

C E M A S I G N A L

Chatham Emergency Management Agency

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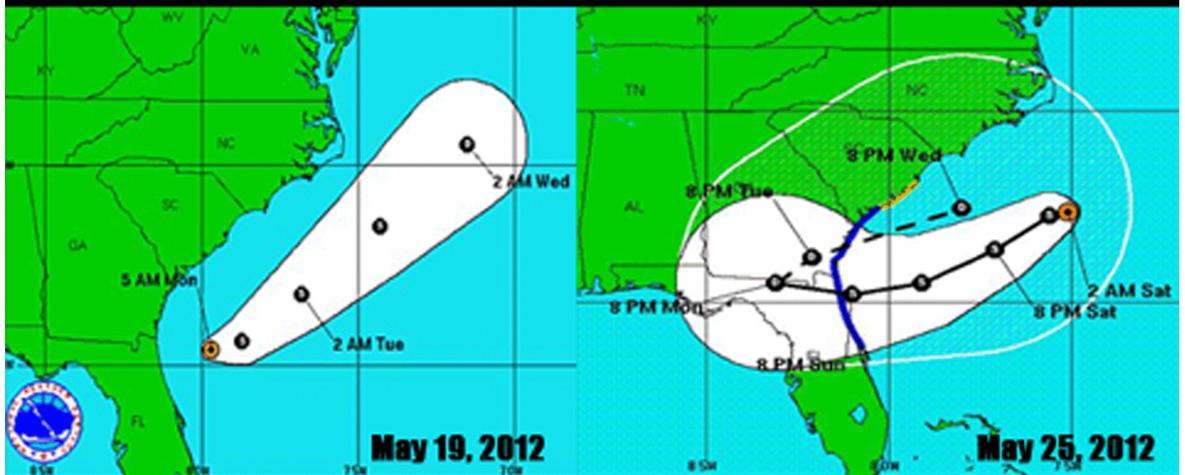
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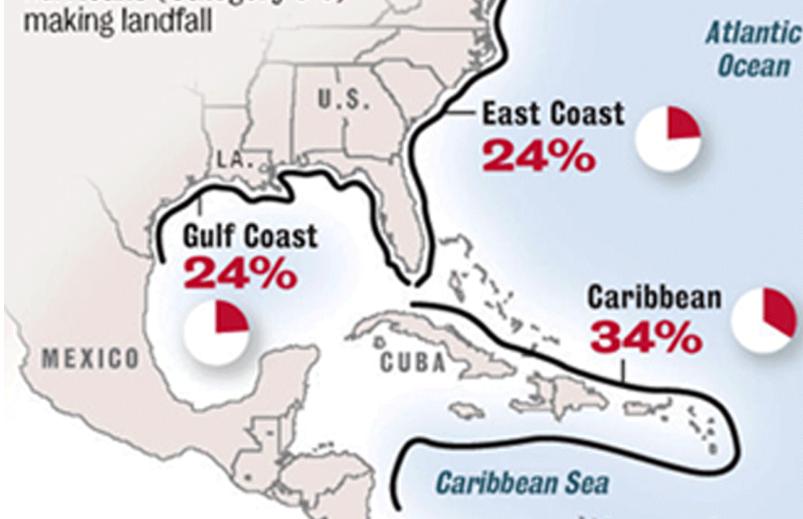
ALBERTO

BERYL

MAJOR HURRICANE LANDFALL PREDICTION

Chance of a major hurricane (Category 3-5) making landfall

Source:
Colorado State
University



NOAA 2012 Season Predictions

Near-normal season

70 percent chance of nine to 15 named storms

four to eight will become hurricanes

of those one to three will become major hurricanes (Category 3,4,5)



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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



In less than a week, the 2012 Hurricane Season will be here. Despite the forecast of a below average season, the reality is that it takes only one catastrophic storm to wreak havoc on Chatham County. This past year, CEMA has gone to great lengths to improve our hurricane plans. Just two weeks ago, CEMA and numerous county agencies participated in a statewide Hurricane Exercise (HURREX), conducted in partnership with the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA). GEMA requires counties to conduct full-scale exercises every two years. This year, the county's Functional and Special Medical Needs Evacuation, General Public Evacuation, Joint Information Center, Aviation Support and Control, and the Planning Section of the Emergency Operations Center were exercised. The full-scale exercises allow us to take our

plans off the shelves and evaluate their effectiveness before the hurricane season. In all, nearly 600 people were involved over the three days of exercising and CEMA would like to thank everyone who participated.

CEMA continues to update the county's emergency operations plans and each Emergency Support Function (ESF) is being evaluated for strengths and weaknesses and what improvements can be made. Updates are currently in the works and by summer, the goal is to have each ESF complete. You can find the current plans on CEMA's website, www.chathamemergency.org, under the "About" section.

In July, CEMA will once again take part in the annual Home Depot Hurricane Expo sponsored by Home Depot and WTOC. The event will be held July 21 at the Home Depot on Abercorn Street from 9am to 12pm. CEMA will provide information regarding storm surge, hurricane preparedness, and other natural disasters.

One of the things that we are taking a long hard look at this year is using the word "Voluntary" when it comes to evacuations. The

word implies there is a choice; however, if a major storm threatens Chatham County residents must evacuate the county. CEMA is considering changing the term "Voluntary" to "Early" or "Recommended", in hopes that people will make the smart decision to leave the county if they are advised to do so. More on that in the coming months.

Chatham County clearance times will also change in the near future. Clearance times are how long it takes counties to evacuate the entire population. With population growth along the coast, the amount of time to get everyone out safely before the arrival of tropical storm force winds will obviously be longer. The Army Corps of Engineers is the agency conducting the new Hurricane Evacuation Study and we should see the results soon.

Again, we hope that you are prepared for the upcoming hurricane season and just because we may not see a lot of tropical action, don't let your guard down. Continue to prepare as you normally do, take a close look at your plans, and make sure you are ready.

*Clayton S. Scott,
Director*

The Countdown to the 2012 Hurricane Season—Are You Ready?

Ron Morales, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, National Weather Service, Charleston

Every year prior to the official hurricane season, which runs from June 1 to November 30, meteorologists in the private, public, and academic sectors produce an outlook for the season's tropical activity. Colorado State University (CSU), led by Dr. Bill Gray and his associates, was one of the first entities to issue such a forecast, and has been doing so for nearly 30 years. They issue their first forecast as early as December, about six months before the official hurricane season, and then release several more updates of the forecast through the spring and summer.

Over the past decade or so, the private and public sectors have also begun producing their own hurricane season forecasts. In particular, we will focus on the one produced by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Climate Prediction Center (CPC), which is a federal government agency. NOAA issues their first tropical season outlook in late May, then makes a few more updates throughout the tropical season, similar to CSU.

So, what are these forecasts and what do they mean for you? Although there is a lot of research and science that goes into these seasonal

forecasts, it is important to understand that outlooks produced by NOAA only predict the total number of "named storms" (sustained winds of 39 mph or higher) that are expected to develop across a certain ocean basin during the tropical season, and not where or when the storms will strike. The term: "named storms" includes both tropical storms (39 to 73 mph) and hurricanes (74 mph or higher). Also, the ocean basin that we are concerned with for our tropical cyclone season forecast is the Atlantic Basin, which includes the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea.

We will now look at a simple example of a tropical season forecast to illustrate how it should be interpreted. Let's say NOAA issues a forecast that states the following:

- 13 to 19 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher)
- seven to 11 of these named storms could reach hurricane strength (winds of 74 mph+)
- four to six hurricanes could become major (winds of 111 mph or higher).

To put this forecast into climatological perspective, we can compare it to the number of tropical systems that typically form in an "average" year. Currently, the averages for the Atlantic basin are as

follows: named storms (11), hurricanes (six), and major hurricanes (two). Therefore, this forecast example is predicting a much above normal amount of named storms, hurricanes, and major hurricanes. From this example, all you can really conclude is that the tropical season is expected to produce a greater than normal number of tropical storms, hurricanes, and major hurricanes.

In summary, knowing the total number of tropical systems expected to develop during the season can be useful, especially by the media, to heighten the public's awareness of the coming tropical season. However, ultimately you need to prepare the same for every season, regardless of the number of storms that are forecast to develop. Take 1992 as an example. That was the year when Major Hurricane Andrew devastated southeast Florida. The season ended up being much below normal in terms of total number of named tropical systems, with only six, but that likely didn't matter to folks of southeast Florida. To them that one major hurricane made it a very bad year. Are you prepared for a "bad year"? For additional information about hurricanes and how to be better prepared, visit: www.nhc.noaa.gov, and www.ready.gov.

