to build out our mobile satellite trailer. The trailer will feature a direct link to Mosquito Control helicopters, a high-speed printer that can handle printing our extensive area map coverage (this will be particularly useful when we need maps for Search and Rescue missions), and satellite phone capabilities. We are also excited to announce preliminary inspections of our emergency operations center have been completed. Funding for both of these have been provided exclusively by Department of Homeland Security grants.

This year CEMA will work closely with our Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD). The purpose of our COAD is to bring volunteer organizations, public and private businesses, and government agencies together to plan how to manage the massive amount of donated goods and resources anticipated following a disaster. One of the workshops at this year's Chatham County Hurricane Conference will be Managing Volunteer

Resources (Volunteer Reception Center Plan).

Speaking of the conference, the date has been set for the 13th annual Hurricane Conference. It will be held April 23rd from 8 am to 4:30 pm at the International Trade and Convention Center on Hutchinson Island. The registration fee is \$50 and that includes lunch. You will not want to miss this year's full day event as we are planning more than two dozen workshops that focus on a variety of topics to include the application of lessons learned from Hurricane Sandy, animal response and recovery, and the Georgia Hurricane Evacuation Study. You can register and pay online at www.ChathamEmergency.org.

We hope that whatever role you play in keeping our community safe, you continue to stay active this year. We at CEMA are welcome to new ideas and opportunities to grow our emergency management program and we appreciate feedback from any of our partners, so please reach out to us if we can be of assistance. We look forward to seeing you at the Hurricane Conference in April!

Clayton Scott
Director

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American Red Cross: Local Chapter Volunteers Support Sandy

At the beginning of February, a handful of local American Red Cross (ARC) volunteers remained in New England helping those affected by Hurricane Sandy. Sandy devastated portions of the Caribbean, Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern United States in late October 2012. At the height of the storm, eight million people were without power.

Even before the storm came ashore, Red Cross volunteers along the East Coast were strategizing the most effective ways to respond; little did they know just how severe the storm would be. Not only were people left without power, after Sandy passed, places like West Virginia were hit with 33 inches of snow; imagine spending eight days without heat. Local ARC volunteer, Harry Walker, spent time in West Virginia and says they had to rely on the National Guard to clear the roads so volunteers could get into town to deliver food. "Where we couldn't get in by road, the National Guard flew in and landed by helicopter and dropped off food to critical distribution points," added Walker. Walker says people were taken to shelters to get warm and eat a hot meal. He says many were elderly and couldn't look after themselves. He remembers one incident where a helicopter pilot noticed a house where there were no footprints in the snow near the house. The helicopter crew repelled down a rope while the pilot hovered over the roof and once inside, the guardsmen discovered an elderly couple without heat wrapped in blankets, cuddling in order to stay warm. Volunteers like Walker, assisted in shelters, handed out food and water, and provided support to people who lost everything.

Sharyn Baggett with the Southeast Georgia Chapter says before the storm made landfall two National Emergency Response Vehicles (ERV), which are housed in Chatham County, were called to respond two days prior to landfall. Part of the agreement with the National ARC is that the Southeast Georgia Chapter has teams to man the vehicles at any given time; each team has two people assigned to it. "The purpose of early deployment is to have the ability to respond quickly to the disaster scene. These teams waited out the storm in Virginia and headed out as quickly as they could. They were the first two Red Cross ERVs that made it to Staten Island with much needed supplies," says Baggett.

In all, 34 volunteers deployed to New Jersey and New York to assist with Hurricane Sandy. These volunteers were specially trained in specific activities, such as Mass Care, Sheltering, Feeding and Bulk Distribution, Damage Assessment, Public Affairs and Client Casework. Several of these volunteers deployed two and three times.

Three months after Superstorm Sandy, the American

Red Cross is still providing food, emotional support and long-term assistance. More than 1,000 Red Cross workers are still on the ground and currently four volunteers from the local area remain in New York, with others waiting to deploy. These workers are helping people get assistance with home repairs, rent, utility deposits, and connecting them with social service programs. The Red Cross has been meeting with federal, state and local leaders to coordinate efforts and identify unmet needs. FEMA and other government partners have asked the ARC to focus on an estimated 9,000 families whose homes were destroyed or heavily damaged to assist them in moving into longer-term rental housing or repairing their homes.

For the next several months, a big part of the recovery efforts will be working one-on-one with people who need some extra help, and this work is already underway. Until there is no longer a need for Red Cross assistance, the Southeast Georgia Chapter will continue to recruit and deploy staff and volunteers.

ARC volunteers also responded to the tornadoes that moved across the eastern half of country on January 30, 2013. In Georgia, Red Cross chapters assisted with recovery efforts in the northwest part of the state. The ARC partnered with the Salvation Army to provide meals in the affected communities by opening shelters and providing meals from emergency response vehicles. Damage assessment teams were also put to work and determined areas of need in the state, and ARC volunteers provided lodging, clothing, medications, and home repairs to tornado victims.

ESF 08: Health and Medical

Linda Davis helps unload food from an Emergency Response Vehicle in Staten Island.
Photo courtesy ARC.



PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS: ARE WE READY?

