

CEMASignal



Tropical Storm Puts Chatham County on Alert



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Chatham County is updating the Multi-Jurisdictional Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plan this year. Learn about the planning process and the estimated timelines.

CEMA Tracks First Storm of Hurricane Season



On Monday, June 30, all eyes were on a storm twirling off the east coast of Florida that eventually gained strength and a name, making it the first hurricane of the 2014 Atlantic Hurricane season. The National Weather Service (NWS) put our area under a tropical storm warning and beachgoers were cautioned about strong riptides and high surf. With the Fourth of July holiday quickly approaching, everyone wanted to know, were we safe and would the storm force visitors away?

Early in the week, Tropical Storm Arthur skirted past Chatham County with little impact, but as the storm grew in size and strength, residents in North Carolina's outer banks planned for hurricane evacuations. Wilmington, North Carolina saw Arthur pass through Thursday night, bringing bands of heavy rain and top wind speeds of around 70 mph.

While parts of our area did experience heavy rain and some loss of power, Chatham County was spared from a devastating storm once again, CEMA Director Clayton Scott says this should be a wakeup call for residents.

"We got lucky. Storms change quickly," says Scott. "If it had changed paths, would our residents have been ready? People should not be caught off guard by a storm. You should always have plenty of notice that a storm is coming. This is a reminder to start planning and building your evacuation kit. If you wait until a storm is near, it could be difficult to find the items you need."

Director Scott recommends building a "go bucket" filled with batteries, a flashlight, medical supplies and even a hand crank can opener. It is important to check the dates regularly and replace items when they expire. A well planned kit can easily last several years.

During the "quiet times" of Hurricane Season, it's always encouraged to review your hurricane response plans and contact information. CEMA is available to assist as requested to verify your plans are consistent with the County Operating Conditions.

GET IT TOGETHER

Hurricane Season is in full swing. If a storm hits, will you be ready? Inside you will find some helpful tips to building your own evacuation kit and how to prepare your family for a disaster.

HEAT SAFETY

As temperatures rise, so does your chance of coming down with a heat related illness. Find out how to take care of you and your family during the busy summer months.

2014 HURRICANE NAMES:

- Arthur
- Bertha
- Cristobal
- Dolly
- Edouard
- Fay
- Gonzalo
- Hanna
- Isaias
- Josephine
- Kyle
- Laura
- Marco
- Nana
- Omar
- Paulette
- Rene
- Sally
- Teddy
- Vicky
- Wilfred

A Message from the Director



As this latest edition of CEMA Signal goes to press, I must point out we are in now in the middle of hurricane season. Despite the prediction of a normal or even by some, a below average season, we have already faced the threat of a hurricane. Now that Arthur is behind us, it is important to remember that we are not immune to hurricanes. It's not a matter of if we see another strike Chatham County, it's when. Never let your guard down.

September is National Preparedness Month, a time when residents are reminded and highly encouraged to get prepared. Get a 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 find ways to prepare and deliver tips residents can use. CEMA will also host Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training in October. The 20 hour program is free for Chatham County residents and teaches various skills such as first aid, fire suppression, light search and rescue and hazardous materials awareness. Residents can sign up through

the CEMA office.

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 on one of the county's highest elevations. According to the US Army Corps of Engineers, the site we are looking to build on will not flood in a Category 5 storm, the strongest hurricane.

The next big event we will be looking forward to is the Gulfstream Preparedness Festival. At last year's event, our CERT members spread CEMA's message and taught disaster skills to nearly 500 Gulfstream employees. It is our hope to reach as many this year and that they will share their new knowledge with their neighbors. We look forward to working with our partners for this event.

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

Clayton Scott
Director

Functional and Medical Needs

Responsibility [re-spon-si-bil-i-ty], noun
 1. the state or fact of being responsible, answerable, or accountable for something within one's power, control, or management.
 2. a person or thing for which one is responsible

Do you or someone you know have functional or medical needs? If the answer is yes, you may want to consider signing up for the Functional/Medical Needs Registry. This free program is a joint partnership between CEMA and the Chatham County Health Department to assist children and adults with physical, sensory, mental and cognitive and/or intellectual disabilities affecting their ability to function independently.

This registry will provide residents with transportation in the event of an evacuation and medical assistance when there are no other resources such as family, friends, neighbors, or church members to help when a hurricane is threatening our area.

In the event of an emergency such as a hurricane, those on the registry will be picked up by bus or ambulance and evacuated to an American Red Cross



shelter in an inland county. Pets will be allowed to accompany their owners if they are in a carrier and have current immunization records.

The registry is truly a last resort for individuals who have exhausted all other resources and need assistance for evacuating and sheltering. Please remember it is important to register early so officials know where our venerable residents live. To register, call (912) 691-7443. If you are already registered, but have moved, please call to update your information.

2014 CEMA Hurricane Conference



The Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) hosted its 13th annual Chatham County Hurricane Conference on April 22, 2014. After copious promotion and planning, the reward was satisfaction in conducting one of the most successful conferences to date. This was a record year

with 400 attendees at the conference. The title of the conference was "Planning to Win." CEMA's primary focus on this conference was to highlight plans that are currently in place for Chatham County.

The opening session of the conference was kicked off with a presentation by Steve Hagerty, the President of Hagerty Consulting, Inc. Since CEMA is about to embark on developing a Disaster Recovery Plan, Mr. Hagerty focused his presentation on General Recovery Lessons Learned. When the opening session was complete, the conference transitioned to a workshop based conference. Some of the Chatham County plans that were discussed in the workshops included: Mass Fatality Incident Planning and the Mass Casualty Incident Plan, Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, Changes to the Debris Management Strategy were introduced and finally the Joint Information System and Joint Information Center Plans were discussed. The City of Garden City also did a presentation on the Resiliency of Garden City during and after a disaster.

While the primary focus was on local planning, other partners



also contributed to presenting workshops during the conference. Other topics outside of local planning included: American Red Cross – Functional Medical Needs, GA's Historic Preservation Plan, Animal Management – Post Event Recovery Operations, State GSAR Program, Sandy Checks into NYC Hospitals – The Real Stories, FirstNet, GA National Guard Capabilities is a Disaster, and many more.

Planning for the 2015 Chatham County Hurricane Conference is just around the corner. If you have suggestions for workshop topics or keynote speakers please submit them to Kate Busbee at kbusbee@chathamcounty.org. Put April 7th, 2015 on your calendars to save the date for the 2015 Hurricane Conference.



ESF 05: Emergency Management

Can You Hear Me Now?

"This is an automated phone call from Chatham County Emergency Management Agency." This is the first thing that is heard when CEMA calls the Emergency Operation Center's Staff. At this point, your heart starts racing because you are probably waiting on the next sentence from the system. You are hoping to hear "This is a monthly test message..." and not "The Emergency Operations Center is now at a Level one activation".