IT ONLY TAKES ONE

2012 Chatham County Hurricane Conference

The 2012 Chatham County Hurricane Conference hosted by CEMA was the biggest yet, held on May 1 at the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center. 389 people attended the one-day event focused on hurricane planning, response, and recovery. Philip Weber, Preparedness Program Manager for Witt Associates and former Director of CEMA, said what once started as a small scale conference has increased in strength. "It's just grown exponentially and it's a tribute to your partners, to the people across the county that breathe life into your hurricane planning and hurricane program," said Weber.

This year's conference featured 27 different workshops geared toward a variety of topics including volunteer management, damage assessment,

first responder safety, public assistance and public information. Charley English, Director of Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA), kicked off the conference and the guest speaker of the conference was Dennis Manley, Director of Quality and Risk Management at St. John's Regional Medical Center. Manley spoke about the evacuation of the hospital following a devastating EF-5 tornado that ripped through Joplin, Missouri last year.

Something new to the conference was a panel discussion focused on Hurricane Recovery. Panelists from Georgia Department of Transportation, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Georgia National Guard, Georgia Power and GEMA took questions from the

audience to provoke a discussion on hurricane recovery. The goal of the panel was to discuss where we are in hurricane planning, where we need to be and how we get there.

Partners from Chatham County agencies and organizations as well as individuals from surrounding counties attended the conference and for Pooler Fire Chief Wade Simmons, the interaction with other agencies is a key element in his disaster planning. "Us dealing with fire rescue in general, we don't get a lot of the disaster planning and some of the other stuff you would normally see. Coming here it gets our feet wet, gets us some contacts, we can see what that information is and we start moving forward," said Simmons.

Emergency management Building a Better tomorrow

"If you have a hurricane it's going to affect many areas in the community and it's not just police and fire and emergency people. It's going to affect public works, the health department and many other things."

Pete Liakakis,
Chatham County Chairman

"So when we have an incident of some type, we can say, hey I just saw them, I just talked to them, they will know who you are, you can get whatever resources you need coming to you."

Chief Wade Simmons,
Pooler Fire Department

2012 Chatham County Hurricane Conference



CEMA Director Clayton Scott leads a panel discussing hurricane response and recovery.

389 ATTENDEES

**CEMA, GEMA, FEMA,
POOLER FIRE, LIBERTY
COUNTY EMA,
AMERICAN RED
CROSS...**

27 WORKSHOPS

45 PRESENTERS



CEMA Volunteers Laura Watson and Patricia Gibbs. Volunteers help during the conference.



Dan Stowers, GEMA, discusses ways to use CERT volunteers before, during and after a disaster.

**NETWORKING, SHARING,
BEST PRACTICES,
PLANNING**



If you don't look hard enough, you might not

even realize the change. We're talking about the slight change of the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale; a one degree difference. The change boils down to rounding issues. The National Hurricane Center (NHC) and Central Pacific Hurricane (CPHC) assign intensities of hurricanes in 5-knot (kt) increments. For advisory products, these intensities are converted to miles per hour (mph) and kilometers per hour (km/h), and then

Minor Changes to Hurricane Wind Scale

rounded to the nearest 5-mph or 5-km/h increments.

The problem comes when the current Category 4 intensity is 115 kt (132.3 mph). Although 115 kt is within the Category 4 range, the equivalent rounded wind speed in mph is 130 mph, which is in the Category 3 range. To classify the hurricane as a Category 4 in both sets of units (kt and mph), NHC and CPHC must incorrectly convert 115 kt to 135 mph in the advisory products. The problem is the same when the current Category 4 intensity of 135 kt is converted to km/h.

There will be no change to the wind speeds currently assigned to Categories 1 and 2.

- Category 3: 111-129 mph (96-112 kt, 178-208 km/h)
- Category 4: 130-156 mph (113-136 kt, 209-251 km/h)
- Category 5: 157 mph or higher (137 kt or higher, 252 km/h or higher)

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale provides information on wind impacts only.

Hurricane Stability Plan

Jennifer Rodriguez, Emergency Coordinator, CEMA
ESF 14a: Recovery

What happens when the wind stops blowing and the storm surge resides? It may seem obvious that we do what response and planning organizations do; work to rescue people, restore power, clear debris, conduct a damage assessment, and ultimately get our community stabilized.

Recovery is one of the hardest phases of emergency management to practice and plan for, because ultimately it is storm dependent and, thankfully, we don't do it on a regular basis. The Hurricane Response Timeline and checklist is there to help us as a community prepare to evacuate safely and ensure that we do not forget anything as we work to protect lives and property. Just in the same way the Hurricane Response

Timeline has become a staple to planning for a hurricane, CEMA has developed, in partnership with all the Emergency Support Function's (ESF)

The goal is to stabilize the community and get to a place where we can start looking at what it is going to take to rebuild...

and other partners, the Hurricane Stability Timeline. This timeline focuses on the activities that we, as a community, need to participate in during the first 72 hours after the winds stop blowing.

The goal is to stabilize the community and get it to a place where we can start looking at what it is going to take to rebuild and define our new normal. While we hope this document does not ever have to be used, it is necessary that we think beyond the wind blowing and the storm surge and know what it is we have to do, without missing something. The stability timeline is available from CEMA staff members and will be updated regularly during the year to ensure it is up to date with best practices and policies of disaster response. If you have not had a chance to look at it, please take a moment to before Hurricane Season and let us know if we missed anything in regards to your ESF or Emergency Operations Center Section.

Operating What? Understanding OPCONs

CEMA Operating Conditions or OPCONs, summarize the major Emergency Operations Center actions that are taken to prepare for and respond to a tropical cyclone. The OPCON structure uses timelines that refer to the arrival of 39 mph tropical storm force winds; not the arrival of the hurricane's center which is officially referred to as landfall.

OPCONs are cumulative and progress through hurricane operations from day-to-day monitoring and preparedness (OPCON 5) through the direct impact of a tropical cyclone (OPCON 1).

- **OPCON 5 - Normal Operations**

Preparedness Phase

OPCON 5 is the routine operating level of the CEMA EOC during hurricane season (June 1 - November 30) when there is no direct threat from a tropical cyclone. Typical actions include reviewing and updating operational plans, developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and conducting training, exercises, public outreach and education. Regular monitoring of the Atlantic Basin is conducted for tropical systems that may threaten coastal Georgia. When a threat is identified Emergency Management partners work collectively to accomplish responsibilities identified in the CEMA Emergency Operations Plan.

- **OPCON 4 - Monitoring and Potential Impact within 120 Hours**

Monitoring Phase

OPCON 4 is an advanced stage of readiness. This condition is qualified by the possible impact of a tropical cyclone within five days or 120 hours as represented graphically by the National Hurricane Center forecast track error cone.

This condition is initiated when Chatham County is threatened by direct or indirect effects of a tropical cyclone. Indirect threats typically involve the influx of evacuees from a threatened state while direct threats refer to the arrival of tropical cyclone related hazards such as storm surge, wind, tornadoes, and torrential rain. During OPCON 4 the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will be limited

activation (EOC Level III) with minimal staff; threat information will be disseminated to disaster partners and regional conference calls will be held with EMAs in threatened areas and/or neighboring states. Preparedness efforts will be coordinated with GEMA, NHC, NWS and other local EMAs.

- **OPCON 3 - Watch/Warning - Potential Impact within 72 Hours**

Tracking Phase

OPCON 3 is the significant elevation of the threat posed by a tropical cyclone. During this condition tropical cyclone-related hazards such as tropical storm force winds of 39 mph are forecast to directly impact Chatham within 72 hours. During OPCON 3, the EOC will be partially activated (EOC Level II) with relevant staffing.

- **OPCON 2 - Evacuation - Potential Impact within 48 Hours**

Response Phase

OPCON 2 is the operational level where multilateral protective actions are initiated. During this condition actions are taken to support both inter- and intra-state evacuations and in preparation of the direct impact from a tropical cyclone. During OPCON 2, the EOC will be fully activated (EOC Level I) with necessary staffing; and evacuation of functional and medical needs patients and nursing homes.

- **OPCON 1 - Threat - Potential Impact within 24 Hours**

Threat Phase

OPCON 1 is the most elevated level of operational preparedness. During this condition protective action is taken in anticipation of the direct impact from a tropical cyclone.



Public Transportation During an Evacuation: Last Resort

*Don Sullens, EM Specialist, CEMA
ESF 01: Transportation*

When a hurricane threatens the coast of Georgia and Chatham County residents are advised to leave town, they should not hesitate. CEMA tells residents that it's their responsibility to find a way to evacuate; however, a large number of citizens can't leave on their own. Because of this, one of the County's plans involves evacuating people and busing them to shelters in Augusta, Georgia.