**2013
CHATHAM COUNTY
HURRICANE CONFERENCE
SAVANNAH GEORGIA**

TRADE AND CONVENTION CENTER, HUTCHINSON ISLAND

**SAVE THE DATE:
APRIL 23, 2013
WWW.CHATHAMEMERGENCY.ORG**

DAY AT A GLANCE - CONFERENCE WORKSHOP TOPICS

Rapid Needs Assessment - Getting to Tybee When the Roads are Gone
 Re-Entry/Render Safe Teams - Countywide Coordination of Staging of Government and Contractor Assets
 Debris Management - Lessons Learned and New Applications
 Hurricane Sandy - Why Some Communication Strategies Worked and Others Didn't
 When the Stafford Act Doesn't Apply
 Damage Assessment Documentation - How New Technology Can Benefit You
 Superstorm Sandy - A Case Study and Lessons Learned - Power Utilities
 Keeping the Public Informed During an Escalating Event
 Restoring the Urban Forest After the Storm
 Incident Action Plan Forms
 Hurricane Jargon, Surge and Changes
 But it Can't Happen Here
 Dos and Don'ts of Contracting
 GA Hurricane Evacuation Study
 Point Of Distribution Planning
 Hospital Preparedness, What We Can Learn
 National Disaster Medical System
 Dr. to Dr. Emergency Management
 Post Event Search and Rescue
 Animal Rescue and Recovery Planning
 Hurricane Sandy - How Did the Museums, Theaters and Vital Records Survive
 Post-Event Security Concerns
 The Storm has Passed...Now What
 Recovery Leadership Roles and Responsibilities
 Post Recovery Decision Making A-Z
 USCOE: Local Government Liaison
 Managing Volunteer Resources (Volunteer Reception Center Plan)
 Using Volunteers Beyond the Call of Duty: What's the Liability
 Emergency Generator Power - A Lesson Learned from Sandy

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE \$50 - LUNCH INCLUDED

REGISTER AND PAY ONLINE AT WWW.CHATHAMEMERGENCY.ORG

DISASTER THUNDERSTORM
VIOLENT HURRICANE
NATURAL SEASON
SHIFT UPDRAFT
ROTATION
STRONG
SUPERCELL
RAIN
YEAR
SURGE
DENSE
INTENSE
CIRCULATION
ATLANTIC WARMING
DEVASTATING
OCCURRING
WALL
GLOBAL FEATURES

MACS

Multi-Agency Coordination System



It's *BIGGER* Than You Think



Multi-Agency Coordination System: Chatham County's Program

Multiagency coordination is a process that allows all levels of government and all disciplines to work together more efficiently and effectively. Multiagency coordination occurs across the different disciplines involved in incident management, across jurisdictional lines or across levels of government. Multiagency coordination can and does occur on a regular basis whenever personnel from different agencies interact in such activities as preparedness, prevention, response, recovery and mitigation.

In Chatham County we are fortunate to have support from a variety of agencies, organizations and departments when it comes to disaster planning. CEMA works diligently to bring partners to the table in order to discuss how we can better work together if we are faced with a disaster such as a hurricane or a hazardous material spill. Planners, government leaders, and first responders know that without a coordinated response, our citizens would ultimately be the ones to suffer. "It's imperative that we sit together, have discussions throughout the year, exercise our plans, and simply get to know one another. The time to work out all the details in disaster planning is before something happens, not when it's too late," said CEMA Director Clayton Scott.

Throughout 2012, we have seen just how powerful storms, flooding, and fires can be. People lost their lives, their homes, and some lost their hope. We've seen too that some of the reasons why, were not because of a lack of wanting to get it right, but a lack of planning and strategies.

We are very lucky in Chatham County that our area did not have to deal with major events like Hurricane Sandy; however, we know that we can never take our luck for granted. In 2013 CEMA's goals are to continue to work closely with our MACS partners, to meet face-to-face with those who play a crucial role in response and recovery, and to

build upon existing plans and procedures.

During our first MACS meeting held in January, we had nearly 100 people attend from different agencies to include Chatham County Public Works, Savannah-Chatham Metro Police Department, Mosquito Control, Coastal Health Department, Georgia State Patrol, and Hunter Army Air Field. CEMA recognizes that without the support of these key players, our emergency management program would not be as successful as it is today.

So what can you expect in 2013? CEMA, along with input from our partners, has set very specific objectives for this coming year for each Emergency Support Function (ESF). In this issue of the CEMA Signal we will highlight objectives for every ESF in hopes of providing a better idea of how everyone fits into this program and what can be expected in the New Year. We are also planning our regular ESF meetings in order to keep you updated on what is happening in the emergency management community, and we will plan more visits with partners in order to put faces with names. We hope that you understand just how valuable you are to the MACS program and that your support is imperative in making Chatham County a safer community.

OVERALL PROGRAM PRIORITIES 2013

- Prepare for the 2013 Hurricane Conference
- Coordinate the Adoption and Implementation of the Employee State of Emergency Work Assignment and Compensation Policy
- Coordinate the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Design Project
 - Meet Regularly to Build out the Requirements of each Emergency Support Function (ESF)
 - Prepare for Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) Assessment
 - Build Relationships (internal and external)

The federal government groups most of its resources and capabilities, and those of certain private-sector and non-governmental organizations, under ESFs. **ESFs align categories of resources and provide strategic objectives for their use.** They use standardized resource management concepts such as typing, inventory, and tracking to facilitate the dispatch, deployment, and recovery of resources before, during, and after an incident. Support agencies are assigned based on the availability of resources in a given functional area. ESFs provide the greatest possible access to federal department and agency resources regardless of which agency has those resources.

ESF: 01

Transportation & Evacuation Services

1

To support and assist municipal, county, private sector, and voluntary organizations requiring transportation and manage the evacuation process.

2013 Objectives

- EOP, ESF-01 Annex, ESF-01 Job Aid Notebook Build Out
- EOP, ESF-01 Annex, Appendix 1-1, Evacuation Coordination
- EOP, ESF-01 Annex, Appendix 1-2, Transportation Assets Management
- EOP, ESF-01 Annex, Appendix 1-4 Re-Entry and Return Coordination



ESF: 02

Communications and Warning Services

2

Ensures the provision of communications support to municipal, county, and private-sector response efforts during an event.

2013 Objectives

- EOP, ESF-02 Annex, ESF-02 Job Aid Notebook Build Out
- EOP, ESF-02 Annex, Appendix 2-2, Interoperable Communications



ESF: 03

Public Works and Engineering Services

3

Coordinates and organizes the capabilities and resources to facilitate the delivery of services, technical assistance, engineering expertise, construction management, and other support services.