Monthly Community Notification System tests allow CEMA to accomplish two things. First, it helps CEMA keep an updated phone number list to call the Primary, Secondary and Tertiary EOC Staff to ensure that when there is an emergency in the middle of the night, and there is a need to activate the EOC, we can reach out and call the staffing agencies very quickly. The system logs each phone call and if a phone number fails, it allows us to follow up with the staffing agency about the failed phone call. Second, it is a simple reminder for EOC Staff to login monthly to the WebEOC and do quick familiarities check of their WebEOC position.

As you listen to the system, you can press the number three (3) key on your phone to acknowledge that you received the message. You can simply hang up the phone after pressing the three (3) key or you can continue on with the message through the end.



ESF 02: Communications

Staying Cool with Summer Safety Tips

Spending time outdoors is just one of the great things about summer. Coastal Health District officials want coastal Georgia residents to make the most of that time and prevent illness and injury that some summer-related activities can bring.

Heat and humidity are a normal part of a Georgia summer but they can also pose a threat to those spending a lot of time outside. To minimize the risk of heat-related illness here are some helpful tips to help you beat the heat this summer:

- Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink fluids. Drink more fluids regardless of your activity level.
- Don't drink liquids that contain caffeine, alcohol, or large amounts of sugar—these actually cause you to lose more body fluid. Also, avoid very cold drinks, because they can cause stomach cramps.
- Stay indoors and, if at all possible, stay in an air-conditioned place. If your home does not have air conditioning, go to the shopping mall or public library—even a few hours spent in air conditioning can help your body stay cooler when you go back into the heat. Call your local health department to see if there are any heat-relief shelters in your area.
- Electric fans may provide comfort, but when the temperature is in the high 90s, fans will not prevent heat-related illness. Taking a cool shower or bath, or moving to an air-conditioned place is a much better way to cool off.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.
- NEVER leave anyone in a closed, parked vehicle.

It's also important to remember that infants, children, and those 65 and older are at increased risk for heat-related illness. Limiting outdoor activity to morning and evening hours, wearing sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher, and exercising indoors, are other ways for people of all ages to avoid getting heat-related illness.



ESF 8: Public Health and Medical Services
Sally Silbermann, Risk Communicator and PIO, Public Health

Identifying Critical Resources in an Emergency

Over the last few months, CEMA has worked hard to coordinate meetings with every Municipality and agency in our area in preparation for the 2014 Hurricane Season. A major focus involves the Public Works Departments and updating the Critical Workforce, Critical Equipment, Critical Facilities, Primary Roads, and Shelter locations. Normally, most information does not change from year to year except for staffing names and equipment numbers. This information is important and helps CEMA keep updated records so we know who our points of contact are, where they are located, what their initial assignments are and who we need for additional equipment.

All of this information is compiled into updated Planning documents that are available upon request. Of course, since much of this is Critical Information and considered For Official Use Only (FOUO), it will not be posted on the CEMA website.

This year like every other year, CEMA relies on receiving the information in June. We don't always receive annual updates, so we refer to the prior year's submission. The CEMA Emergency Operations Center needs these Plans when activated in order to know where people are, how they are sheltered and provide the necessary support which includes food and water. Please make sure we have your current information. To update your information, email David Grotyohann at dsgrotyohann@chathamemergency.org.

Long Term Care Facilities Prepare for Hurricane Season

On April 30, 2014 Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) met with staff members from local Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCF) to discuss plans for the 2014 Hurricane Season. At the meeting, CEMA Director, Clayton Scott; CEMA Deputy Director, Dennis Jones; and Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) Deputy Director, Terry Ball; spoke with the attendees and stressed the importance of reviewing and/or updating annual evacuation procedures. All LTCFs received information in regards to Georgia's Hurricane Evacuation Preparation Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

The MOA, if signed by the LTCF, will serve as a secondary option for transportation in the event of a hurricane evacuation should the LTCF's primary mode of transportation fail. By signing the MOA, Georgia will work to provide ambulances, para-transport vehicles and coach buses for the facility. These vehicles will transport the residents to the facility's designated evacuation destination. CEMA has worked closely with the LTCFs of Chatham County to make sure each facility understands the importance of having a secondary transportation plan.

After the April meeting, CEMA provided the LTCFs with the opportunity to participate in a statewide event that evaluated the process of determining state needed transportation for the facilities. This exercise allowed CEMA to prepare the facilities with the types of questions and additional amounts of information needed in an evacuation. Various modes of communication were used during this exercise to show how the information will be disseminated during an evacuation.

Implementing a program such as this is one of the top long term goals of our director Clayton Scott. It seemed like an impossible task until the state stepped in and offered support and



Georgia Emergency Management Deputy Director of Programs Terry Ball answers questions from workshop

resources; now it is finally a reality. The plan was met with great enthusiasm. The best part is that the program costs nothing until the storm comes and the transportation is actually ordered.

CEMA continues to work diligently with Chatham County's LTCFs to ensure the facilities are aware of the resources available to them before, during and after a hurricane.

ESF 08: Public Health and Medical Services

CEMA SAR Team News

Each year the CEMA Search and Rescue (SAR) Team develops a training program providing team members with task oriented training during scheduled monthly training events.

This Fall CEMA will host the National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR) SAR Technician 2 Course. The six day course will provide up to 15 Team Members the opportunity to become Nationally Certified SAR Technicians.

The NASAR SARTECH 2 Course consists of three weekends of classroom and hands on training. The first two weekends consists of classroom instruction and practical exercises regarding individual preparations, First Aid, Search Techniques, Tracking, Communications, Search Planning, along with Map Reading and Land Navigation. An extensive written exam is given during the second weekend.

The last weekend of training includes an overnight bivouac and Certification performance testing which includes a land navigation course.

If you are interested or just have questions about joining the CEMA SAR Team, please contact Don Sullens at CEMA, (912) 201-4500.



ESF 09: Search and Rescue

Reimbursable Disaster Costs

After a disaster, a community may be unable to handle the magnitude of restoration needed to return to normalcy. The community can request help from the state; who in turn, can request help from Federal resources. Requests made for Federal resources can only occur after an area is declared a “disaster area” by the Governor. One of these Federal resources available is the Public Assistance (PA) Program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The FEMA PA Program is supported by regulations and rules found in The Stafford Act and The Code of Federal Regulations. FEMA reviews applications received after a declaration to determine eligibility. When applying for assistance from the PA Program, four components are eligible for assistance: Applicant, Facility, Work and Cost.