For those without transportation, Chatham County will provide transportation assistance using available public resources. When an evacuation order is issued for a major storm, CEMA coordinates the opening of the County's Evacuation Assembly Area (EAA) at the Savannah Civic Center. Those in need of transportation can walk to or be dropped off at the EAA as well as ride a county bus. Chatham Area Transit (CAT) will provide free rides to the EAA from any established CAT bus stop.

Each person is allowed to bring a *maximum* of two hand-carry bags. Make sure you bring any medications you are taking. There is no baggage assistance available at the Civic

Center, and space on evacuation buses is limited. Mark your bags so they are easy to identify.

If you must evacuate, you should not leave your pets behind. If you're using public transportation, there will be arrangements made with the inland destinations to shelter animals; however, available space is extremely limited. With that in mind, do your best to make other arrangements for your pets and assemble a portable pet disaster supply kit. Keep the supplies in an accessible place and store them in a sturdy container that can be easily carried. Bring a record of your pet's rabies shot.

Prepare yourself, it won't be a vacation. The availability of public transportation is not meant to be a convenient alternative for you and your family during an evacuation. Using public transportation is the means of last resort, your last choice.

Even a small storm may result in widespread power outages lasting up to a week or more. A more serious storm may cause flooding, structural damage, power outages and loss of cell phone communications for some time. Shortages of food and drinkable

water can also be expected. There are no public hurricane shelters in Chatham County.

REMEMBER

- You can take **ONLY** what you can carry
- Lines may be long and buses may not be immediately available
- It's going to be **HOT**
- Transportation services may not be air-conditioned
- It will be a long and slow ride
- You are not going to a hotel
- Inland destinations will most likely be Public Shelters established in available facilities
- Personal space in the shelters may be limited to a cot and its immediate area
- After the event is over, you will be provided return transportation only when local officials render the area safe and resources are available

2012 ATLANTIC HURRICANE NAMES

**ALBERTO,
BERYL, CHRIS, DEBBY, ERNESTO, FLORENCE,**

Functional and Medical Needs Clients Urged to Register in Case of Hurricane Evacuation

*Sally Silbermann, Public Information Officer, Chatham Health Department
ESF 08: Medical Services*

Coastal communities have been lucky when it comes to hurricanes, but weather experts agree that it's only a matter of time before Georgia gets hit by a major storm. That's why Chatham County Health Department and CEMA officials are encouraging those with functional or medical needs to apply to Chatham County's Functional and Medical Needs Registry (previously known as the Special Medical Needs Registry). Residents should plan ahead and apply to be on the Registry *before* a storm is threatening our area.

The Chatham County Health Department maintains the Registry which is made up of residents who may require transport and medical assistance during a hurricane evacuation and have no other resources such as family, friends, neighbors, or church members to help. Residents must apply to be on the registry.

Those on the Registry will be evacuated to an American Red Cross shelter (not a hotel) that will likely be in a gymnasium or similar setting. The Registry is truly a last resort, but if a hurricane is threatening our area, it is

important CEMA and Health Department officials know where the most vulnerable residents are located so that evacuation assistance can be provided to them.

Functional needs registrants/clients are defined as those individuals who may need services to maintain their independence in a shelter. This includes children and adults with physical, sensory, mental health, and cognitive or intellectual disabilities affecting their ability to function independently without assistance. Others may include women in late stages of pregnancy, elders, and people needing bariatric equipment.

Medical needs registrants/clients are defined as those individuals who require support of trained medical professionals. This includes those individuals who may need assistance with managing unstable, terminal, or contagious conditions that require observation and ongoing treatment.

To register call Cathy Schmid, R.N., at the Chatham County Health Department at 912-353-3255.

Once you provide your mailing information, you will be sent an

enrollment form to complete and return to the health department.

The application can also be downloaded from the Coastal Health District website at: www.gachd.org/emergency-preparedness. When the form has been completed, it can be mailed to:

Chatham County Health
Department
Attn: Cathy Schmid R.N.,
Functional/Medical Needs
Coordinator
1395 Eisenhower Drive
Savannah, GA 31406

For more information on the Functional and Medical Needs Registry, go to www.gachd.org and click on the Emergency Preparedness tab at the top of the home page.

It is important to note that people living in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and personal care homes are not eligible for the Functional Medical and Needs Registry and must follow their facility's emergency plan.

**GORDON, HELENE, ISAAC, JOYCE, KIRK, LESLIE,
MICHAEL, NADINE, OSCAR, PATTY, RAFAEL,
SANDY, TONY, VALERIE, WILLIAM**

HURREX 2012

Chatham Emergency Management Agency



John Doe is a Chatham County resident seeking transportation out of the County before Hurricane Jerry, a category three storm with intense winds, hits the Georgia Coast. Chatham County is expected to see major flooding and an increase in tornado activity. Doe is one of thousands of residents with no means of private transportation to escape the devastation so he is relying on the County's public evacuation plan.

This fortunately is an exercise and not the real deal. The exercise of the county's Evacuation Assembly Area (EAA), where people are bussed out of the county, was part of a week-long statewide hurricane exercise (HURREX). Within the week of exercising, the largest and most comprehensive was this simulated evacuation that occurred at the Savannah Civic Center. Were an actual evacuation to occur, this function would accommodate all Chatham County residents who have no means of private transportation.

"HURREX provides the county with the opportunity to evaluate our plans and establish what we are doing right and what we can improve upon. It is not often that we get to bring all the agencies together to actually practice and

evaluate the plans that we have developed," said Master Exercise Planner Jennifer Rodriguez. Rodriguez is an emergency coordinator with CEMA and spent countless hours developing three full-scale exercises that rehearsed the county's plans and phases of hurricane evacuation and re-entry. More than four hundred people, from partner agencies to volunteers, participated in the exercises, which are required by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency every two years.

CEMA began preparing for HURREX 2012 in August of last year. This magnitude of exercising allows CEMA to truly test the plans before hurricane season is here. CEMA Deputy Director Dennis Jones said, "Objectives were set early in the schedule and we have held true in preparing our response plans and designing the exercises to meet those objectives. County-wide preparedness for HURREX 2012 has led us to generate three full-scale exercises, review and update 13 plans, and host over 30 group and individual meetings. This is a true testament to the dedication of all partners to identify and resolve any gaps."



"Evacuee" is processed during the Functional & Medical Needs Evacuation Exercise



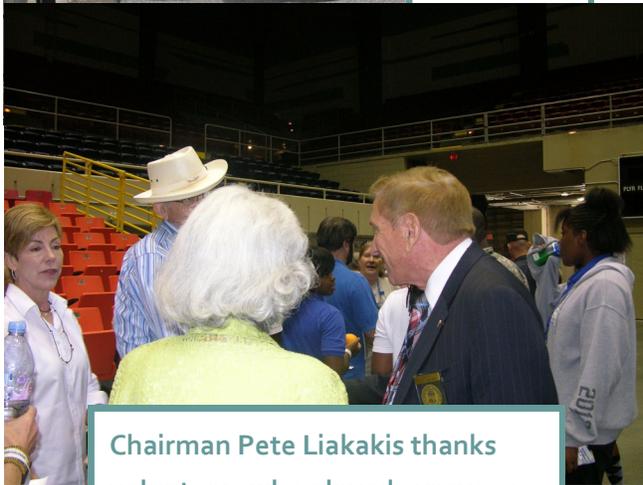
"Evacuees" process through the registration table during the general population evacuation exercise.

HURREX 2012

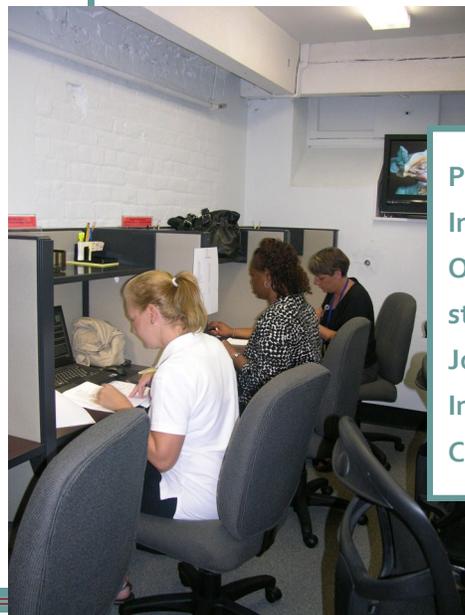
Chatham Emergency Management Agency



“Evacuees” with animals load up on school buses.