2013 Objectives

- EOP, ESF-03 Annex, ESF-03 Job Aid Notebook Build Out
- EOP, ESF-03 Annex, Appendix 3-1, CF Rest Priorities Coordination
- EOP, ESF-03 Annex, Appendix 3-2, Render Safe Teams
- EOP, ESF-03 Annex, Appendix 3-3, Damage Assessment
- EOP, ESF-03 Annex, Appendix 3-3, Tab D, Damage Assessment Training
- EOP, ESF-03 Annex, Appendix 3-5, Road Clearing Priorities



ESF: 04

Firefighting

4

Enable the detection and suppression of wild land, rural, and urban fires resulting from, or occurring coincidentally with an event.

2013 Objectives

- EOP, ESF-04 Annex, ESF-04 Job Aid Notebook Build Out



ESF: 05

Emergency Management



Responsible for supporting overall activities of the Emergency Management Program for local incident management.

2013 Objectives

- Strategic Plan
- Strategic Plan, Annex C, Annual Goals and Objectives
- COG Plan
- COOP Base and Annexes
- EOP, ESF-05 Annex, Appendix 5-2, Mutual Aid Coordination
- EOP, ESF-05 Annex, Appendix 5-4, Stabilization Strategy
- EOP, Incident Annex A, Hurricane Incident Management
- EOP, Incident Annex B, Bridge Disruption Incident Management
- EOP, Incident Annex C, Catastrophic Incident Management
- EOP, Incident Annex D, Terrorism Incident Management
- EOP, Incident Annex E, Biological Incident Management
- EOP, Incident Annex F, Cyber Incident Management
- EOP, Incident Annex G, Radiological Incident Management
- EOP, Support Annex B, Private Sector Coordination
- EOP, Support Annex C, Worker Health and Safety
- EOP, Support Annex F, EOC Staff Manual
- Duty Officer Field Operations Guide



ESF: 06

Mass Care, Housing and Human Services



Supports County-wide, municipal, and non-governmental organization efforts to address non-medical mass care, housing, and human services needs of individuals and/or families impacted by an event.

2013 Objectives

- EOP, ESF-06 Annex, ESF-06 Job Aid Notebook Build Out
- EOP, ESF-06 Annex, Appendix 6-1, Mass Care and Sheltering
- EOP, ESF-06 Annex, Appendix 6-2, CWFS Coordination
- EOP, ESF-06 Annex, Appendix 6-3, Mass Feeding Coordination



ESF: 07

Resource Support

7

Supports volunteer services, County agencies, and municipal governments tracking, providing, and/or requiring resource support before, during, and/or after an event.

2013 Objectives

- EOP, ESF-07 Annex, ESF-07 Job Aid Notebook Build Out
- EOP, ESF-07 Annex, Appendix 7-1, Disaster Volunteer Assistance and Management
- EOP, ESF-07 Annex, Appendix 7-3, VOAD/CCOAD Coordination
- EOP, Support Annex D, Appendix 4, Tab C, Fuel Consumption Rates



ESF: 08

Public Health and Medical Services

8

Coordinates assistance for response to public health and medical care needs (to include veterinary and/or animal health issues) for an event.

2013 Objectives

- EOP, ESF-08 Annex, ESF-08 Job Aid Notebook Build Out
- EOP, ESF-08 Annex, Appendix 8-1, Special Needs
- EOP, ESF-08 Annex, Appendix 8-2, Health and Medical Services
- EOP, ESF-08 Annex, Appendix 8-3, Health Care Facility Coordination
- EOP, ESF-08 Annex, Appendix 8-4, Crisis Counseling Coordination
- EOP, ESF-08 Annex, Appendix 8-7, Nursing Homes
- EOP, Incident Annex H, Mass Casualty Incident Management



ESF: 09

Search and Rescue

9

Rapidly deploy components of the Search and Rescue Response Systems to provide specialized life-saving assistance during an event.

2013 Objectives

- EOP, ESF-09 Annex, ESF-09 Job Aid Notebook Build Out



ESF: 10

Hazardous Materials Response

10

Coordinate support in response to an actual or potential discharge and/or uncontrolled release of oil or hazardous materials during an event.

2013 Objectives

- EOP, ESF-10 Annex, ESF-10 Job Aid Notebook Build Out
- EOP, ESF-10 Annex, Appendix 10-1, Hazmat ERP



ESF: 11

Agriculture and Natural Resources

11

Supports County and authorities and other agency efforts to address 1) Provision of nutrition assistance; 2) Control and eradication of an outbreak of a highly contagious or economically devastating animal/zoonotic disease; 3) Assurance of food safety and food security and; 4) Protection of natural and cultural resources and historic properties.

2013 Objectives

- EOP, ESF-11 Annex, ESF-11A Job Aid Notebook Build Out
- EOP, ESF-11 Annex, ESF-11B Job Aid Notebook Build Out
- EOP, ESF-11 Annex, ESF-11C Job Aid Notebook Build Out
- EOP, ESF-11 Annex, Appendix 11-1, Animals in Disasters
- EOP, ESF-11 Annex, Appendix 11-2, Food and Water Coordination
- EOP, ESF-11 Annex, Appendix 11-3, NCH Coordination



ESF: 12

Energy

12

Coordinate the restoration of damaged energy systems and components during an event.

2013 Objectives

- EOP, ESF-12 Annex, ESF-12 Job Aid Notebook Build Out



ESF: 13

Public Safety and Security

13

Provides a framework for support to municipal governments, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector designed to enable community recovery from the long-term consequences of an event.

2013 Objectives

- Disaster Recovery Plan



ESF: 14

Community Recovery & Mitigation

14

Provides a framework for support to municipal governments, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector designed to enable community recovery from the long-term consequences of an event.