Applicant eligibility is determined by meeting specific requirements in one of the following four categories:

1. State Government Agencies
2. Local Governments and Special Districts
3. Private Non-Profit Organizations
4. Federally recognized Native American Indian Tribes, Alaskan Native Tribal Governments, and Alaskan Native Village organizations

TOP 10 MOST EXPENSIVE DISASTERS IN U.S. HISTORY:

10. Hurricane Rita: \$19 Billion
September 2005
9. Hurricane Ike: \$29 Billion
September 2008
8. Drought and Heat of 2012: \$30 Billion
Summer and Fall of 2012
7. Midwest Floods: \$34 Billion
Summer 1993
6. Hurricane Andrew: \$45 Billion
August 1992
5. Tropical Storm Sandy: \$50 Billion
October 2012
4. Drought and Heat of 1980: \$56 Billion
June-September 1980
3. Northridge Earthquake: \$65 Billion
January 1994
2. Drought and Heat of 1988: \$79 Billion
Summer and Fall of 1988
1. Hurricane Katrina: \$149 Billion
August 2005

Permanent Work involves those actions needed to restore the community to pre-disaster normalcy through design, function and capacity. Permanent work, by nature, requires more time and resources for completion and encompasses more categories:

1. Category C: Roads and Bridges – Reconstruction of public roads and bridges is eligible for the PA Program as are facilities associated with the reconstruction of these areas (signage, lighting, etc.).
2. Category D: Water Control Facilities – Shore protective devices, canals, and engineered drainage channels are eligible for reimbursement as are several additional areas of water control facilities.
3. Category E: Buildings and Equipment – FEMA’s guidelines allow for the replacement of public buildings if 50% of the building is damaged. Also, equipment, supplies and inventories may be eligible for reimbursement if specific guidelines are met.
4. Category F: Utilities – Costs involved with repairing communications, power generation facilities, sewage systems, etc. may be eligible after general surveys have been completed to determine the extent of the damage. FEMA does not reimburse for survey costs unless the disaster-related damage is evident and further inspection is needed.
5. Category G: Parks, Recreational, and other – Recreational facilities and equipment are considered reimbursable expenses if specific qualifications are met. These qualifications can be found on the FEMA Website.

Eligible Costs relate directly to work performed after the disaster occurs. Generally, the costs must meet certain criteria including: reasonability of work; necessity of work; and compliance with Federal, State and local procurement requirements. Any eligible costs are reduced by the receipt of insurance proceeds, applicable credits and salvage values due to the Applicant.

Navigating eligibility requirements for the FEMA PA Program requires planning and forethought before action. This brief description can help with pre-planning for disaster costs; however, for complete eligibility guidelines and additional resources, please visit the FEMA website at <http://www.fema.gov>.

Evacuation Planning and Support

CEMA recently held two evacuation planning meetings with local and State partners from Georgia and South Carolina. The purpose of these meetings was to review rolls and responsibilities of the agencies supporting Mandatory Evacuation Plans and the County's Evacuation Assembly Area Procedures.

When necessary, the successful evacuation of Chatham County when necessary depends on several influencing factors including timing, support, and the public's cooperation.



Current plans allow for between 28-36 hours to evacuate Chatham County ahead of the dangers posed by an approaching tropical storm and/or hurricane. Based on the latest storm forecasts from the National Hurricane Center, the local weather indicators from the National Weather Service Centers, and recommendations from the CEMA Director; the start of any mandatory evacuation is determined by the County's Command Policy Group. The CPG is made up of the County's jurisdictional elected officials and their primary staffs who share in the decision making process.

Supporting such an undertaking requires more than just our local resources. Agencies from across the State of Georgia are mobilized into our area and region to support an evacuation. State agencies involved include: Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security, Department of Transportation, Department of Public Safety, Department of Agriculture, Georgia Forestry Commission, and the Georgia Department of Defense. Coordinating with these agencies was a primary goal during the Mandatory Evacuation Planning meeting.



Even with everything in place, evacuation plans depend on people leaving when they are informed to do so. It is very important for people to heed mandatory evacuation guidance and leave as early as possible. Postponing one's departure during a mandatory evacuation

only contributes to traffic issues and the confusion as the threat/hurricane gets closer.

The Evacuation Assembly Area (EAA) is the designated location here in Chatham County where people without a way to get out of town can go to catch a ride to designated inland shelter locations. The Chatham EAA is the Savannah Civic Center.

The process sounds quite simple: get to the Civic Center, sign up, board a bus, take a ride to an inland shelter, stay a while then catch a ride back to Savannah when the storm passes. Like most things in life, there is a lot more to it.

As good an idea as this may be, going to the Civic Center to catch a ride out of town using public transportation should be the choice/means of last resort. This is a ride out of town to a safe but temporary Red Cross Shelter with a cot; not a vacation limo ride to the Hilton in Atlanta.

To simplify:

- There is no parking at the Civic Center. If you have a car to park, then you have a ride to get out of town!
- There are no baggage Porters. You must carry everything with you!
- Pets and Service Animals are allowed, but you are responsible to carry their supplies with you.
- Buses will be crowded, un-air conditioned school buses.
- It will be a long ride.
- Red Cross Shelters will be crowded with very little privacy.
- It could be several days/weeks before it will be possible to return to Savannah.



Bottom line is you should identify your method of transportation out of town and make all attempts to avoid using the EAA. Alternate sources of transportation might include arranging rides with family or friends; church or civic organizations; and even using commercial carriers (bus, train, and air).

A lot of effort goes into planning for and conducting the mandatory evacuation of a County the size of Chatham. Regardless how you and your family choose to get out of the area, the important thing is you leave! We all will come back and pick up the pieces after the storm is over; but that is a different plan.

Rabies: What You Need to Know

Recently, a feral kitten being fed by several neighbors in Wilmington Park on Wilmington Island tested positive for rabies. It is possible the kitten was exposed to rabies after contact with a rabid raccoon or another member of the Island's large wild and stray animal population.

To date, there have been eight confirmed human exposures to the rabies virus through contact with "Island Kitty". Anyone in the area that may have had contact with the kitten, a raccoon or other animal on the island, are advised to contact their healthcare provider and are asked to report the contact to Animal Control at (912) 525-2408.

Rabies is a potentially deadly virus that is primarily spread by infected animals. Symptoms of rabies in animals include a change in behavior, biting, aggression, showing no fear of natural enemies (such as humans), foaming at the mouth, and paralysis.

The Chatham County Health Department Environmental Health Division offers these tips to protect you and your family from rabies:

- Avoid contact with animals you don't know.
- Make sure your pets receive the proper immunizations. Dogs and cats should get rabies vaccines by four months of age, followed by a booster shot one year later, and another one every one to three years as prescribed by your veterinarian.

