

CEMA Signal



Hurricane Sandy Georgia Got Lucky



Incredible *Storm Surge*

Many Coastal Georgians understand what storm surge is; however, some may not understand just how devastating it can be. CEMA warns Chatham County residents every year during hurricane season that if elected officials say evacuate, they must leave. As we saw during Hurricane Katrina, many residents who stayed behind, ultimately lost their lives because of storm surge.

This season Hurricane Sandy brought with her powerful storm surge as well. In fact, the storm caused major erosion along New Jersey's 127-mile coastline and washed away tons of sand. According to The Associated Press some beaches lost half their sand and the average loss statewide was 30 to 40

feet of beach width. In Hudson County, New Jersey officials estimate that Sandy's tidal surge caused more than \$7 million in damages to county facilities to include the jail and in some parts of the county storm surge rose 14 feet. The Jersey Shore suffered severe winds and surf from Hurricane Sandy; part of the Atlantic City Boardwalk was washed away and dozens of homes were completely moved from their foundations and destroyed.

If a hurricane threatens Chatham County Tybee Island could see similar events. If a Category 3 storm hit, Tybee Island could see storm surge levels as high as 23 feet; levels so high residents would likely not survive.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The shooting at an Aurora movie theater led a Colorado hospital to evaluate emergency protocol. See how one local hospital learned from another tragedy that happened in Chatham County and what improvements hospital officials have made.

MOBILE INFO HUB

On the road for the first time. The Georgia Emergency Management Agency gets a Joint Information Center (JIC) on wheels. Read how officials hope the Mobile JIC will save time when it comes to getting the message out to the public.

SAR CERTIFICATION

They travelled all the way to North Carolina to get nationally certified. Details on why CEMA Search and Rescue members made the trip and what this means for the growing team and residents in the community.

A Message from the Director



What a storm we had at the tail end of the 2012 Hurricane Season. Hurricane Sandy, later

coined, Super Storm Sandy, wreaked havoc on more than a dozen states, and impacted at least a dozen more. Thankfully our coastline was spared; however, residents felt some strong wind gusts and were reminded to pay close attention to dangerous rip currents. Hurricane Sandy hopefully served as a reminder of just how dangerous storms can be, especially when it comes to storm surge.

It's with great pleasure that I announce Emergency Management Specialists Dave Grottyhann and Kelly Harley are now certified emergency managers through the State of Georgia. Both Grottyhann and Harley completed the

Georgia Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) program. The Georgia CEM program requires participants to attend 128 hours of classroom instruction to include classes on topics such as Emergency Operations Center and Resource Management, Hazardous Materials Contingency Planning and Disaster Recovery Programs. Participants must also complete a series of online classes administered through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Certifications like these play an important role in developing a qualified workforce and set a standard for emergency management objectives throughout the State. With the completion of these certifications, all CEMA operational staff members are Certified Georgia Emergency Managers.

Because of standards in the CEM program, it makes supporting surrounding emergency management agencies easier. In November, CEMA had the opportunity to assist the Effingham County Emergency

Management Agency (EEMA) during a full scale exercise that involved more than 100 participants. The exercise titled, "Preserving Human Capital," was an active shooter simulation. The exercise was designed to provide a summary for the Effingham County Board of Commissioners for policy development, educate various organizations on actions to be taken in the event of an active shooter in their building(s) and to guide leaders in both the public and private sector in policy development. CEMA helped support the evaluation process of the exercise as well as assisted with public information.

As we wind down 2012 we look forward to another exciting year ahead. We plan on more training, more exercises, and of course continuing our partnership with local agencies who work to make Chatham County a safer community.

Have a wonderful holiday season and we'll see you next year!

Clayton Scott
Director

Getting Back to Normal

On November 9, almost 10 days after Hurricane Sandy hit the East Coast, residents were still trying to recover. There were crews from all over the country working to restore power, water, travel, and even a sense of normalcy. There was gas rationing in New York City and Long Island, which was initially instituted in New Jersey.

A winter storm complicated power restoration and when it came through there were still reports of 20,000 people in New York City, 253,000 in New Jersey, and 200,000 in Long Island without power. The Queens-Midtown Tunnel, a major automotive route was finally able to reopen more than a week after Sandy hit. Among all of the normal recovery, the New York Emergency Management Chief was dismissed for misuse of authority.