2013 Objectives

- Disaster Recovery Plan

ESF: 15

External Affairs

15

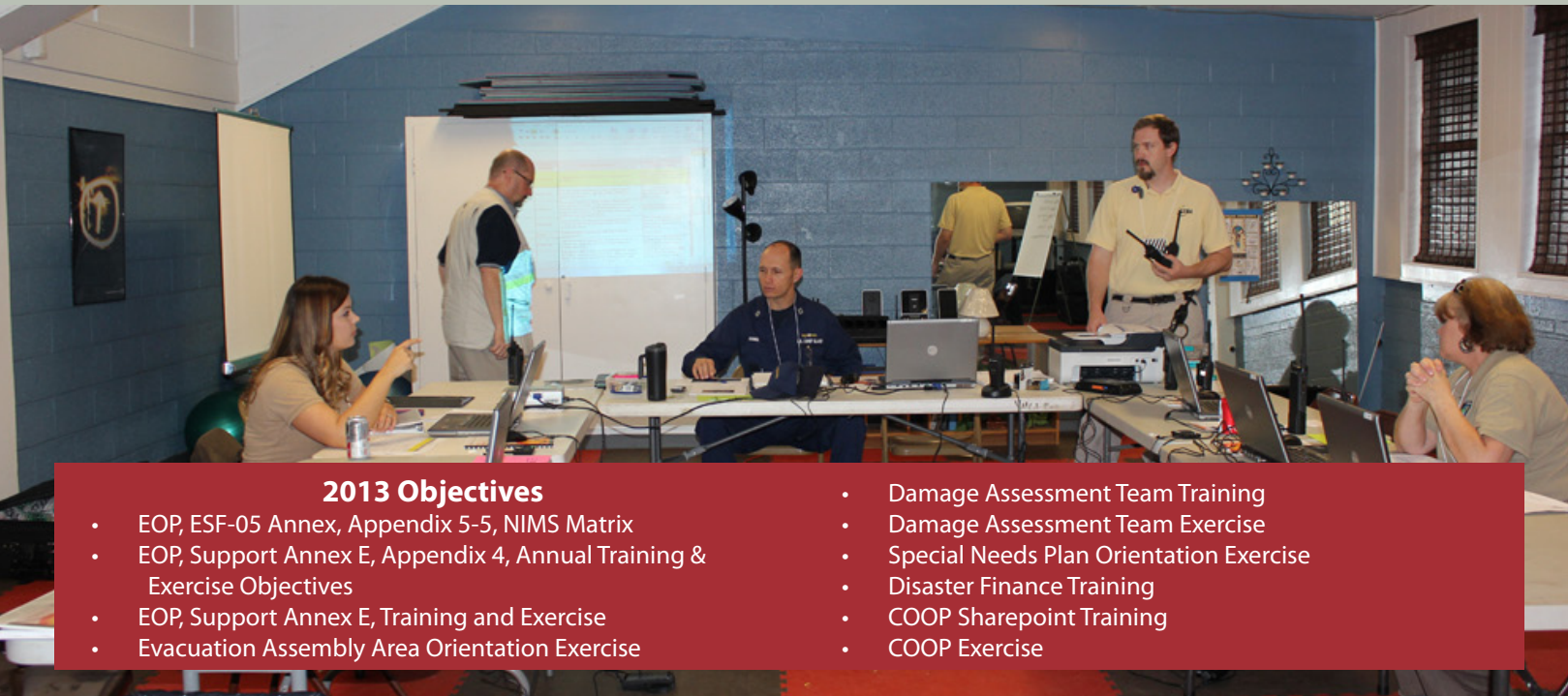
Ensures sufficient assets are deployed to provide accurate, coordinated, and timely information to affected audiences, including governments, media, the private sector, and the general population.

2013 Objectives

- EOP, ESF-15 Annex, Appendix 15-1, JIS Coordination
- EOP, ESF-15 Annex, Appendix 15-3, DAPS
- Continue to expand the CCPIOA