Chairman Pete Liakakis thanks volunteers who played evacuees.



Public Information Officers staff the Joint Information Center.

Monday, May 14th -

- In coordination with Public Health and GEMA, CEMA conducted a functional and medical needs evacuation exercise which actually involved registering medical patients at an evacuation assembly area and preparing them for out-of-area medical evacuation. More than 40 patients were processed.

Tuesday, May 15th -

- The County’s Evacuation Assembly Area procedures for coordinating public transportation and the processing and simulated evacuation for that portion of the County’s residents with no means to self-evacuate during a mandatory evacuation was exercised. This included the processing and simulated evacuation of those residents with pets. More than 250 “evacuees” were processed.

- The Air Support Operations Center was activated at Mosquito Control and fully staffed by local, state and military personnel on May 15, 16 and the morning of the 17 for the conduct and control of air traffic contingency operations.

Wednesday, May 16th -

- A Joint Information Center was staffed by city and county public information personnel to rehearse operations designed for dissemination of information through the media to the public. The effort was designed to ensure that messages released to the public are coordinated and concise, as well as delivered in a timely manner.

- The Planning Section of the Emergency Operations Center was activated to conduct a Post Storm Stabilization exercise simulating events within the first 24-hours after the storm. This exercise was conducted in the basement of the Old County Courthouse on Bull Street.

Preplanning Encompasses Pre-Event Contracting

*An excerpt from Andrew Sachs' Column "Five Things Communities Should Know"
Courtesy James Lee Witt Associates*

Having pre-event contracts in place with vendors who offer services that will more than likely be needed in the aftermath of a crisis is one of the most important administrative actions a community can take before disaster strikes. Such services include, but are not limited to, the following: augmentation of the Emergency Operations Center staff; debris management and monitoring; engineering and evaluation; and the use of federal disaster program management services.

A pre-event contract is usually available at no cost to the community, and can be activated immediately following a disaster so that there is no lag time in bidding; in addition, more competitive pricing is assured. Pre-event contracting also provides the time needed to find the capable and qualified contractors available to meet the needs of the community - without the pressure of having to concurrently manage a disaster response. Key qualified contractors will possess a broad range of disaster experience, be able to provide references, and will have the expertise needed to work effectively on various federal programs - most importantly, those under the jurisdiction of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) - so as to help maximize not only eligibility requirements but also the reimbursement for costs.

Having pre-event contracts in place can dramatically affect, and improve, a community's bottom line. Having expertise on hand is particularly important to advise a community on how to: (a) increase the ability for reimbursement; (b) help the community maximize the disaster assistance available; and (c) avoid major problems that might delay or make a project ineligible for reimbursement. Moreover, pre-event contracts for equipment and services often are more affordable - because they are bid during "peace time" when competition for limited resources has not led to higher prices. Taking the time needed to put pre-event contracts in place also reduces the likelihood of mistakes being made during procurement that not only could lead to significant delays but also to the reduction, or even elimination, of the community's ability to obtain reimbursement altogether.

After a contractor has been secured under a pre-event contract, the community should use the advance time needed to: (a) build a working relationship and train the augmented staff, along with key players; (b) get them better acquainted with one another; (c) help them understand each other's needs; and (d) have common expectations for service delivery.

CEMA's recommended hurricane evacuation guidelines for Chatham County. They are based on Category of the storm and projected landfall.

Hurricane Evacuation GUIDELINES

STORM CATEGORY	EVACUATION ACTIONS						
	Tropical Storm Force Wind Arrival	RECOMMENDED South & East of US-204	MANDATORY EARLY South & East of Abercorn/US-204	MANDATORY EARLY South & East of Abercorn/US-204	RECOMMENDED South & East of Abercorn/US-204	MANDATORY EARLY South & East of Abercorn/US-204	MANDATORY EARLY South & East of Abercorn/US-204
Cat 5							30+48NH
Cat 4							30+48NH
Cat 3						30+48NH	
Cat 2					24+30NH		
Cat 1 Direct					24+30NH		
Cat 1 Parallel to Coast				18+24NH			
Tropical Storm Direct			18+24NH				
Tropl Stm Parallel Coast		12					
Arrival Tropical Storm							

Islands and Low-lying Area Early Evacuations Are 6 to 12 Hours Prior to Mandatory Evacuations
Hours for Evacuation + Added Hours for Nursing Home (NH) and Special Needs Evacuations

Hazardous Materials Awareness for Industry and Business

James Vickers, Special Operations Division Chief, Savannah Fire & Emergency Services

ESF 10: Hazardous Materials

This article will discuss two hazardous materials related items with our industrial/business partners; Tier II E-plan submittals and the Chatham County Hazardous Substance Registration Fee Ordinance requirements.

Tier II E-Plan Submittals

In order to meet the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) requirements and to make Tier II submittal more efficient, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) made it mandatory in 2010 for all facilities required to submit under EPCRA to use E-Plan. The use of E-Plan has many benefits such as providing critical information to emergency responders, reduced workload for everyone to include the applicant, and meets all reporting requirements with just one submittal to E-Plan. We have some facilities in Chatham County that are still not properly submitting using E-Plan and we want to remind everyone this is a requirement, not an option.

Additional information can be found at <http://erplan.net> or contact EPD through 706-792-7744.

Hazardous Substance Registration Fee Ordinance

The original Hazardous Substance Registration Fee Ordinance was adopted in 1996 to provide funds to implement a Tier II facility inspection program in Chatham County. This Ordinance requires a

facility using over 10,000 pounds of a hazardous substance to register and pay a fee to promote safety for the community. Shortly after adoption of the Ordinance, Savannah Fire & Emergency Services' Hazardous Materials Team, CEMA and the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) started implementing a comprehensive hazardous materials release planning and response plan. This plan included the collection of facility chemical inventories, incorporating use of the Computer Aided Emergency Management Operations (CAMEO) system, providing Tier II facility inspections, identifying hazardous materials transport routes and identifying local emergency response capability gaps. These efforts have allowed industries and businesses to partner with local emergency response agencies to provide a safer community.

Unfortunately, over the last few years fee contributions have declined dramatically and in 2011 the Ordinance was amended to ensure adequate funding was continued for the inspection program. The Ordinance was amended to incorporate a penalty of 25% delinquency fee in addition to the

original fee if payment was not received by May 1. We still have some facilities in Chatham County (52%) that have not submitted their registration fee and we want to remind everyone of the requirement. The facilities that have not submitted the registration fee will be contacted through the Chatham County Recorder's Court. Additional information can be found at <http://www.lepc.com/> or you may contact CEMA at 912-201-4500, or Chief James Vickers at 912-658-0430 or jvickers@savannahga.gov.

I want to take a moment to thank all our industrial and business partners that play an active role in providing for a safer community.

Keep up the awesome work!



Chief James Vickers is the Hazmat Coordinator for ESF 10 and serves on the Local Emergency Planning Committee as the Hazmat Committee Coordinator.

State Shelter Planning Efforts in Georgia

Wendy Stewart, State ESF 06 Coordinator, GA Department of Human Services
ESF 06: Mass Care

With its gorgeous beaches, bustling waterfront, historic districts and superb dining, Georgia's coastline is a popular vacation destination and a beautiful place to live. However, if you live or visit coastal Georgia, one day you may find yourself in the path of a hurricane and under mandatory evacuation orders.

According to 2010 U.S. Census data, Chatham County has a population of 265,128. If you add in the remaining Georgia coastal counties, the population soars to more than a half a million people - all of whom may be trying to flee the storm at the same time. This scenario provides many unique challenges to emergency managers who may find themselves wishing they had purchased a prepaid ticket to... anywhere.

It is very possible that up to 10 percent of coastal residents will be unwilling or unable to evacuate. These people will need someplace to stay until the threat to life and property has subsided and they can safely return home. It is the responsibility of state and local emergency managers to provide assistance to these individuals in their time of need.

Sheltering is one of the key forms of assistance that must be provided. The Department of Human Services (DHS) is the lead agency for Emergency Support Function (ESF) 6, Mass Care and Human Services, and DHS has been working closely with its

partners over the past few years to improve planning efforts to support local jurisdictions with sheltering activities should a disaster occur in our state.

In 2010, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security (GEMA) initiated the 50/50/5 Planning Effort. The goal of this project is to support 50,000 evacuees in 50 counties for five days. Meetings

were conducted in communities throughout the state identified as likely places where people would go when evacuating the Atlantic or Gulf Coast. These communities provided information to the state about potential shortfalls or gaps they may experience during this type of evacuation.