As many of us sat and watched the media reports come in from the Northeast, we couldn't help but be well aware of the fact that Chatham County could one day be faced with a hurricane. Putting the pieces back together would take a while for our community too; and Hurricane Sandy reiterated to us and hopefully many of our residents, that stabilization and restoration of basic necessities is not a quick process. We must continue to plan for not only how we are going to deal with similar circumstances that the Northeast is facing, but for those things that are specific to Chatham County.

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USACE Supports Sandy Recovery Efforts: Goes the Distance in First Days

The recent Hurricane Sandy response gave us an opportunity to look at the support that was provided in the first several days. The ESF-3, public works and engineering-related support is provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). **They are prepared and ready to respond to natural and manmade disasters.** When disasters occur, it is not just a local USACE district or office that responds. Personnel and other resources are mobilized across the country to carry out our response missions. USACE conducts its emergency response activities under two basic authorities – the Flood Control and Coastal Emergency Act, and when the mission is assigned by FEMA, under the Stafford Disaster and Emergency Assistance Act.

Hurricane Sandy Operations Four days after landfall

- USACE had more than 500 people engaged to support the response mission, and has received a total of 35 FEMA Mission Assignments.
- USACE received a Mission Assignment from FEMA to provide 80 truckloads of water to West Virginia, 56 truckloads of water to New Jersey, and 40 truckloads of water to New Jersey.
- USACE debris teams were in ports and the waterways in both New Jersey and New York clearing debris.
- Other Planning Response teams remained on alert for any additional debris management, commodities distribution, infrastructure assessment, temporary roofing, critical public facilities, water planning, and temporary housing. Additional temporary power teams had also been placed on alert status.
- USACE was supporting States' and FEMA Regions I, II and III operations centers to organize response efforts. More than 25 Team Leaders or Assistant Team Leaders had been alerted and/or deployed to provide public works and engineering expertise to include damage modeling, storm surge modeling, and coastal preparations.
- USACE had assigned a liaison to the Department of Energy and to the National Guard Bureau to coordinate any combined response actions.

De-Watering

- USACE was concentrating effort at 11 critical locations as determined by New York City officials.
- One large Navy salvage pump was transported by barge to assist with the Battery Park Tunnel Underpass.

- The Corps would be pumping an estimated 10-million gallons of water out of the Battery Park Underpass, estimated to take 24 hours to complete.

- USACE had shipped 12 eight-inch pumps and 13 six-inch pumps from New Orleans in order to support our De-watering Mission Assignment from FEMA.

Temporary Power

- USACE was aggressively supporting the Emergency Temporary Power mission in New York and New Jersey. They were ready to provide emergency power with more than 319 generators staged at forward locations in order to provide capacity beyond states' capabilities.
- The USACE had teams deployed to strategic locations in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania and had resources in place to haul, install, operate and maintain generators at critical facilities. 74 of 84 critical power estimates had been complete. 14 generators have been installed in New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania. USACE received a prioritized list of requirements from New York City and was immediately acting on these requests.
- USACE had deployed Temporary Emergency Power assets, Planning and Response Teams, the 249th Engineer Battalion, Emergency Command and Control Vehicles/Deployable Tactical Operating Systems (ECCV/DTOS), Mobile Command Vehicle (MCV) to provide support to areas impacted by post-tropical storm Sandy.

ESF 03: Public Works and Damage Assessment

AIR FORCE ALSO STEPS UP TO HELP RESTORE UTILITIES AFTER SANDY

Getting relief supplies and equipment to the beleaguered areas of New York and New Jersey in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy at times was not easy. That's when the Air Force stepped up and offered a few aircraft to help out. For those who needed power, it was a welcomed flight.

In early November, days after the storm, crews from 12 active-duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Command bases descended upon March Air Force Base in California to pick up passengers, equipment and supplies to deliver to Stewart Air National Guard Base, New York. The passengers and 632 short tons of cargo, including 69 vehicles belonging to the Southern California Edison utility company, were sent to provide humanitarian assistance to the stricken region.