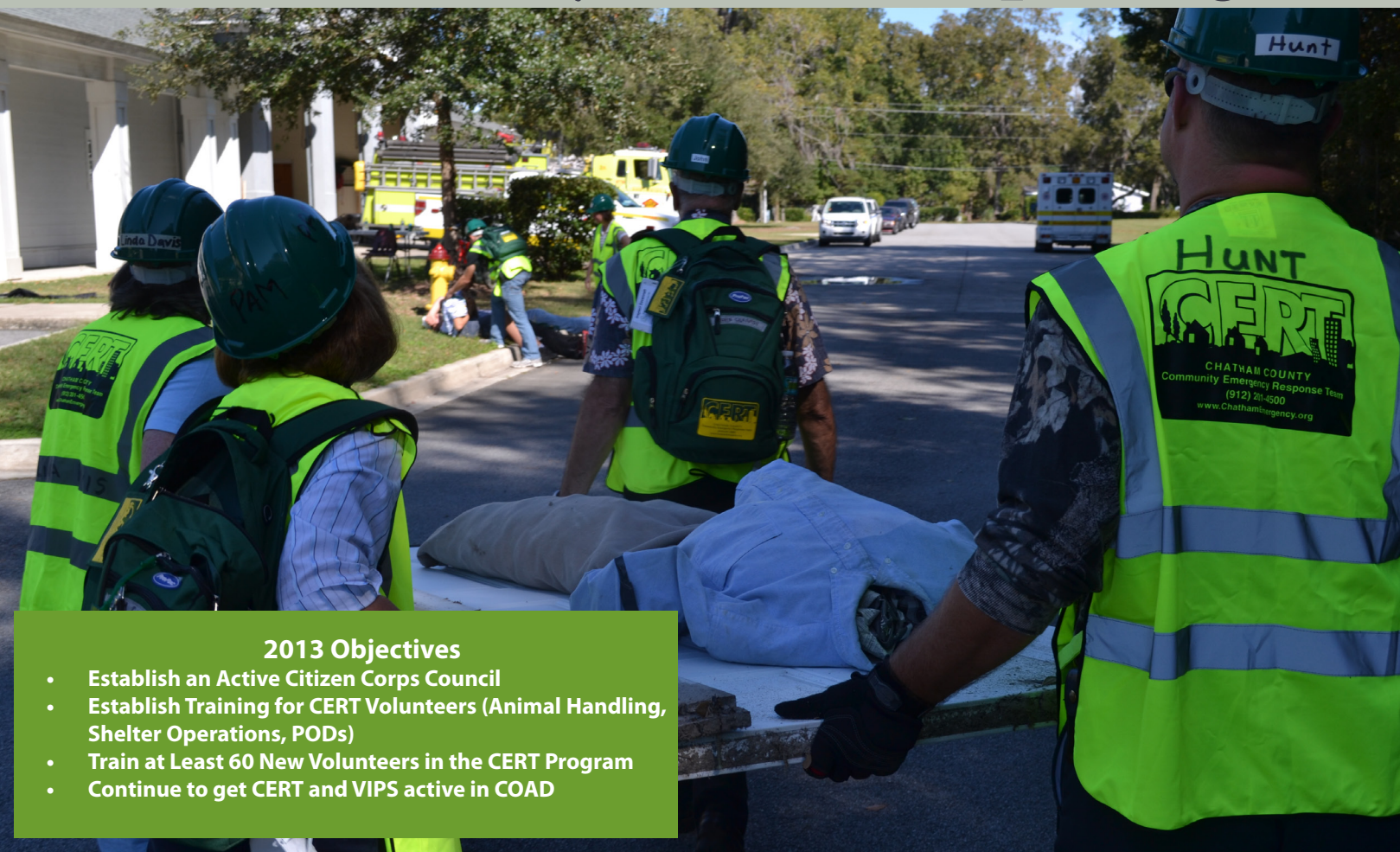
Training and Exercise



2013 Objectives

- EOP, ESF-05 Annex, Appendix 5-5, NIMS Matrix
- EOP, Support Annex E, Appendix 4, Annual Training & Exercise Objectives
- EOP, Support Annex E, Training and Exercise
- Evacuation Assembly Area Orientation Exercise
- Damage Assessment Team Training
- Damage Assessment Team Exercise
- Special Needs Plan Orientation Exercise
- Disaster Finance Training
- COOP Sharepoint Training
- COOP Exercise

Chatham County Citizen Corps Program



2013 Objectives

- Establish an Active Citizen Corps Council
- Establish Training for CERT Volunteers (Animal Handling, Shelter Operations, PODs)
- Train at Least 60 New Volunteers in the CERT Program
- Continue to get CERT and VIPS active in COAD

Severe Weather Awareness Week 2013, Small Changes to Help You Prepare



Hurricane Sandy affected much of the East Coast during late October 2012 and while it was only a Category 1 storm, she caused a giant path of destruction. Hundreds of people were killed and the storm caused more than \$65 billion in damage and business interruption, not to mention millions of people were without power. Hurricane Sandy's destruction serves as a reminder of just how powerful Mother Nature truly is. Many residents along the East Coast were caught off guard when it came to preparing for what Sandy had in store.

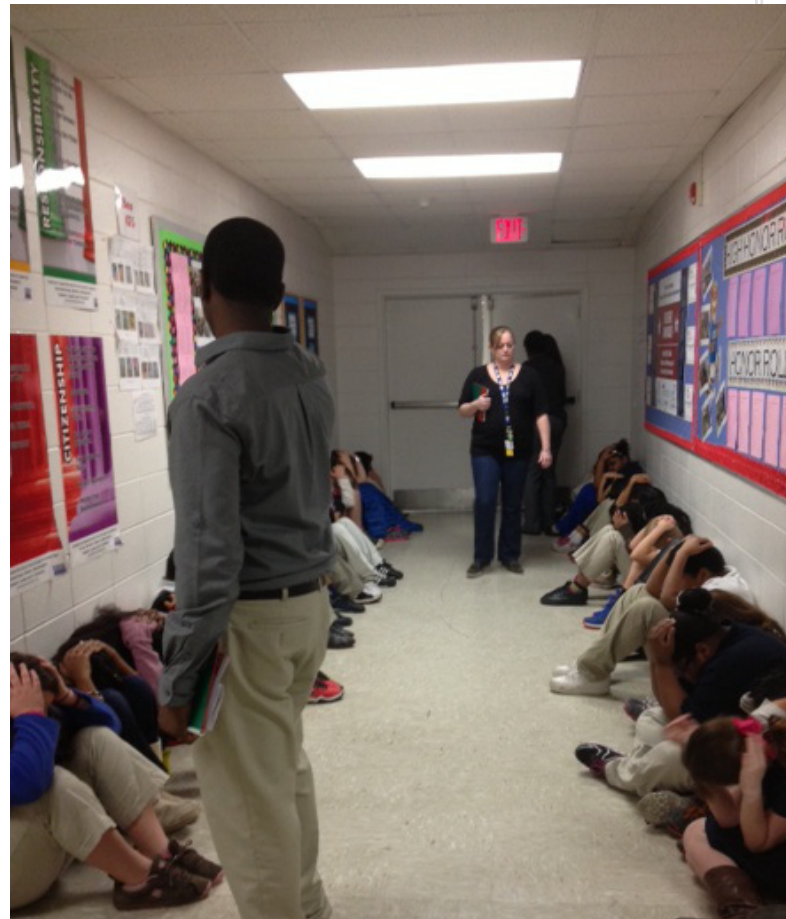
Complacency is something people will admit they are guilty of and some will often times adopt the attitude of it hasn't happened to me. CEMA truly aims at helping people prepare for disasters and emergencies. Planning though doesn't have to take much effort on your part and simple changes in your way of thinking can help you in a tremendous way.

Severe Weather Awareness Week took place February 4 through 8 and the week was designed to allow residents to focus on weather emergencies and what they need to know in order to protect themselves.

CEMA encouraged schools to engage students during the week and get them interested in severe weather safety. CEMA teamed up with Meteorologist Jonathan Myers from WJCL and spoke to hundreds of students on weather safety and disaster planning. CEMA also partnered with Home Depot to give away two all hazard weather radios in an online Facebook contest.