Since that time, state planners have been identifying ways to support these communities during mass care sheltering operations. Contacts have been made with representatives from the Technical College System of Georgia, the Board of Regents and other community partners to identify and secure larger facilities to support a massive evacuation. Additional coordination is under way to secure

logistical support and additional staffing for shelter operations.

In addition, DHS has partnered with the American Red Cross to conduct annual shelter training for Division of Children and Family Services (DFCS) employees to increase the state's ability to provide shelter staffing. Since September 2011, approximately 400 DFCS employees have been trained or taken refresher courses in shelter operations and management. Additional training has been scheduled and will continue each year to ensure these employees have the best possible knowledge to assist communities with sheltering.

Moreover, there will be a need to support individuals with access and functional needs in shelters. To assist communities in meeting the needs of these individuals, the state formed the Emergency Preparedness Coalition. This group comprises representatives from various agencies and organizations who have expertise related to access and functional needs and individuals from the disability community, and provides valuable insight to ESF 6 planners and its partner organizations. Meanwhile, state ESF 6 is coordinating with its partner agencies with sheltering responsibilities (either primary or support) to incorporate Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS) into their plans and

Continued on next page

The goal of this project is to support 50,000 evacuees in 50 counties for five days.

Hospital Planning and Preparedness

*Jimmy Gordon, Safety Officer & Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Memorial University Medical Center
ESF 08: Medical Services*

Following the events of September 11, 2001, the Georgia Hospital Association (GHA) Mutual Aid Task Force (MATF) was created to establish an ongoing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among hospitals within the state. The goal is to support each facility in the event of a disaster that could overwhelm a hospital or neighboring hospitals, leaving communities with the lack of medical care and resources.

The MATF developed the “compact” to create an alliance among healthcare entities with the understanding that all hospitals would be obligated to assist other surrounding hospitals with bed space, supplies, equipment, and staff.

From this agreement, the Regional Coordinating Hospital (RCH) was created to provide the most effective manner on how to best support and deploy these resources. Memorial University Medical Center is one of 14 RCHs and one Specialty Care Hospital for children in the state. A RCH also serves as an additional planning, training, and mentoring tool for surrounding hospitals. Upon notification by an RCH, the GHA “compact” is activated to assist a co-facility in any way possible.

Throughout a disaster, GHA will provide administrative assistance to the RCHs and monitor the incident via several methods.

Memorial

University Medical Center

(State Shelter continued from previous page)
procedures and provide guidance to local jurisdictions.

In addition to local and state partner coordination, ESF 6 representatives participate in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region IV Working Group. This group includes representatives from Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee, who share information and best practices for mass care issues, including FNSS planning.

Also, state ESF 6 has been working diligently with local emergency management agencies, local public health districts and ESF 11 (pet sheltering) to ensure efforts are consistent and well coordinated.

There is still a lot of planning and coordination that needs to be accomplished to ensure Georgia is fully prepared to respond to an event that requires sheltering of a large population. However, huge strides have been made to improve our capabilities related to this very important issue. Remember, there's

no place like home!

For more information related to state shelter planning efforts, please contact Ms. Wendy Stewart, State ESF 6 Coordinator at 404-463-4080 or via email at wmstewart@dhr.state.ga.us. To learn how to prepare for a hurricane or other emergency, visit www.ready.ga.gov or download the free Ready Georgia app.

“It is very possible that up to 10 percent of coastal residents will be unwilling or unable to evacuate.”



Communications Infrastructure Survivability

Robert Davis, System Manager, Southeast Georgia Regional Radio Network
ESF 02: Communications

The Southeast Georgia Regional Radio Network is a co-operative coalition of Cities and Counties in Southeast Georgia working together to build a common, interoperable radio infrastructure. Built into the interoperable infrastructure is a degree of survivability never before seen in the region.

The radio subsystems within SEGARRN are located in such a way as to provide radio coverage overlap between counties. Chatham County overlaps Effingham and Bryan, Bryan overlaps Liberty, Chatham and Bulloch. The overlap allows for the loss of any single portion of the radio network while maintaining communication over a significant portion of the area where primary coverage is lost. As the network has grown, the value of the overlapping coverage has been demonstrated on several occasions when system casualties or maintenance events have caused the loss of portions of the network. During the events, subscribers in the field detected no noticeable change in system availability or performance.

Most of the system's towers, constructed since 1996, have been constructed to meet the requirements of TIA/EIA 222(). Towers, such as the Kerry St. tower owned by the City of Savannah, which are properly aligned, maintained and upgraded as standards change, can be reasonably expected to survive most events they are subjected to up to and including a

land falling major hurricane. TIA/EIA-222G, which is the current standard for radio towers, will rate and specify the tower for expected weather events (wind and ice load) for anywhere the tower is located. Cities and counties that follow the TIA/EIA-222 set of standards will have survivable towers in even the most extreme weather events.

Wide area radio networks such as SEGARRN, rely heavily on connectivity in the form of landline fiber optic cable and microwave radio to carry all of the data required to provide the wide area coverage available to all of us on a typical day. Efforts taken to improve the connectivity between the radio master site, subsystems and RF sites go a long way in improving survivability of the overall wide area connectivity of the system. Wherever possible connectivity is dual routed or multi path routed. At present, within SEGARRN, complete route redundancy is not in place everywhere due to cost. Every effort has been made though to harden and protect all current connectivity to all of the radio sites.

When route connectivity to a subsystem fails, the subsystem (county level radio system) will enter the "SITE TRUNKING" Mode. SITE TRUNKING allows for the subsystem to operate in a normal trunking fashion without the base connectivity to the Master Site. Without the connectivity to the Master Site users under the

footprint of the subsystem in SITE TRUNKING can only talk to other users on the same subsystem. The primary goal of every radio on the network is to stay "wide area". When a Subsystem enters SITE TRUNKING most of the radios will look for adjacent sites and remain in wide area mode. SITE TRUNKING keeps the remaining units operating.

An adverse weather event, such as a land falling hurricane, will likely impact communications in southeast Georgia. The SEGARRN network has provided us with the ability to maintain workable and interoperable communication during and following even the most severe weather event. The network can survive the loss of a radio site or even whole subsystems and still provide workable communication over a large percentage of the normal coverage area. The build out of the SEGARRN is an ongoing process. New Cities and Counties are being added every year; but in addition to the build out, the existing network components are being hardened through the addition of microwave links and increased route redundancy. It is impossible to guarantee absolute survivability of infrastructure in a catastrophic event but the members of the Southeast Georgia Regional Radio Network are working to further improve our everyday routine communication and communication survivability in a disaster for everyone in Southeast Georgia.

Check Before You Burn

*Hugh Futrell, Assistant Chief, Fire Operations, Southside Fire/EMS/Security
ESF 04: Fire Fighting*

During the past couple of months, before the rain came during the first part of May, there were a number of large outdoor open area fires and some structure fires enhanced severely by the dry conditions. Emergency Support Function (ESF) 4 would like to remind all to check with your local weather stations and Georgia Forestry regularly. Several fires from unattended candles, illegal outdoor burns, and improperly disposed of smoking materials caused very dry materials (homes in some cases) to ignite with unhappy results. Be safe and only burn when it is safe to do so and stay in the room with lighted candles. Remember, when you go out, blow out.

In other news, ESF4 is in the process of our annual updates:

1. Annual update of resource lists for CEMA and Georgia Emergency Management Agency.
2. Annual update of all contact information for each fire department in the area

3. Updated list of Emergency Operations Center (EOC) qualified candidates to work the ESF4 positions during events.
4. ESF4 partners have been informed about CEMA's calendar of upcoming training opportunities and also required training sessions that must be attended to maintain qualifications for working in the EOC and ESF4 positions during disasters.

ESF4 met in March and May and many ESF4 partners also attended CEMA's Annual Hurricane Conference on May 1. The conference was an excellent opportunity for local fire departments to share ideas among ourselves as well as with our regional and State emergency response partners.

ESF4's next regular meeting will be in early July 2012. Stay vigilant, stay safe.

Assistant Chief Hugh Futrell is the Coordinator for ESF 04.

IA—PA 101

*Kate Busbee, Financial Officer, CEMA
Finance*

Individual Assistance (IA), as its name suggests, is for individuals—whether they are homeowners or renters. The centerpiece of IA is the Individual and Household Program (IHP). The primary goal of IHP is to return a residence to a safe, sanitary and functioning condition. It can also provide help in storage costs and either short-term housing or longer-term rental assistance, which is often necessary when a home is being repaired. The other end of the spectrum for state and local officials is FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) program. The PA program is probably the most important of the agency's



recovery initiatives. The PA program is designed to help state and local governments, as well as certain private nonprofit organizations, repair the community infrastructure. Covered projects include roads, bridges, water control facilities, utilities, public

buildings, parks, etc. The program can also help with costs associated with debris removal and emergency protection measures, including police overtime and any other costs that were necessary to accomplish eligible work.