- Do not handle, feed, or unintentionally attract wild animals with open garbage cans or by leaving pet food out at night.
- Never adopt wild animals or bring them into your home. Do not try to nurse sick animals to health. Call animal control or a properly licensed animal rescue agency for assistance.
- Teach children to never handle unfamiliar animals, wild or domestic, even if they appear friendly. "Love your own, leave other animals alone" is a good principle for children to learn.
- Chatham County Health Department Environmental Health Division and Savannah Chatham Animal Control want to remind residents to always avoid contact with wild or stray animals, watch for unusual behavior in pets and wildlife, and get pets vaccinated against rabies.
- Remember, if an animal ever bites you, seek medical care immediately, then contact **Chatham County Animal Control at 525-2408 and the Chatham County Health Department Environmental Health Division at 356-2160.**

ESF 11a: Pet Safety

Red Cross Summer Swim Safety App



The American Red Cross has released a free new Swim App to promote water safety for parents and caregivers of young people learning how to swim.

The app allows iPhone, iPad, Android and Kindle Fire users to track their child's progress in Red Cross swim lessons and play safety-themed games to test their knowledge together.

"Learning how to swim and knowing how to act in and around the water helps prevent accidents and saves lives, and this free Red Cross Swim App is relevant for all children - not just those enrolled in swim lessons," said Peter G. Wernicki, MD, member of the American Red Cross Scientific Advisory Council and chair of its Aquatic Sub-Council.

Features of the Red Cross Swim App include:

- Progress tracker for goals achieved in swimming lessons
- Stroke videos and performance charts to help with proper techniques
- "Help your children" activities that reinforce what is covered in lessons
- Water safety information for parents on a variety of aquatic environments

Parents can create a profile for each child. Achievement badges can be shared with family and friends on social networks. The app has features specifically designed for children. A variety of kid-friendly games, videos and quizzes are included.

People can download the app for free in the Apple App Store, Google Play Store for Android or Amazon Kindle Store by searching for American Red Cross or by going to redcross.org/mobileapps. The Swim App is not a substitute for learning how to swim. Parents can contact their local pool, aquatic facility or park and recreation department and ask for Red Cross swim lessons. Additional water safety tips are available at redcross.org/water-safety.

The Swim App is the latest in a series of Red Cross apps, which includes apps for First Aid, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and wildfires. Red Cross apps have been downloaded on more than 4.8 million mobile devices.

ESF 6: Mass Care, Emergency Assistance and Human Services, American Red Cross

Law Enforcement's Role in Responding to Disasters

The law enforcement community has two vital roles when responding to disasters: to provide for the safety and security of the community and to be first responders during times of crisis. Responding to disasters is a shared responsibility. Every police officer is aware that emergency management planning is for all hazards and that it takes a team effort to keep our communities safe.

We ask a tremendous amount of our first responders during disasters and emergencies. They are the first line of defense; they are the first helping-hand extended to survivors. Every police officer knows emergencies can happen without notice. Our ability to respond to and recover from disasters is directly influenced by how well prepared our first responders are and how well we all work together as a team before, during, and after a crisis.

The role of law enforcement in responding to a disaster is very similar to the day-to-day role of public safety and supporting the community. In preparing for a disaster, police officers trust in their training and capitalize on their knowledge of the community. Exercises portraying the situations (large and small-scale events) help better prepare officers and allow them to fully understand the resources needed for each event and apply that information to each community's needs. Law enforcement officials know their communities best and interact with residents on a daily basis. This knowledge gives them the ability to provide valuable situational awareness to response and recovery groups coming in to help. For example, where will there be language barriers? Does the community have unique challenges? Law enforcement can help communicate this information to the emergency management team and can offer support to other members of the team by simply being a presence in the neighborhoods.

During a disaster, police officers play a key role in many operations including: search and rescue, evacuations, door-to-door checks, and maintaining overall public safety within the community. These are critical actions that support not only their own communities but neighboring towns as well.

Often the impacts of a natural disaster will devastate infrastructure causing the loss of electricity and water, making communities unsafe for both traffic and pedestrians. In these situations, police officers depend on their day-to-day skills and can reroute traffic, close roadways, and identify new routes for emergency responders. These actions maintain safety for the survivors and enable the rest of the emergency management team to do their jobs and focus on the more vulnerable populations.

Following a disaster, officers in collaboration with other first responders perform health and welfare checks on residents and work with local organizations to direct survivors to locations where further assistance can be found. It is important to remember that during a disaster, police have the same concerns as survivors: Is my family safe and what's the impact on my property?

In order to fulfill their primary mission of public safety, members of the law enforcement community need to prepare their staff and be prepared themselves. It is difficult to be a first responder when you are torn between serving the needs of your community and the needs of your own family. In this profession, it is vital to make sure you have

taken the necessary steps to protect your family so that you are able to support your community. It is critical to plan ahead and FEMA provides resources to help with this planning. Visit www.ready.gov/responder and take a look at FEMA's Ready Responder tool kit, which provides templates and information to help families and departments develop their own organizational preparedness plans.

FEMA also has tools that can help with response operations. The Incident Command System (ICS) is a standardized, on-scene, all-hazards incident management approach tool that allows for a common organizational structure, enables a coordinated response among various jurisdictions, and provides a common process for planning and managing resources. The system is often talked about as an organizational chart identifying the various components of planning, operations, logistics, and support. Primarily, the tool helps you to look at crises through a defined mission with goals and outcomes that everyone on the team understands, so everyone responding knows what they're going to do and everyone has accountability. This is where ICS can become an invaluable tool to law enforcement. In a disaster, we will perform the way we are trained and the way we operate every day. For more information on the ICS, please visit: www.fema.gov/incident-command-system.

Using an incident management system like ICS in day-to-day operations creates the structure to minimize risks and provide accountability. When several people are working on a crisis, it is critical that everyone knows where people are and who is doing what. Engaging in the emergency management planning process early and often is important and law enforcement departments must have active roles in emergency management planning. Knowing your local community's plan and who is in charge of maintaining it will keep you informed and provide accountability.

It is vital that each organization has input; without input, there is no ownership. Your department may be tasked with requirements that detract from your primary mission or conflict with your resource allocations. In law enforcement, each group should identify how to apply and integrate existing resources once you have achieved your primary mission: the safety and security of the community. Then, determine how to apply your capabilities to address other challenges presented by the disaster.

We rely on law enforcement every day to provide for the safety and security of our communities, and, during disasters, officers are the first on the scene to assist survivors. We appreciate our partnership with law enforcement and value their contributions as part of our Whole Community approach to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

Memorial's Jimmy Gordon Wins State Award

Jimmy Gordon, safety manager and emergency preparedness coordinator at Memorial University Medical Center in Savannah, has been named the top honoree statewide among the Georgia Hospital Association's (GHA) Regional Coordinating Hospitals (RCH).

Gordon received the state award at the Emergency Management Association of Georgia's 2014 Emergency Management Summit and Training Session at the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center. As GHA Director of Emergency Preparedness Adrienne Feinberg presented the award to him; his colleagues from across the state gave him a standing ovation.