Just because Severe Weather Awareness Week is over for this year, doesn't mean you still can't become more prepared. CEMA offers these suggestions:

- Set up a Twitter and Facebook account and follow ChathamEMA in order to receive important alerts when emergencies happen or disaster strikes
- Sign up to receive text message alerts from CEMA; text to 40404 and in the body of the message type *follow ChathamEMA* and hit send
- Sign up to receive email alerts from CEMA; sign up at www.ChathamEmergency.org
- Learn how to text in case you need to summon help and you can't get a call out on your cell phone
- Check your flashlights in your home and make sure they have working batteries
- Put a roadside assistance kit in your car
- Put a pocketsize first aid kit in your purse or briefcase
- Teach your children how to use 911
- Figure out where you put your important documents to include social security cards and insurance papers and move them to a safe and collective location
- Check your smoke detector batteries
- Look under your kitchen sink to see what types of hazardous chemicals you have under there and whether or not you are properly storing the items
- Clean up your yard; this is good protection from the stormy season as well cleaning overgrown brush can prevent the spread of fire.



Port Wentworth Elementary School students practice what they would do if there was a tornado threatening their school. The statewide tornado drill took place on February 6th at 9 a.m.. Schools all across Chatham County participated in the drill. School administrators who are part of the emergency response team also played a role in the drill.




It's Coming!! CEMA's Mobile Command

Get ready to welcome CEMA's Mobile Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Earlier this month CEMA did a walk through of the new vehicle that is currently in Melbourne, Florida. North American Custom Speciality Vehicles designed the 46 1/2 feet long, 44 thousand pound Mobile EOC. The Mobile EOC will seat 12 people and can be used to support a multitude of events. The vehicle will be here by St. Patrick's Day and will be used to support festivities. The Mobile EOC is funded entirely through a Federal grant.



CEMA's Dustin Hetzel stands next to the vehicle. Hetzel will travel back to Florida in the coming weeks to make any minor adjustments.



An inside look. The sides of the Mobile EOC expand out to make room for staff and equipment.

Disability Task Force to Hold Emergency Planning Forum

A new task force aims at helping residents with disabilities get the much needed information that comes before, during and after an emergency or disaster. The Chatham County Disability Task Force formed in late 2012 with the goal of reaching Chatham County residents with disabilities or people medical and functional needs. The group is comprised of representatives from Living Independence for Everyone (L.I.F.E.), CEMA, the Chatham County ADA coordinator, GACHI, Chatham County Health Department, Fair Housing Authority, and American Red Cross, and meets bi-monthly. The objectives of the task force are: Education, Preparation and Outreach.

Public information is always a challenge and getting residents to understand the importance of having a plan poses even more of a challenge. When you factor in a disability on top of that for example trying to reach someone who is deaf, you often have to consider additional ways to reach that person. That's where the task force comes

in, to bridge the gap between people who need help receiving the information and government officials disseminating that information.

On April 10th, 2013, the Disability Task Force will host a forum titled "Are You Ready? Emergency Planning for People With Disabilities" and it will be a discussion between emergency officials and residents with disabilities on how to better distribute information to residents who may need additional support. Panelists will be from CEMA, American Red Cross, Chatham County Public Health, GACHI, Georgia Council for the Blind (Savannah Chapter) and the ADA office. It is scheduled from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Savannah, Georgia. Everyone is invited to attend the free event. For more information contact the L.I.F.E. office at 912-920-2414.

ESF 08 and 15: Health and Medical and External Affairs

Active Shooter Preparedness; DHS Launches New Website



The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) launched a new website aimed at helping law enforcement respond to active shooter incidents. DHS is providing training, products, and resources on active shooter awareness, incident response and workplace violence. According to DHS, in many cases, there is no pattern or method to the selection of victims by an active shooter, and the situations are unpredictable and evolve quickly. Through the

new website, DHS is offering free courses, materials, and workshops to help law enforcement deal with an active shooter situation as well as raise awareness on the behaviors and characteristics of an active shooter.

On the website you will find the following resources:

- Active Shooter: What Can You Do Course
- Active Shooter Webinar
- Active Shooter Workshop Series
- Active Shooter: How to Respond Resource Materials
- Options for Consideration Active Shooter Training Video

On December 14, 2012, 20-year-old Adam Lanza *fatally shot twenty children and six adult staff members at Sandy Hook Elementary School in the village of Sandy Hook in Newtown, Connecticut.* Before driving to the school, Lanza had shot and killed his mother at their Newtown home. As first responders arrived, he committed suicide by shooting himself in the head.

- U.S. Secret Service (USSS) Active Shooter Related Research
- Active Shooter Resources for Law Enforcement and Trainers: Request for Access to Joint Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Portal

In addition to the active shooter website, DHS will continue to work with law enforcement on expanding nationwide public awareness efforts such as the "If You See Something, Say Something™" campaign.

ESF 13: Law Enforcement

[HTTP://WWW.DHS.GOV/ACTIVE-SHOOTER-PREPAREDNESS](http://www.dhs.gov/active-shooter-preparedness)

Operation Coordinated Recovery: Tybee Island Exercise a Success

CEMA would like to commend Tybee Island for its effort in coordinating a recent full scale exercise. For the past six months, Tybee Island officials, to include government leaders and the Tybee Emergency Management Coordinator, have been working diligently with CEMA in planning for Operation Coordinated Recovery. The full scale exercise took place on December 6, 2012 and numerous Tybee Island employees were involved in the half-day event.

The purpose of the exercise was to evaluate Tybee Island's plans and procedures for establishing continuity of government, providing key officials the opportunity to develop post hurricane response priorities, utilizing available resources, beginning damage assessment, and responding to community needs. "This seemingly simple exercise involved more than 150 hours of planning alone. By the time it's over 500 hours of player, controller and evaluator time will have been invested. After that, imagine the additional effort that will be involved in addressing the lessons learned; which is really the whole purpose of any exercise. Tybee's Mayor, its elected officials and the entire staff of this community deserve enormous credit for the courage of their conviction to ensure their community is as safe as possible for its residents," said CEMA Director Clayton Scott.