ESF 12: Utilities

The Transformation of Hurricane Sandy to “Super Storm” Sandy

As Hurricane Sandy emerged out of the Caribbean Sea and then northward across the Bahamas during the last few days of October of 2012, few residents along the east coast of the United States would have ever believed that Sandy would actually become even bigger and more dangerous as it began to target the U.S. east coast. Even as Sandy was moving across the Bahamas, locations 250 to 300 miles west of the center of Sandy, across the Florida peninsula, were reporting tropical storm force wind gusts of 40 to 50 mph. This was the first indication that the wind field around Sandy was much larger, and extended much further west than a typical hurricane.

More than one week before Sandy made landfall on the lower New Jersey coastline, some of the models that National Weather Service meteorologists use to predict the weather for up to eight days into the future, were already showing signs of a strong storm impacting portions of the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast U.S.. In fact, over the past several years, our computer forecast models have shown great improvement in predicting high impact weather events 5 to 10 days into the future. Of particular interest with Sandy was that the models were also showing that the horizontal extent of her wind field would become much larger as the storm moved northward. Why did the models show such a solution? The simplest way to answer this question is to say that as Sandy moved northward, she evolved from being a purely tropical system, which gains its energy from warm»



ocean water, to an extra tropical one, which derives its energy from what we call “mid latitude weather systems”, such as upper level disturbances, jet streams and cold fronts. Many times as tropical systems interact with mid latitude weather systems they can increase in size. Thus, this portion of Sandy’s transformation was not very unusual or unexpected.

So what was unusual about Sandy’s transformation from tropical to extra tropical? Despite being late October, the waters off the Mid-Atlantic coast were still very warm, near 80 degrees within the Gulf Stream current. These very warm waters so far north helped to “feed” the storm’s energy. In addition, a large, slow moving upper level trough of low pressure, jet stream and cold front, were moving eastward on a collision course with Sandy. These features can be broadly described as “mid-latitude” systems, referring to the portion of the world where they typically form and exist. As tropical and mid latitude weather systems came together, they formed a storm that would have a wind and rain field that spanned more than 900 miles wide (Figure 1). This very large tropical storm force wind field placed an extensive stretch of the U.S. coastline, from the outer banks of North Carolina to the southern shores of New England, in the path of a very damaging and life threatening storm surge. Even worse, the exceptionally high tide levels

were experienced for several high tide cycles, due the slow motion of Sandy as it turned westward toward the Mid-Atlantic coastline. The coastal flooding due to the storm surge was particularly dangerous and destructive along the New Jersey and southern New York coast, including New York City and Long Island. In addition, as Sandy made landfall, all of the tropical moisture associated with the system collided with a cold front and upper level trough of low pressure moving into the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast U.S., which produced very heavy rainfall of as much as 8 to 12 inches in some locations. If these impacts were not enough, the air behind the cold front that collided with Sandy was cold enough to produce blizzard conditions and very heavy snowfall from the mountains of North Carolina, West Virginia, and portions of southeast Ohio. The combined impacts of tropical storm force winds, extreme coastal flooding, heavy rainfall and blizzard conditions, which covered much of the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast States, gave Sandy the distinction of being called a “Super Storm”.