The Federal share of assistance is not less than 75% of the eligible cost for emergency measures and permanent restoration. The grantee (usually the State) determines how the non-Federal share (up to 25%) is split with the subgrantees (eligible applicants).

SHER the Information

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

Savannah Heritage Emergency Response (SHER) website has been updated and revised to include a clearinghouse of disaster planning resources-- from creating disaster plans and continuity of operations plans to recovery, online courses, financial resources, and the interface between cultural organizations and emergency managers. You can find all the information at <http://sheronline.info/resources/>. We are always looking for more suggestions and submissions, so send them to shernch11@gmail.com.

The SHER Board members and several representatives from our

member institutions attended the CEMA Hurricane Conference. SHER's afternoon workshop was presented by Summer Street, the document sector manager for Polygon, and Justin Still, another Polygon representative, known to many of us as our "Code Blue" contact. The session focused on the possibilities and realities of restoring records and included several case studies. Members reported making valuable contacts throughout the conference.

Heritage Preservation, the national organization that sponsored our initial Alliance for Response Conference, is

hosting a May Day raffle.

Organizations can submit a report of their May Day activity in order to be eligible for the prize, a disaster supply kit. We submitted SHER's participation in the CEMA conference as our May Day activity.

Finally, the SHER Board is working on a guiding document that lists potential initiatives and goals for SHER. This document will be a guide for future SHER activities and programs both immediate and long-term.

<http://sheronline.info/resources/>

Damage Assessment Assesses New Team

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

We had a very well attended kickoff meeting for the Damage Assessment Strategy in April. A small group of partners committed to overseeing the strategic document were there. The timeline for development, implementation and exercise of the overall strategy follows.

As we move forward with Strategy Development and Adoption, two or three meetings will be scheduled in June with finalization by the end of the month. In July, Jurisdiction Implementation and Team Development will be next. In jurisdictions with an established Damage Assessment process/team,

CEMA will adjust their programs to comply with strategy by the end of July.



In jurisdictions without an established Damage Assessment process/team, CEMA will work with these jurisdictions to develop their programs with a target by the end of August.

By mid-September, the County-wide Damage Assessment team should be established. The Team will meet, discuss the County-wide strategy and attend the necessary workshops and training. A Tabletop Exercise will tentatively be scheduled by mid-October and a Full Scale Exercise is targeted for early December.

With everything keeping on schedule, the County-wide Damage Assessment Team will be prepared for activations, deployments and support all jurisdictions by the end of the year.

Public Information, Reorganizing the Strategy

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

Public information is crucial in any emergency and here in Chatham County it's recognized as a valuable piece of the planning puzzle. In fact, most cities within the county, public safety organizations, schools, universities and county departments have a designated spokesperson, Public Information Officer (PIO) or Public Affairs Officer (PAO). The volume of well-trained PIOs is extremely beneficial for the county, especially for networking, information sharing and support during emergency situations.

The volume of well-trained PIOs is extremely beneficial for the county, especially for networking, information sharing and support during emergency situations.

Several years ago The Chatham County Public Information Officers Association (CCPIOA) was formed to give area PIOs a way to stay connected with each other and learn from each other. Today there are 46 PIOs on the roster, those also include regional POAs from Fort Stewart. The CCPIOA met late last year and decided that it was time to take the group to the next level. In March, the group voted to elect an executive board, create committees, and host a Spring

Retreat for PIOs (a one-day conference focused on public information, media relations, and social media). The CCPIOA meets bi-monthly, and meetings will rotate and be held at a host PIO agency. This will allow for each member to showcase where they work and highlight any new things going on within their agency or organization. Some of the committees the CCPIOA is considering are a Joint Information Center (JIC) and Media Council committee. Committees would focus on specific goals; for example, the JIC committee would recruit and train PIOs for the JIC as well as help exercise the County's JIC plan. The Media Council Committee would develop a strategy to include local media in our PIO meetings occasionally and help share important story ideas with reporters.

PIOs in the group will be required to complete basic on-line training and are encouraged to participate in the Basic PIO course offered through GEMA and the Advanced PIO course offered through FEMA. CCPIOA hopes to educate all members in disaster operations where public information will be one of the most important things, as well as provide a networking opportunity for everyone to get to know each other during the quiet times, instead of when a disaster

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Law Enforcement Lessons Learned from Hurricane Katrina, A Case Study

An Excerpt from a 2006 Study conducted by the University of South Carolina

ESF 13: Law Enforcement

For years, emergency management agencies have used case studies from Hurricane Katrina.

Periodically, it is good to go back and review some lessons-learned as we update our plans. The information below was taken from a 2006 study from the University of South Carolina Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, College of Arts and Sciences, by Michael R. Smith, Ph.D., and Jeff Rojek, Ph.D.

Hurricane Katrina provides an excellent case study of the public safety needs that arise after a major disaster. Every law enforcement official interviewed for this project sketched a similar picture of what occurred after the storm and how their officers responded to the public safety needs that it created.

First among the law enforcement responses to Katrina was Search and Rescue. Before the storm had even left the area, law enforcement officers across Mississippi and Louisiana began venturing outside to check on the welfare of citizens left in their towns and cities. Telephone service was down, so law enforcement agencies had no means of receiving calls for service. Instead, officers slowly made their way into neighborhoods and into houses to check on those who might have been left behind. Many officers told stories of stopping and listening periodically for cries for help. When a person was located, officers worked to extract the individual and transport him or her to a place of safety.

As Search and Rescue operations continued, the next priority in many areas was the control of looting.

Looting was widespread not only in New Orleans, but across the coastal areas of Louisiana and Mississippi. Officers chased many looters away and arrested many more. As relief trucks began to arrive and points of distribution (PODs) were set up, officers were tasked with providing security at the PODs. People were desperate and would have overrun the PODs without the security provided by law enforcement officers and, in some cases, National Guard troops.

Most agencies had no plans for POD security and had no experience setting up or securing POD sites. At first, they set up too many sites and provided too few officers at each site. Later, they consolidated PODs into three or five sites per jurisdiction, with as many as 15 officers at each POD for security. As food, water, and other relief supplies arrived, officers also began taking supplies to people in outlying areas and to those who were otherwise unable to get to a POD on their own. Officers often heard about these people in need through word of mouth. As the law enforcement tasks mounted, agencies quickly ran short of personnel.

Assistance from outside agencies was slow to arrive. When officers from other states did arrive, the inability to communicate with them by radio or cell phone was a constant problem and a limitation to their effectiveness.

Concluding Lessons

Law enforcement officials from across the Gulf Coast region admit that they were unprepared for the disaster of Katrina. Their struggle in the wake of the storm to carry out their mission of service is an extraordinary tale of dedication and resilience.

Katrina demonstrated that in the days following a major disaster, local jurisdictions must shoulder more of the burden of responding to public safety needs.

Complacency played a large role in the lack of preparedness by law enforcement agencies in the Gulf Coast region. Many officials simply did not believe that the storm would be as destructive as it was. Others assumed that it would be no worse than Hurricane Camille. A few, however, recognized the danger. One police chief moved all of his patrol cars to the north side of Interstate 10 before the storm arrived. He was criticized at the time for being overly cautious, but his fleet was one of the few that survived the storm surge intact.

Remaining vigilant for months or even years at a time is difficult when communities and political leaders make competing demands on law enforcement priorities. Katrina, though, provides an ideal backdrop for beginning discussions on how to better prepare at the state and local levels for the next disaster.

CEMA Grows Search and Rescue Team: Practical Search and Rescue Training

ESF 09: Search and Rescue

Jay Paskauskas is a Deputy US Marshal, Wilderness EMT, Assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 8 of Hunter Army Airfield, a member of CEMA's Community Emergency Response Team, and is training to become one of the newest members of CEMA's Search and Rescue (SAR) Team. Paskauskas has a passion for helping others and it's clear when CEMA was looking to grow the SAR Team, why he was one of the first to raise his hand. "I joined the SAR Team to be able to utilize my outdoor skills and previous training to benefit the citizens of Chatham County. I believe there is a need for trained searchers and I know if someone in my family went missing, I would want dedicated people searching for my loved one," said Paskauskas.