This exercise was not in response to Hurricane Sandy; however, it came at a good time when we can see just how destructive a storm can be. Tybee Island is extremely proactive in preparing for hurricanes; in

2010, with the help of CEMA, the city conducted "Hurricane Gilligan", an exercise that focused on evacuating the island pre-storm. Tybee's Mayor, Jason Buelterman, realized officials needed to concentrate on how they would recover post-storm, which is how Operation Coordinated Recovery came to fruition. Tybee Island is one of the few cities on the East Coast, if not the only city, to make post hurricane exercises like this a top priority. "The exercise gives our employees a chance to address the challenges of a coastal community that has been hit by a strong hurricane. This will help ensure that we are as prepared as possible for addressing post storm recovery. As Sandy taught us once again, coastal communities need to be ready for the possibility of a large scale hurricane to help our City and our citizens recover as quickly and efficiently as possible. We are proud of our ongoing partnership with CEMA and appreciative of all they have done to help prepare this exercise," said Mayor Buelterman.

Numerous participants were involved, including residents who allowed exercise planners to use their homes to simulate damaged properties.

**Training and Exercise
Kelly Harley, PIO, CEMA**



A participant assesses a damaged Tybee Island home during the exercise. Photo/ Sally Silbermann, Chatham County Health Department.



Getting Back to Business: Chatham County COOP Tabletop

On January 29, CEMA along with 19 other Chatham County departments took part in a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) Tabletop exercise. Following any disaster, it's important for businesses and government to be able to get back to work as soon as possible. Having a COOP can better help agencies and departments know how to put their offices back together.

Over the past few months, CEMA worked closely with Hagerty Consulting to design the exercise which gave county departments an opportunity to discuss their plans in order to determine what will work and what can be improved upon.

Participating departments included: CEMA, Chatham County Attorney's Office, Finance and Internal Audit, Human Resources, Purchasing and Contracting, County Manager's Office, Chatham County ICS, Health Department, Library, Mosquito Control, Sheriff's

Office, Assessor's Office, Building Safety, Engineering, Public Works, Metropolitan Planning Commission, Election's Board, Voter's Registration, Tax Commissioner's Office, and Chatham Area Transit.

A COOP ensures continued performance of essential functions, reduces loss of life and minimizes damage, protects essential assets, maintains a test, training and exercise program for validation and reduces or mitigates disruptions to operations.

"It is important that each department develop a COOP so that they can be prepared for when an unexpected disaster may occur. If your facility is unavailable due to a disaster you need to know what the steps are to move to a different location so that there is minimal time lost," said CEMA Planner Kate Busbee.

Training and Exercise

COOP TABLETOP

Brock Long with Hagerty Consulting helps with the tabletop exercise. The tabletop exercise provided a forum to discuss roles and responsibilities that will support each department's COOP plan.

PHASES OF COOP

There are four phases of Continuity of Operations Activation: Readiness and Preparedness, Activation and Relocation, Continuity Operations, and Reconstitution.



SPOTLIGHT



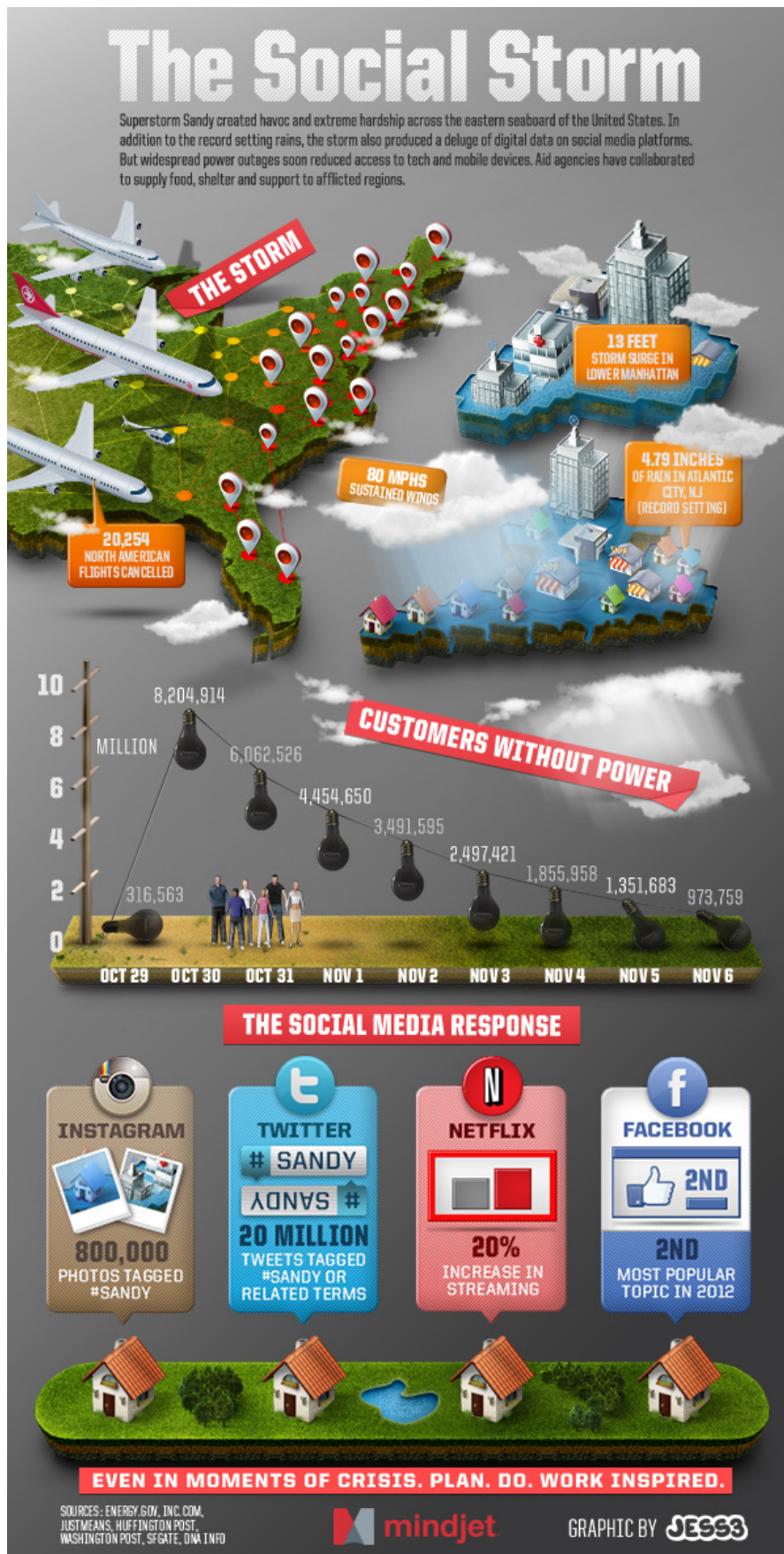
ANSON CALMES

The Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) welcomes Anson Calmes. Calmes was hired as an Emergency Management Specialist and is charged with maintaining hazardous materials records and coordinating those records in accordance with the County hazardous materials ordinance.