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

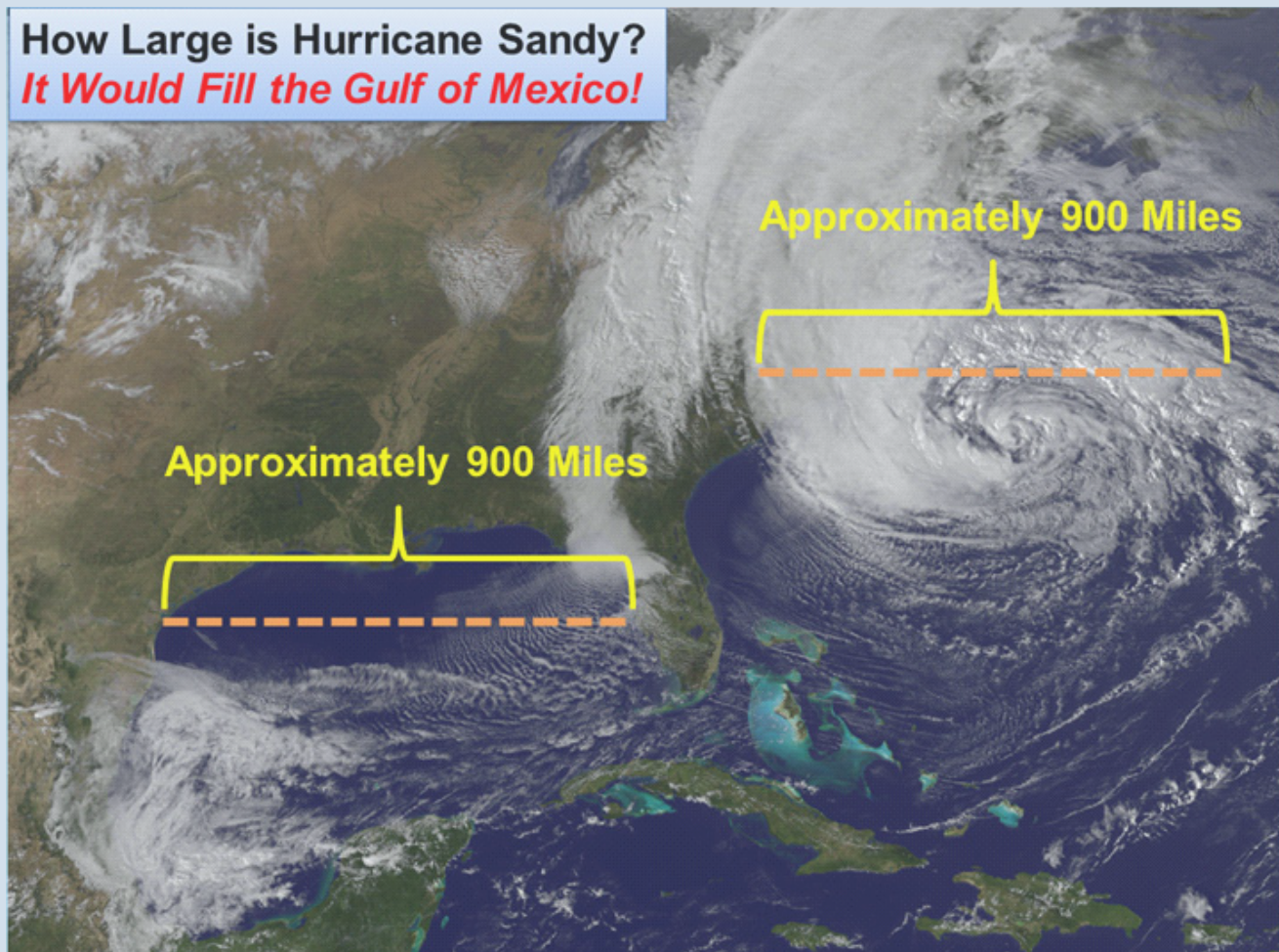


FIGURE 1.

Visible satellite image showing how large Hurricane Sandy was as it moved off the North Carolina Coast on October 28, 2012. If Sandy was located over the Gulf of Mexico, it would have covered the entire Gulf of Mexico Basin, from Florida to Texas. (National Weather Service Graphic)



Road Clearing is a Top Priority

North Carolina Highway 12 in Cape Hatteras.

Most of the focus on Hurricane Sandy was on the Northeast; however, before this destructive storm had reached the New Jersey coast, it had seriously impacted the North Carolina Outer Banks. Like Tybee Island, the Outer Banks have limited road access.

Hurricane Sandy left North Carolina Highway 12 (N.C. 12) rippled, altering portions of the highway into a twisting ribbon of asphalt sliced open between its yellow lines.

The highway was also a casualty of Irene's in 2011. Though Sandy spared much of the Outer Banks, the costly wind and flood damage sliced the Hatteras islanders' only roadway to the mainland. Immediately after the storm, emergency ferries became the only way off Hatteras Island, transporting people from the island to the mainland.

In the northern beach towns of Kitty Hawk and Kill Devil Hills, the storm surge split portions of N.C. 12, known as the "beach road," and blocked U.S. 158, the bypass that is the entrance to the northern Outer Banks from mainland Currituck County. Pumps worked to remove water that covered U.S. 158 while state road crews directed traffic to alternative routes until the roadway was clear. There was no timeline for when N.C. 12 would reopen.

Imagine that same devastation to US Highway 80 in Chatham County and what the impact would be if the road was destroyed. It

"For every two roads we clear, we get another report on one that's blocked."

would take months to rebuild and repair. This type of impact from a storm also shows just how important evacuation for areas like Tybee Island is. If people can't get out, crews can't get in.