Paskauskas was one of nearly two dozen people to attend Practical Search and Rescue Skills training hosted by CEMA. Training was held

over two weekends, March 23 through 25, and March 30 through April 1, 2012 in Chatham County. The 40-hour course consisted of classroom instruction and fieldwork; training exercises were as close to real as possible. The national training curriculum was taught by several instructors from the prestigious K-9 search group, North Carolina Canine Emergency Response Team (NCCERT), based out of North Carolina. Mac Morgan was one of three instructors and this was his second time training CEMA SAR team members. Morgan taught the first group of team members in 2010 when CEMA decided to form a search team.

The training follows national standards and participants focused on map and compass, land navigation, man-tracking, and clue identification skills. Along with the intense class instruction and practical exercises, students had to participate in an

exercise scenario to locate a "missing" person and pass a 150 question test.

The CEMA SAR team's mission is to assist law enforcement in searches involving missing people, in particular lost children and individuals with mental illnesses or Alzheimer's. The team was the brainchild of CEMA Director Clayton Scott and at the time of conception, Director Scott wasn't sure how often the team would be called on to aid law enforcement during searches. "It's really great to see how valuable of an asset we can offer to law enforcement agencies in Chatham County. Time is a crucial piece of the puzzle when it comes to locating a missing person and having law enforcement know they can count on us makes all the difference," said Director Scott.

The CEMA SAR Team responded to six active searches in 2011 and three in the first part of 2012.



Instructor Mac Morgan, NCCERT, teaches the class about the fundamentals of search and rescue.

Community Emergency Response Team: The Greatest Good for the Greatest Number of People

Nearly 20 Chatham County residents can now take care of themselves during a disaster. The newly trained Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) students completed their training on Sunday April 29, 2012 with a disaster simulation. The CERT volunteers were put through a simulated tornado disaster. They were required to rescue "victims", put out small fires, triage injured people, perform light search and rescue duties, and remove debris off of victims.

The CERT program falls under the Citizen Corps umbrella which was created after September 11, 2001. Along with CERT, Volunteers in Policing, Fire Corps, Medical Reserve Corps, and Neighborhood Watch are part of the Citizen Corps program. The goal is to teach people the skills to take care of themselves before, during, and after an emergency, and to enhance the safety of our communities.

The CERT program is extremely active in Chatham County and so far more than 250 residents have been trained. The 20 hour class is broken up over the course of two weekends and teaches participants basic first aid skills, hazardous materials awareness, fire suppression, as well as terrorism awareness.

Congratulations to our new members of the team and CEMA would like to thank the volunteers who played victims during the simulation, as well as Southside Fire & EMS for use of the department's training facilities. If you are interested in the CERT program, or any other programs under Citizen Corps, please contact the CEMA office at 912-201-4500.



CERT disaster simulation 4/29/12. Photos courtesy of MaryAnn Stillings (CERT).

Volunteers Make a Difference: Time to Reward Them

April marks national volunteer month, and it's a time to honor those who make a difference and ask for nothing in return. In emergency management, we often find we are strapped for resources and that we must turn to others for help. What we find is a group of volunteers who are ready to help when the call comes in.

CEMA coordinates both the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Search and Rescue Team (SAR) in Chatham County. CEMA also relies on volunteers to help staff the Emergency Operations Center when it's activated. More than 250 have been CERT trained, 31 people SAR trained, and dozens more in EOC duties. Because the financial reward is not there,

CEMA likes to recognize volunteers during an annual awards dinner. This year's dinner was held on April 27 at the Savannah Yacht Club. More than 70 people attended the event that recognized volunteers for their hard work.

Just to give an idea of the amount of hours volunteers put in, during July 2011 through April 2012, volunteers worked 2,085 hours. Hours were spent in training, working community events, speaking at neighborhood association meetings, as well as working EOC activations and the Chatham County Hurricane Conference. Three CERT volunteers received certificates for their commitment. Roy Hellyer was honored for having the most hours put

into the program this year; he accumulated 182 volunteer hours in less than a year. Jay Paskauskas was honored for his enthusiasm to the CERT and SAR program; since joining he has been working to improve the program for all volunteers. Mimi Pinner received the Members' Choice Award, which was voted on by her peers for her dedication to forming the Tybee Island CERT Team.

Volunteers are instrumental in the daily work of what emergency managers do. CEMA would like to express a big thank you to all who help out when needed. It's the commitment of volunteers that helps to improve the overall big picture of emergency management.



Above: Dan and Virginia Mobley. Mr. Mobley serves as Chairperson of CERT.



Left: Members of the Tybee Island CERT team. Above: CERT member Roy Hellyer receives recognition for having the most hours.

Floodplains Benefit Everyone

*Courtesy of Chatham County, City of Savannah, & Metropolitan Planning Commission
ESF 14b: Hazard Mitigation*

Natural floodplains generally include marsh areas and low lying areas along canals and rivers. Floodplains provide fish and wildlife habitat, fertile soil for plant growth and act like reservoirs, storing excess rainfall and runoff. Open parks such as the Henderson, Wilmington and Bacon Park Golf Courses also act as natural floodplains. Chatham County and the City of Savannah also have barrier islands such as Little Tybee, Ossabaw, Cabbage and Wassaw Islands that serve as natural protective barriers to incoming hurricane forces such as wave attacks, and serve to reduce tidal and wind energies in addition to acting as natural aquatic habitats, wetlands, marshes and estuaries. Continued filling in of these areas for development coupled with environmental contamination incidences, such as the 2011 Ogeechee River fish kill approximately 50 yards downstream of the King America, the fire and gas release in April 1995 at the Powell Duffryn Terminals site, the numerous spills into the Savannah River, and the February 2008 Dixie Crystal (Imperial) Sugar plant explosion have crippling impacts se conservation zones. Maintaining adequate flood control along the coast is vital to a healthy and productive community.

The natural floodplains that make up much of our county protect human life and property from flood damage in the event of a storm. The beautiful, functioning wetlands, riparian buffers and marshlands offer economic and health benefits as well as their rich and diverse ecosystems. By making wise land use decisions in the development and management of floodplains, beneficial functions can be protected and negative impacts to the quality of the

environment can be reduced. See Water Quality topic on how to protect these natural habitats. Building and Developing in Floodplains Most activities in the floodplain—such as grading, placing fill, building a new structure/ addition, or repairing/remodeling an existing structure— require a permit. Development within a floodplain has the potential to impact flood levels. If not properly designed, it may make flooding worse on your property and your neighbor’s property. All new construction must be built to current City and County floodplain development standards.

The National Flood Insurance Program and City and County code require that if the cost of reconstruction, accumulated over a five year period, due to any type of damage, addition or other renovations to an existing building exceeds 50% of the buildings value, the activity is considered a “substantial improvement.” This may require that the building be considered new construction and be brought up to current floodplain development standards. Additional County and City floodplain requirements may apply. Please see the last question in the section above for additional information. Before beginning any significant home improvement project (build on, alter, re-grade or fill), check with your local permitting department. A permit may be needed to ensure that projects do not cause flooding problems on other properties. For more information or to obtain a building permit within Chatham County contact your building official at the Chatham County Department of Building Safety and Regulatory Services at 1117 Eisenhower Drive, or phone them at (912) 201-4300. For the City of Savannah, contact the Development Service Department at 5515 Abercorn Street or (912) 651-6530.

Resources on the Web

Flood Smart	www.floodsmart.gov
Georgia Environmental Protection Division	www.gaepd.org
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	www.noaa.gov
Georgia Department of Natural Resources	www.gadnr.org
The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension	www.ugaextension.com
Georgia Association of Floodplain Management	www.gafloods.org
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	water.epa.gov

Electrical Safety Around the House

Georgia Power
ESF 12: Utilities



Boats - Keep boat masts away from power lines.

Cords - Don't place appliance cords where they will come into contact with the stove or other heated surfaces.

Don't hang appliance cords over countertops so they won't be

accidentally pulled down.

Ladders - Exercise caution when using ladders, painting, pruning or cleaning near a service drop. (A service drop is where the wiring comes into a house or building at the meter.) Weatherproofing on the overhead wiring is not insulation. This covering can become brittle and cracked, exposing you to electrical contact.

Outlets - Look for outlets that have loose-fitting plugs, exposed wires or broken plates. Have them fixed by a qualified electrician. Use safety covers on all outlets accessible to children.

Poles - Don't swing, climb or run into guy wires supporting

utility poles. Report damaged guy wires to the power company.

Pools - Don't use electrical appliances near pools; don't route extension cords in the vicinity of pools; don't raise pool maintenance or rescue poles into overhead power lines.

Shoes - Avoid damp or wet areas when using electrical power tools outdoors. Wear sturdy, rubber-soled shoes when working with electrical appliances outdoors. NEVER use electrical equipment when barefooted.