The GHA divides the state into 14 geographic regions (plus a specialty hospital in Atlanta) and designates a regional coordinating hospital in each one. Memorial is this region's RCH, bearing many responsibilities in the wake of a natural or man-made disaster. Gordon is the man behind the hospital's preparedness to face such situations, and is also the regional coordinator for Region J, the 14-county region along the coast.

"You have earned that award and in so doing, you have honored Memorial and the entire team," said Ramon Meguiar, M.D., Memorial's senior vice president and chief medical officer, in congratulating Gordon. "We all appreciate your expertise, diligence, and professionalism. It is truly an honor and a privilege to work on the same team with you."

Gordon has worked at Memorial for eight years. Prior to that, he was

a manager at Effingham Hospital in Springfield for eight years, where his responsibilities included assistant nursing home administrator, safety officer manager, and environmental services manager. He also spent a year working at Morrison & Crothall, a company specializing in food, nutrition, and support services for hospitals and health systems.

Gordon's first career was in the U.S. military, where he served 20 years, primarily in aviation maintenance as first sergeant, instructor, and safety officer. He holds a Masters in Business Administration from Mercer University and a bachelor's degree from St. Leo University, St. Leo, Florida. His hobbies include RVing and motorcycle riding.

ESF 8: Public Health and Medical Services
Michael Notrica, Media Relations, Memorial Health

(From left) Ramon Meguiar, M.D., senior vice president and chief medical officer at Memorial University Medical Center, Courtney Cox, secretary, Engineering Administration, who works with Gordon, Jimmy Gordon, Jimmy Kicklighter, administrator of facilities maintenance at Memorial and John Drawdy, director of facilities maintenance at Memorial.



CEMA Presented with the Urban Planning Award for Community Resilience

On April 16th, Chatham County Organizations Active in Disaster (CCOAD) was granted the Urban Planning Award for Community Resilience at the opening of the 2014 Urban Planning Conference at Savannah State University.

The award is given to recognize outstanding contributions to community resilience through improved understanding of hazards, disaster mitigation or preparedness, for broad or special communities.

Under the Chatham Emergency Management Agency, CCOAD serves as an inclusive, collaborative organization for groups that have roles in disaster preparedness and response. The CCOAD concept of “Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster” includes public sector and business groups with volunteer organizations. A key benefit of this type of organization is that it engages public, private, non-profit, and community organizations in preparedness on an ongoing basis.

Retired U.S. Marshal and current CCOAD President, Tom Roberts presented the award to CEMA Director Clayton Scott for his active role and continuous support.

“This award is testament to the hard work put forth by all members of the organization,” says Scott. “CCOAD represents community and economic responsibility in the event of a disaster, and we wouldn’t be able to do what we do without them. It is my hope that Chatham County residents recognize the leaders in their community and support them when ever possible.”

ESF 7: Logistics Management and Resource Support

Business Continuity Planning

The goal behind a Business Continuity Plan (BCP) is to ensure timely and orderly continuance of essential functions during and after an emergency. To protect facilities, equipment, records, and other assets that support the essential functions and finally to reduce or mitigate disruptions to operations.

A BCP should be a comprehensive document that identifies and prioritizing which systems and processes must be sustained and provide the necessary information for maintaining them. While this is not a difficult plan to write, it does take time to build because of the amount of information that should be included.

INFORMATION TO INCLUDE IN YOUR BCP:

- Organization Chart (Identify Roles and Responsibilities)
- Alternate working location
- Key Personnel – Delegation of Authority and Lines of Succession
- Employee Contact List
- Supplier/Vendor Information
- Prioritized list of Mission Essential Functions
- Vital Records
- Critical Telephone Numbers
- Resources and Supplies Necessary for Working at Alternate Location
- Inventory of Equipment/Machinery/Vehicles
- Computer Equipment and Software
- Go-Kits
- Identify Methods of Communication



The Ready.gov website has a template you can use to start building your Business Continuity Plan. The template can be found at <http://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/BusinessContinuityPlan.pdf>

Once the Business Continuity Plan has been completed, time should be taken to exercise the document to ensure that the plan will work in the event of a disaster.

For more information regarding Business Continuity Planning you can visit the Chatham Emergency Management Agency’s website at www.chathamermegency.org and click on the “COOP Planning” link under the Businesses tab.

ESF 05: Emergency Management

Working Together in the Emergency Operations Center

Success is working together. In June, CEMA scheduled a special Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and WebEOC Training session for community partners and organizations that could be represented in the EOC during an activation. This year, we reached out to communication vendors, such as Verizon and utility provider Georgia Power. We were pleased when these agencies sent representatives to our classes. Georgia Power was very much involved with this process and enjoyed attending. They plan on sending additional personnel to future trainings and it's a bond we continue to strengthen. Several years ago, Georgia Power representative Wayne Grimes responded on short notice to the Annex EOC when the power went out during the St. Patrick's Festival. I was working in the EOC and I remember when he came through the door, sat at the Georgia Power desk and knew exactly what his priorities were. Next thing we knew, power was turning back on in the locations we needed. It was a pleasure to have him in class and know he will be back when we need him. It's proof that training works when skills are needed.



ESF 12: Energy

Catastrophic Insurance: Are You Covered?

Hurricane season is upon us. What if a storm hits your community, what next? Take this time to call your insurance agent to make sure you are covered. The good news about having homeowner's insurance is that your company should guide you in the proper direction before and after the disaster to help get you and your family back to normal as quickly as possible. Keep in mind however; most homeowner's policies don't cover water damage caused by a hurricane or storm surge. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will play a big role in your community if the disaster is a Presidentially declared event. You may 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, the Georgia 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 currently 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.

In 1968, Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to help provide a means for property owners to financially protect themselves. The NFIP offers flood insurance to homeowners, renters, and business owners if their community participates in the NFIP. Participating communities agree to adopt and enforce ordinances that meet or exceed FEMA requirements to reduce the risk of flooding.

If you rent, keep in mind that your landlord's insurance will not cover your personal items. What can you do before a disaster? Everyone should contact an insurance company to determine eligibility for insurance, and then obtain a policy.

Building Versus Contents Coverage

Flood insurance protects two types of insurable property: building and contents. The first covers your building, the latter covers your possessions; neither covers the land they occupy.