Prior to joining CEMA, Anson spent over 22 years in the US Army. He completed numerous overseas tours to include deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan and is the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal. Anson retired from the Army in 2013.

Anson has also placed great importance on volunteering for the community. He has volunteered with Civil Air Patrol ground search and rescue as well as various fund raising events for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. He currently volunteers as a firefighter and emergency medical technician with Southside Fire Department. Anson holds several fire service and medical certifications as well as a B.S. in Public Safety Management from Franklin University.

Anson has been married to his wife Heather since 1992 and they have two sons, Austin and Jayden.



Still Don't Think You Need Social Media?

Calendar

MEETINGS

March 8, 10AM
Disability Task Force Meeting
 LIFE Office
 Fran Todd
 ftodd@lifecil.com
 (912) 920-2414

March 14, 6:30PM
CERT Quarterly Meeting
 Sycamore Church
 Kelly Harley
 kharley@chathamcounty.org
 (912) 201-4500

March 21, 10AM
EMAG Area 5 Meeting
 Camden EMA
 Dennis Jones
 912-201-4500
 dtjones@chathamcounty.org

April 18, 8:30AM
ESF 15 Chatham County PIO Association Meeting
 CrimeStoppers
 Kelly Harley
 kharley@chathamcounty.org
 (912) 201-4500

May 13, 10:30AM
Chatham County Fire Chief's Association Meeting
 Don Sullens
 dwsullens@chathamcounty.org
 (912) 201-4500

May 16, 10AM
EMAG Area 5 Meeting
 Dennis Jones
 912-201-4500
 dtjones@chathamcounty.org

June 20, 10AM
EMAG Area 5 Meeting
 Chatham EMA
 Dennis Jones
 912-201-4500
 dtjones@chathamcounty.org

MEETINGS

June 4, 10:30AM
ESF 7 & 11B Meeting
 Don Sullens
 dwsullens@chathamcounty.org
 (912) 201-4500

June 11, 10:30AM
ESF 13 Meeting
 Don Sullens
 dwsullens@chathamcounty.org
 (912) 201-4500

June 18, 10:30AM
ESF 11A Meeting
 Don Sullens
 dwsullens@chathamcounty.org
 (912) 201-4500

June 20, 8:30AM
ESF 15 Chatham County PIO Association Meeting
 Chatham County Health Department
 Kelly Harley
 kharley@chathamcounty.org
 (912) 201-4500

June 20, 1PM
ESF 3 & 12 Meeting
 Annex EOC
 Dave Grottyhann
 dsgrottyhann@chathamcounty.org
 (912) 201-4500

June 20, 3PM
ESF 1 Meeting
 Annex EOC
 Dave Grottyhann
 dsgrottyhann@chathamcounty.org
 (912) 201-4500

June 25, 10:30AM
ESF 9 Meeting
 Don Sullens
 dwsullens@chathamcounty.org
 (912) 201-4500

TRAINING

March 7, 8AM to 5PM
EOC Staff Training
 EOC Annex
 Jennifer Rodriguez
 jlrodriguez@chathamcounty.org
 (912) 201-4500

March 2, 8AM to 4PM
CEMA SAR Team Training
 EOC Annex
 Don Sullens
 dwsullens@chathamcounty.org
 (912) 201-4500

April 13, 8AM to 4PM
CEMA SAR Team Training
 Whitmarsh Island Preserve
 Don Sullens
 dwsullens@chathamcounty.org
 (912) 201-4500

May 17, 7PM to 10PM
CEMA SAR Team Training
 Whitmarsh Island Preserve
 Don Sullens
 dwsullens@chathamcounty.org
 (912) 201-4500

EXERCISES/SPECIAL

March 7, 7PM to 9PM
CERT/SAR Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
 Frank G. Murray Center
 Kelly Harley
 kharley@chathamcounty.org
 (912) 201-4500

March 16, 10:15AM
Savannah St. Patrick's Day Parade

March 26
Joint Information Center Exercise
 Kelly Harley
 kharley@chathamcounty.org
 (912) 201-4500

April 10, 1PM to 4PM
Emergency Planning for People with Disabilities Forum
 Trinity Lutheran Church
 Fran Todd
 ftodd@lifecil.com
 (912) 920-2414

April 23, 8AM to 4:30PM
Chatham County Hurricane Conference
 Intl. Trade and Convention Center
 Kate Busbee
 kbusbee@chathamcounty.org
 (912) 201-4500

April 24 - 26
EMAG Conference
 Intl. Trade and Convention Center
 Jim Anderson
 janderson@jeffersoncountyga.gov

Outdoor Siren Test
Mar 6, April 3, May 1, 12PM
 Countywide
 Dustin Hetzel
 djhetzel@chathamcounty.org

CERTified CERTs Keep Growing

Congratulations to the newest members of the Chatham County Community Emergency Response Team. More than a dozen residents learned first-hand what it would be like following a disaster. The participants took part in the 20 hour training where they learned basic first aid, fire suppression, light search and rescue, as well as other skills. The program taught residents how to take care of themselves and their neighbors after a disaster, before first responders arrive. The class took part in their final simulation on February 17th at Southside Fire Station #3.



CLAYTON S. SCOTT
DIRECTOR

DENNIS JONES
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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:

- **Submissions emailed to:** Kelly Harley, Public Information Officer (kharley@chathamcounty.org)
- **Deadline:** May 10, 2013
- **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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