Trees - Don't climb trees near power lines. Keep balloons, kites, fishing lines and aluminum poles away from overhead lines. The lines are not insulated and you could create a path to the ground by touching them. Trees near power lines can be dangerous. If a snapped or trimmed limb falls onto a power line, do not touch the limb with your hands, a pole or other object. Call Georgia Power or 911 immediately.



Spotlight

Dave Grotyohann

David Grotyohann was hired as an Emergency Management Specialist and is charged with handling coordination of various Emergency Support Functions. Grotyohann's efforts focus on supporting Communications, Damage Assessment, Hazardous Materials, Hazard Mitigation and National, Cultural and Historic resources.

Grotyohann comes to CEMA with an extensive and impressive background in Emergency Management and related fields. Grotyohann created the Office of Emergency Management for the City of Savannah and was responsible for establishing and coordinating the City's preparation and response to emergency situations.

David's previous career involved working in Corporate Security for the Du Pont Company in Delaware for 10 years. He then transferred with Du Pont to the Savannah River Nuclear Weapons Plant in South Carolina. Westinghouse took over the Department of Energy contract at this location and he continued working in the Safeguards and Security Division.

David then worked for Poole and Kent of Baltimore and held several positions including the Quality Control Manager for a Chilled Water Plant at Savannah River Site, Project Accountant for the Whitmarsh Islands New Schools Project in Savannah, and later the Accounting Manager on all government projects in Savannah that were bonded by Poole and Kent.

David has been a Police Officer, Volunteer Fireman, Volunteer Ambulance Technician, Private Investigator, and was a Certified Protection Professional through the American Society for Industrial Security. In addition, the Delaware Safety Council awarded him for Saving a Life when a woman was choking in the Hotel du Pont. He has a B.S. Degree in Criminal Justice from West Chester University.

CALENDAR

Meetings

May 31, 6:30PM—7:30PM
CERT Quarterly Meeting
Managing Stress after Critical Incidents

Sycamore Church
Kelly Harley
(912) 201-4500
kharley@chathamcounty.org

June 5, 10AM—3PM
Re-Entry Planning Meeting,
Georgia Power

CEMA Annex EOC
Don Sullens
(912) 201-4500
dwsullens@chathamcounty.org

June 6, 10AM
EOC Media Briefing

CEMA Annex EOC
Kelly Harley
(912) 201-4500
kharley@chathamcounty.org

June 12, 10AM
ESF 07 Meeting

CEMA Annex EOC
Don Sullens
(912) 201-4500
dwsullens@chathamcounty.org

June 12, 1PM
ESF 01 Meeting

CEMA Annex EOC
Don Sullens
(912) 201-4500
dwsullens@chathamcounty.org

June 12, 3PM
ESF 11b Meeting

CEMA Annex EOC
Don Sullens
(912) 201-4500
dwsullens@chathamcounty.org

June 13, 7:30AM
Chatham EMS Advisory Council

Memorial Health
Tricia Cordray
(912) 819-6220

June 14, 8:30AM
ESF 15 Meeting
Old Courthouse, Green Room
Kelly Harley
(912) 201-4500
kharley@chathamcounty.org

June 14, 10AM
Annual Nursing Home
Coordination Meeting

TBD
Jennifer Rodriguez
(912) 201-4500
jlrodriguez@chathamcounty.org

June 18, 1PM
ESF 11a

Animal Control
Don Sullens
(912) 201-4500
dwsullens@chathamcounty.org

June 20, 10AM
EMAG Area 5 & 8

TBD
Dennis Jones
dtjones@chathamcounty.org

June 21, 10AM
ESF 3 & 12 Meeting

CEMA Annex EOC
Don Sullens
(912) 201-4500
dwsullens@chathamcounty.org

June 26, 9AM
HURREX AAR Conference

CEMA Annex EOC
Jennifer Rodriguez
(912) 201-4500
jlrodriguez@chathamcounty.org

June 28, 8:30AM
Coastal Law Enforcement
Organization (CLEO)

SCAD
Wynn Sullivan
Wynn.Sullivan@armstrong.edu

July 9, 7PM—9PM
Fire Chiefs' Association Meeting

Bloomington Fire Department
Dustin Hetzel
(912) 201-4500
djhhetzel@chathamcounty.org

July 11, 7:30AM
Chatham EMS Advisory Council

Candler Hospital
Tricia Cordray
(912) 819-6220

July 18, 9:30AM—12PM
LEPC/ESF 10

TBD
James Vickers
(912) 658-0403
jvickers@savannahga.gov

July 23, 10AM
MACS, 3rd Quarter

CEMA Annex EOC
Jennifer Rodriguez
(912) 201-4500
jlrodriguez@chathamcounty.org

July 26, 8:30AM
Coastal Law Enforcement
Organization (CLEO)

SCAD
Wynn Sullivan
Wynn.Sullivan@armstrong.edu

August 8, 7:30AM
Chatham EMS Advisory Council

Memorial Health
Tricia Cordray
(912) 819-6220

August 16, 10AM
EMAG Area 5

Glynn County
Dennis Jones
dtjones@chathamcounty.org

August 30, 8:30AM
Coastal Law Enforcement
Organization (CLEO)

SCAD
Wynn Sullivan
Wynn.Sullivan@armstrong.edu

CALENDAR

Training

July 11, 8AM—5PM
EOC Staff Training
CEMA Annex EOC
Must Pre-Register
Jennifer Rodriguez
(912) 201-4500
jrodriguez@chathamcounty.org

August 8, 8AM—5PM
EOC Staff Training
CEMA Annex EOC
Must Pre-Register
Jennifer Rodriguez
(912) 201-4500
jrodriguez@chathamcounty.org

Special

June 1
Hurricane Season Begins

June 2, 10AM
CERT Disaster Simulation
Garden City
Kelly Harley
(912) 201-4500
kharley@chathamcounty.org

June 6, 12PM
Full System Siren Test
Chatham County
Dustin Hetzel
(912) 201-4500
djhetzel@chathamcounty.org

June 23—24, 2PM to 2PM
Coastal Amateur Radio Society's Field Day
Steve Jonas
(912) 355-6522
k4sdj@comcast.net

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

July 21, 9AM—12PM
Hurricane Expo
Home Depot, Abercorn St.
Kelly Harley
(912) 201-4500
kharley@chathamcounty.org

August 1, 12PM
Full System Siren Test
Chatham County
Dustin Hetzel
(912) 201-4500
djhetzel@chathamcounty.org

August 10
Newsletter Submissions Due
Kelly Harley
(912) 201-4500
kharley@chathamcounty.org

Please Note:

Beginning in June, CEMA will begin our annual data collection/update. Please prepare to support this effort by providing the following when requested:

- Critical Workforce Shelters (locations, quantity of people and equipment)
- Updates to Average Fuel Usage
- Updates to Post Disaster Render Safe Teams
- Updates to Priority Critical Facilities
- Updates from Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Facilities and Personal Care Homes
- Compliance with NIMS Training and Resource Typing
- Updates to Traffic Control Points and Staffing Requirements

Keep Chatham County a Green County

Chatham County offers recycling opportunities at four convenient drop-off centers located on Wilmington Island, Chevis Road, Sharon Road and Eisenhower Drive. Open to all Chatham County residents, these drop-off centers collect and recycle: Cardboard, Aluminum Cans, Glass, Newspaper, Catalogs, Magazines, Scrap Metal, Yard Waste and other bulky items. For additional information about Chatham County Recycles, please go to www.chathamcountyrecycles.com.



Chatham Emergency Management Agency

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Savannah, Georgia 31401

(912) 201-4500—Office, (912) 201-4504 (Fax)

ChathamEmergency.org

Facebook and Twitter: ChathamEMA

Clayton S. Scott
Director

Dennis Jones
Deputy Director



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

- **Submissions emailed to:** Kelly Harley Emergency Management Specialist/PIO (kharley@chathamcounty.org)
 - **Deadline:** August 10, 2012
 - **Article Length:** 100 - 750 words
 - **Article Submissions:** Include Article Title, Author Name, Title and Agency
 - **Meeting Notices:** Include Meeting Title, Date, Time, Location and Point of Contact (Name, Phone and Email)
 - **Training Notice:** Include Training Title, Date(s), Time(s), Location, Prerequisites, Registration Deadline, Costs, Point of Contact (Name, Phone and Email Address)
 - **Exercise Notices:** Include Exercise Title, Date(s), Time(s), Location and Point of Contact (Name, Phone and Email Address)
 - **Editorial Note:** The Editor has the discretion to edit submissions. If changes are considered substantive, the author will be contacted to review the changes prior to publication.
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