Building coverage includes:

- The insured building and its foundation
- The electrical and plumbing system
- Central air conditioning equipment, furnaces, and water heaters
- Refrigerators, cooking stoves, and built-in appliances such as dish washers

Contents coverage includes:

- Clothing, furniture, and electronic equipment
- Curtains
- Portable and window air conditioners
- Portable microwaves and dishwashers
- Carpeting that is not already included in property coverage
- Clothing washers and dryers

Field Day 2014 – The Amateur Radio Community’s Emergency Preparedness Exercise

Saturday, June 28th was the start of the annual Field Day exercise. It is held the last full weekend in June each year. It is a 24 hour event that starts at 2 pm on Saturday and runs until 2 pm on Sunday. This year the exercise was held at the National Guard Picnic area at Travis Field. The Coastal Amateur Radio Society (CARS) started setting up temporary antennas to cover 6, 10, 15, 20, 40, and 80 meters. Two of the antennas, 15 and 20 meters, were homemade 3 element yagi beams. One was on a telescoping 50’ tower trailer and the other was on a 24’ extension ladder lashed to a modified trailer. There was also a 10 meter Hex-Beam antenna mounted on a 25’ mast on another trailer. For the 40 and 80 meter radios, two dipoles strung from the trees; a 10 – 80 meter vertical antenna was also used.

For power, each station was connected to a battery and each of the batteries was connected to a battery charger which was in turn connected to a portable generator. The radio equipment was totally off the grid. Shore power was used to operate the seven computers used to

log the contacts. In a real emergency, the generator could have been used to run the computers or the “old fashion” pencil and paper method is always available.

The club operated seven different radio stations during the event with the designation of “7 A – GA”. Everyone who participated in the exercise were operating on emergency power. During the 24 hours of operation that started at 2 pm local time, the club made over 1000 different contacts. Operators ranged in age from 8 to 75 years of age. Most of the contacts were voice but a few were digital: CW, PSK, and RTTY.

The highlight of the event was the covered dish dinner Saturday night. The club furnished fried chicken, rotisserie chicken and tea, and the participants furnished various side dishes and desserts. One of the members even brought us two smoked Boston Buts. Needless to say, we ate like Kings.

ESF 02: Communications
Steve Jonas, ARES EC, Chatham County



Left: Memorial’s “Go Kit” with HF, VHF/UHF D-STAR, and ID-1 D-STAR Data Radio, power supply and tuner
Right: CEMA’s Mobile Emergency Operations Center at Stone Mountain
Below: License Testing (VE) Session – Our newest young ham



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Summer is here! The season is now synonymous with Home Depot's signature event: "The Home Depot Hurricane Expo". The Expo has become a welcome opportunity for Savannahians to speak with representatives of agencies and businesses which offer protection and relief from storms and the damage they may cause. Available were representatives from insurance companies, tree services, and restoration companies were available to discuss how to expedite the claims process. Other experts were there to talk about ways to prevent damage. Hundreds of residents attended, filling the parking lot and the tents.

For the past three years, CEMA has participated as a proud sponsor. This year, CEMA expanded its presence: CEMA/CERT volunteers



CERT Member Bert Adams

set up a village of tents near the main Expo tent. CERT volunteers in each small tent offered instruction in a specific subject related to emergency preparedness. Volunteers demonstrated water purification; cooking without power; how to prepare a "bug-out bucket"; how to attend to bleeding, burns, and how to recognize shock. CERT volunteers also instructed on important tips related to tornadoes and thunder storms. Things learned could be helpful in a variety of emergency situations. Residents strolled by and stopped for short five to ten minutes of instruction.

CEMA/CERT was particularly fortunate to be able to bring in medical professionals from Memorial Hospital and a representative

from the Humane Society.

Memorial's medical team occupied a tent which was identified as "The Doctor Is In". The team was available to answer questions and advise residents who wanted to know how to prepare for needed medications or other health issues in advance of emergency situations.



CERT Member Claire Slgman

This is a new concept for our preparedness festivals, and it was well received by the public.

Also, well received was the Humane Society tent. Many residents sought advice on how to arrange for care for their pets in emergencies especially evacuations. The Humane Society representative chatted with folks and provided take-home handouts.

All in all, it was a very satisfying experience for our CEMA/CERT volunteers and the Savannah residents.

We are excited about next year's "Home Depot Expo". Look for us there!



(From left) CERT Member George Walker demonstrates a "go bucket", Mary Anne Sillings and Leah Flowers demonstrate Power out cooking, water purification and disaster food. (Right) Memorial volunteers for "Doctor Is In".



ESF 15: External Affairs, Bert Adams

Food and Water in an Emergency

If an earthquake, hurricane, winter storm, or other disaster strikes your community, you might not have access to food, water, and electricity for days or even weeks. By taking some time now to store emergency food and water supplies, you can provide for your entire family.

As you stock food, take into account your family's unique needs and tastes. Familiar foods are important. They lift morale and give a feeling of security in times of stress. Try to include foods that they will enjoy and that are also high in calories and nutrition. Foods that require no refrigeration, water, special preparation, or cooking are best.

Individuals with special diets and allergies will need particular attention, as will babies, toddlers, and the elderly. Nursing mothers may need liquid formula, in case they are unable to nurse. Canned dietetic foods, juices, and soups may be helpful for ill or elderly people. Make sure you have a manual can opener and disposable utensils. Don't forget nonperishable foods for your pets.

STORAGE TIPS

- Keep food in a dry, cool spot—a dark area if possible.
- Open food boxes and other re-sealable containers carefully so that you can close them tightly after each use.
- Wrap perishable foods, such as cookies and crackers, in plastic bags and keep them in sealed containers.
- Empty open packages of sugar, dried fruits, and nuts into screw-top jars or air-tight canisters for protection from pests.
- Inspect all food for signs of spoilage before use.
- Throw out canned goods that become swollen, dented, or corroded.
- Use foods before they go bad, and replace them with fresh supplies, dated with ink or marker. Place new items at the back of the storage area and older ones in front.

SHELF LIFE

Use within six months:

- Powdered milk - boxed
- Dried fruit
- Dry, crisp crackers
- Potatoes

Use within one year, or before the date indicated on the label:

- Canned condensed meat and vegetable soups
- Canned fruits, fruit juices, and vegetables
- Ready-to-eat cereals and uncooked instant cereals
- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Hard candy and canned nuts
- Vitamins
- May be stored indefinitely (in proper containers and conditions):
- Wheat
- Vegetable oils
- Dried corn
- Baking powder
- Soybeans
- Instant coffee, tea, and cocoa
- Salt

- Noncarbonated soft drinks
- White rice
- Bouillon products
- Dry pasta
- Powdered milk – in nitrogen-packed cans

EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLIES

Having an ample supply of clean water is a top priority in an emergency. A normally active person needs to drink at least two quarts (half gallon) of water each day. People in hot environments, children, nursing mothers, and ill people will require even more. You will also need water for food preparation and hygiene. Store at least one gallon per person, per day. Consider storing at least a two-week supply of water for each member of your family.

To prepare the safest and most reliable emergency supply of water, it is recommended that you purchase commercially bottled water. Keep bottled water in its original container, and do not open it until you need to use it.

PREPARING YOUR OWN WATER CONTAINER

Preparing Containers:

- Thoroughly clean the bottles with dishwashing soap and water, and rinse completely so there is no residual soap.
- Additionally, for plastic soft drink bottles, sanitize the bottles by adding a solution of 1 teaspoon of non-scented liquid household chlorine bleach to a quart (1/4 gallon) of water. Swish the sanitizing solution in the bottle so that it touches all surfaces. After sanitizing the bottle, thoroughly rinse out the sanitizing solution with clean water.

Filling Water Containers:

- Fill the bottle to the top with regular tap water. (If your water utility company treats your tap water with chlorine, you do not need to add anything else to the water to keep it clean.) If the water you are using comes from a well or water source that is not treated with chlorine, add two drops of non-scented liquid household chlorine bleach to each gallon of water.
- Tightly close the container using the original cap. Be careful not to contaminate the cap by touching the inside of it with your fingers. Write the date on the outside of the container so that you know when you filled it. Store in a cool, dark place.
- Replace the water every six months if not using commercially bottled water.

If Disaster Strikes, Will Your House of Worship Be Ready?

Hurricane Season 2014 is underway. Are you, your members and your facility ready? This time of year Savannah residents begin to think about hurricanes, but the truth is we should be prepared for all the hazards we face.

In times of crisis, many people look to faith-based organizations for guidance and support. As part of Praise & Preparedness – a new initiative launched by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security (GEMA), houses of worship and faith based organizations are encouraged to attend a free orientation to learn how to ‘prepare, plan and stay informed. You can help reduce the impact of any large-scale emergency on your organization, your members and your facility.



- **Georgia Emergency Management Agency / Homeland Security** will present details on the Praise and Preparedness Program and show how you can bring it to your congregation.
- **Savannah Chatham Metropolitan Police** will provide information on how you can enhance security at your facility during services and after hours.
- **Savannah Fire & Emergency Services/Emergency Management** will provide information on how you can better protect your facility for hazards and prevent fires.
- **Savannah Heritage Emergency Response** will share resources on how you can protect the historical and culturally significant documents and artifacts within your facility.

We invite the representatives (deacon, chairman, elder, etc.) from each church to attend. Please RSVP to Savannah Emergency Management Director-Dan Stowers by calling (912) 652-3812 or e-mail dstowers01@savannahga.gov.

ESF 11c: Historical Properties
Laura Seifert, Chairperson, Savannah Heritage Emergency Response

Evacuating? Don't Forget Your Documents!

Safe deposit boxes are not waterproof! When evacuating, consider taking these important documents with you:

- Shot Records for all family members (including pets)
- Medical and dental records
- Copies of all prescriptions
- Bank account and safe deposit box information
- Monthly bill information and addresses/phone numbers
- Vehicle and insurance documentation
- Marriage certificate
- Birth certificates for all family members
- Citizenship papers
- Adoption papers
- Passports with any required visas
- List of Social Security numbers for family members
- Power of Attorney
- State and federal tax records
- Wills
- Insurance policies
- List of immediate family addresses and their phone numbers
- Court orders: divorce, child support, child custody, etc.
- Real estate documents: e.g. leases, deeds, and mortgages
- Copies of any installment contracts: car, furniture, etc.
- Pet records and supplies

Stepping Out of Your Comfort Zone

Each year brings about routine changes; however, some changes are unexpected. Stepping out of our comfort zones can affect the structure and foundation of our households as well as our lives and those of our significant others.

Natural and man-made disasters cause rapid and unexpected changes that necessitate immediate action. Anticipating threatening situations prior to their occurrence is the cornerstone of emergency planning. Preparation for unforeseen circumstances is essential to both home and business continuity planning. Preparing solutions in advance of a catastrophe is the key to what could otherwise wreak tragic consequences.

Planning for being outside of our comfort zone is an essential endeavor; it benefits those we care about the most. An excellent example of being outside one's comfort zone was provided by one of the worst storms in East Coast history: Hurricane Sandy, which created a rude awakening from insufficient preparation.

CEMA recommends using the FEMA guidelines on "Preparing for Family Disasters":

"To start preparing for an emergency or disaster before anything happens you should find reliable information, warning systems and alert systems in advance. Family communications are of utmost importance. Meet with the family and consider adults, children and PETS".

- How you will get to a safe place?
- How you will contact each other?
- How you will get back together?
- What you will do in different situations?

Anticipating and carefully preparing for each of these issues will enable you and your family to step out of your comfort zone and know that you can still recover.

Preparedness

5 Gallon Evacuation Kit



Building Your Five Gallon Emergency Kit Can Save You Money and Help You Survive a Disaster.

A kit should always be tailored to what's likely to happen in your area and your family's needs.

Hygiene Supplies

- bar soap
- tissues
- floss
- baby shampoo
- hand lotion
- sunscreen
- toothpaste
- toothbrushes
- feminine hygiene pads
- comb
- toilet paper
- wash cloths

- sewing kit
- blank notebook
- pencils
- batteries (for flashlight and radio)
- zip ties
- P-38 can opener
- trash bags
- N95 dust masks
- duct tape
- small tarp
- paracord
- safety goggles
- work gloves

General Supplies

- glow sticks (12 hrs)
- flashlight
- liquid candle
- matchbooks
- mylar blankets
- hand warmers
- AM/FM radio
- whistle and lanyard

First Aid Supplies

- basic first-aid guide
- moist towelettes
- antiseptic towelettes
- latex gloves
- acetaminophen (Tylenol)
- aspirin
- diphenhydramine (Benadryl)
- loperamide (Imodium A-D)

- burn cream
- sting relief towelettes
- hydrocortisone cream
- earplugs
- instant ice pack
- tweezers
- nail clippers
- scissors
- digital thermometer
- cotton balls
- waterproof adhesive tape
- gauze rolls
- gauze pads
- moleskin
- band-aids
- butterfly bandages
- ace bandage
- triangular bandage
- hand sanitizer
- Q-tips

Pet Supplies

- collar
- leash
- medical and vaccination records
- food, water, treats, toys



SPOTLIGHT



MEREDITH LEY

Meredith joined CEMA in March of 2014 as the Public Information Officer to oversee media relations. She also serves as the Volunteer Coordinator and handles the Community Emergency Response Team.

Before working for the county, she was a freelance writer and a television reporter for three and a half years at the local NBC affiliate, WSAV. Ms. Ley covered a variety of important weather and breaking news stories--including man made and natural disasters.

Meredith is no stranger to severe weather and preparedness. She often found herself knee deep in rising flood waters or in the wake of a nasty storm. As a journalist, she knows the importance of community awareness, acting fast and having a severe weather plan.

Outside Looking In

I am a senior at Savannah State University majoring in Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Throughout my college coursework I have gained a vast amount of information in the Emergency Management field that I recently had the opportunity to apply in real life situation while interning at CEMA. My collegiate course work mainly focused on the phases of Emergency Management including preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery from disasters. However, one could never fully understand what happens in an Emergency Operations Center until you get to experience it first-hand. This incredible opportunity has given me insight into the behind the scenes efforts that help the community function safely on a daily basis.

CEMA has a great working relationship with many municipal agencies such as law enforcement, fire departments, and Emergency Medical Services in case of an emergency or disaster. Plans, policies and, procedures are routinely tested within CEMA, as well with other departments and organizations to identify potential gaps in planning and/or resources that may impact the community. CEMA is very receptive to community input. Recently at workshop for developing the Disaster Recovery Plan, it was incredible to see such a wide variety of community organizations understand the need for a

plan, as well as give their input on what should be included in the plan. Members also recognized that some organizations should be added to the planning process in order to get a comprehensive plan that truly and accurately represents the community. It's the little things like that, that give me the passion to continue in this career field. The simple thought of knowing that you can have a positive impact on thousands of lives, whether they know it or not, is a truly special feeling. The small tasks like identifying traffic control points, or confirming debris management sites don't seem like mundane tasks any more. Every little detail could have an impact on the way we mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

I have been able to apply my knowledge in a variety of different projects while interning at CEMA. I took great pleasure in the opportunity to be involved with each one. It didn't take more than a day to confirm that this indeed was the path I wanted to take in life. Emergency Management for me is not just a job or a career- it's a passion.



Randall Mathews
CEMA Intern

2014 Hazard Mitigation Planning

After the passage of The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, it became law that communities must create, and update a Hazard Mitigation Plan every five years. Information is gathered through a variety of sources including census data, tax assessment data, through all of the County's municipalities, as well as private, and non-profit organizations. CEMA will engage in public meetings to address the changes in the community that have happened since the last plan update, as well as receive input from citizens to ensure that appropriate vulnerabilities are addressed in the plan.

Included in the plan are the specific threats that the County faces, as well as the capability of the County to respond to these threats. After using this basic formula, it can then be determined what will have the most impact on the community. By identifying these vulnerabilities, steps can be taken to mitigate the impact on the community, making the community stronger and more disaster resilient.



Calendar

MEETINGS

CERT Bi-Monthly Meeting

July 17, 6-7:30PM

Sycamore Church
1914 E.52nd Street
Laura Watson
LK5860@aol.com

Recovery Planning Refresher

July 21, 2-4PM

Savannah Civic Center
Kate Busbee
kbusbee@chathamemergency.org

RSF 1: Community Planning & Capacity Building

July 22, 9-12:30PM

Savannah Civic Center
Kate Busbee
912-201-4500

RSF 2: Economic Recovery

July 22, 1-4PM

Savannah Civic Center
Kate Busbee
912-201-4500

RSF 3: Health and Social Services

July 23, 9-12PM

Savannah Civic Center
Kate Busbee
912-201-4500

MEETINGS

RSF 4: Housing

July 23, 1-4PM

Savannah Civic Center
Kate Busbee
912-201-4500

RSF 5: Infrastructure

July 24, 9-12PM

Savannah Civic Center
Kate Busbee
912-201-4500

RSF 6: Natural and Cultural Resources

July 24, 1-4PM

Savannah Civic Center
Kate Busbee
912-201-4500

RSF 7: VOAD

July 25, 6-12PM

Savannah Civic Center
Kate Busbee
912-201-4500

TRAINING

CEMA SAR Training

August 9, 8-5PM

Don Sullens
dsullens@chathamcounty.org
912-201-4500

CEMA NSAR Training

September 13-14, 8-5 PM

Don Sullens
dsullens@chathamcounty.org
912-201-4500

CEMA NSAR Training

October 4-5, 8-5PM

Don Sullens
dsullens@chathamcounty.org
912-201-4500

CEMA CERT Training

October 4-5, 11

8:30-5PM
Southside Fire., Station #3
2009 Grove Point Road
Meredith Ley
maley@chathamcounty.org
912-201-4500

TRAINING/SPECIAL

CEMA SAR Training

November 15-16, 8-5PM

Don Sullens
dsullens@chathamcounty.org
912-201-4500

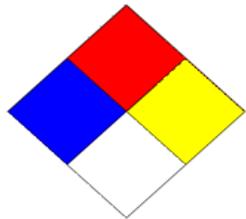
Outdoor Siren Test

Aug. 6, Sep. 3, Oct. 1

Countywide
Dustin Hetzel
912-201-4500
djhetzel@chathamcounty.org

Cleaning up a HAZMAT Situation

Emergency Management is based on a national framework. This framework in essence gives the nation the ability to respond to, recover from, and mitigate disasters.



Most funding for emergency management agencies comes from government assistance. The main stakeholder is FEMA; the agency provides guidelines and other essential resources to ensure the nation's preparedness.

There are a variety of ways the Federal government supports local, state, and tribal governments. For preparedness applications the federal government provides funding in the form of non-disaster grants. These grants are used to enhance the capabilities of the state and local partners. Capabilities enhanced by such grants include: inter-city transit security (which supports Chatham Area Transit), port security, National special events security (which supports the Super Bowl), and much more. By improving these areas, the community itself becomes more resilient and is better able to respond to and recover from an emergency.

Another major grant that supports the functions of agencies around the country is Emergency Management Performance Grant.

The purpose of these grants is to assist state, local, and territorial and tribal governments in preparing for all hazards. This helps those jurisdictions implement the national preparedness system as well as achieve the national preparedness goal. As of 2013, \$332,456,012 has been set aside to support the goal. This top down approach helps unify each jurisdiction and thus improves efficiency down through the levels of government.

To ensure that funding is level across the board, agencies must maintain an accurate risk analysis of their particular area. A risk analysis informs officials of the problems that could affect the area and validates the need for funding to mitigate those problems. Agencies must also keep the public engaged and aware of risks as well as ways in which they lessen such hazards. This communication comes in the form of press conferences, pamphlets, meetings, and sit-downs with community leaders as well as elected officials. Preparing citizens as well as the government in the event of a disaster ensures that loss of life and property are diminished.

ESF 10: Hazardous Materials Response

CERTs Complete 20 Hour Program

Congratulations to the newest members of the Chatham County Community Emergency Response Team. Nearly two 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 June 28th at Southside Fire Station #3. If you are interested in taking a CERT class contact the CEMA office. Training is free.



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:** Meredith Ley, maley@chathamemergency.org
- **Deadline:** October 2nd, 2014
- **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.

CLAYTON S. SCOTT
DIRECTOR

DENNIS JONES
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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