Days following Hurricane Sandy, cities across the Northeast and along the east coast continued to clear roads. Four days after the storm hit, First Selectman Rudy Marconi from Ridgefield, Connecticut said, "There are still 100 roads in town completely blocked. For every two roads we clear, we get another report on one that's blocked."

Food and Water Are Some of the Most Needed Supplies

In the event of a hurricane, Chatham County residents **MUST** evacuate! Even then, residents should be prepared for their return with a **five to seven day supply** of non-perishable food and drinking water (to include food and water for pets) and sufficient cash on hand.

As we were witness to, only three days after Hurricane Sandy hit the Northeast, desperate calls and pleas for assistance went out from the affected areas requesting more food and drinking water. In most cases the delivery of available food and water near the affected areas was made quite difficult because storm damage left them inaccessible. In areas that did remain accessible, the lack of electricity to operate pumping stations for public water systems caused the shortage of drinking water.

When disasters strike, a community can be overwhelmed not only by the damage left behind, also by the amount of generous people who want to help. Days after Hurricane Sandy, Chatham County residents were already dropping supplies off to various distribution points set up through Savannah Responds. Savannah Responds is an organization founded by Chatham County Commission Chairman Pete Liakakis. During disasters, the organization collects and ships much needed supplies to affected areas. Most recently Savannah Responds helped

victims of the 2010 Haiti Earthquake. The organization works with agencies in the affected areas to make sure the right supplies are being sent to the right places, and that the community is able to manage those goods once they arrive.

It's important that people are aware of just what is needed following a disaster. Always the best way people can help is by donating cash through a trusted organization like the American Red Cross. Unsolicited donated goods such as used clothing, household items, and perishable foods require more work on agencies who must sort, package, transport, warehouse and distribute these items that may not meet the needs of disaster survivors.

If individuals do donate goods, water and non-perishable food items can be used, but it's important to make sure there is a specific need. That need was seen days after Hurricane Sandy as New York City kept food and water distribution centers open well into the evening, extending hours in many locations.

ESF 11b: Food and Water



National Guard Troops unload water in New York City after Hurricane Sandy.

ARES, Communicating When Others Can't

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is comprised of licensed Amateur Radio Operators, who perform communications during times of emergency. The ARES function is to assist various response agencies during emergencies to provide communications, when the normal avenues of communications are disrupted. ARES works closely with CEMA, the American Red Cross, the Region J Hospital Consortium, and the Southside Fire Department.

When called into action, the operators go to existing stations located at the served agencies or take "Go Kits" (self-contained radio stations) and deploy to any location that needs communications set up. ARES operates from the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) downtown and at the Annex EOC, at fixed sites with everything ready to go so that all they have to do is hook up the feed lines and the radios are up and running. Volunteers also operate at sites like the Air Support

Operations Center, located at Mosquito Control, which has no radios in place and no antennas ready to go. In situations like that, they deploy with their own equipment and set up from scratch. That can take a few minutes to a few hours depending upon the complexity of putting up antennas.

Members of ARES also provide communications for local events such as the Heart of Savannah 5K, the Flying Fortress 5K, and the Tunnel to Towers 5K; and we have assisted in clock operations with the Rock and Roll Marathon for the past two years.

During the G-8 Summit ARES operators operated from every fixed location in Chatham County and at the American Red Cross. They provided communications between the locations and CEMA EOC and Red Cross EOC. For that operation, they had operators from all over Georgia assisting with the communications. Volunteers provided three

Amateur Radio Operators are often called "HAMS" and there are several theories as to why. One theory is HAM is made up of the initials of the three great radio experimenters of bygone years. Another is that HAM stands for "Help All Mankind".

shifts for each site, operators for each of the feeding vehicles and fixed feeding sites. All of this was accomplished without any expense to any of the served agencies; it was all provided free of charge.

ESF 02: Communications
Steve Jonas, Emergency Coordinator, ARES



PORTABLE OPERATIONS

Top Left: Self-contained "Go-Kit" located at Memorial Health University Hospital.

Bottom Left: Steve Jonas's "Go-Kit" in the Annex EOC.

Bottom Right: Amateur Radio Operator Peter Levesque's "Go-Kit".



Brighten It Up, Don't Fire It Up

When there is a fire, earthquake, hurricane, or other emergencies in the community, one can count on the American Red Cross Southeast Georgia Chapter to help families. The American Red Cross responds to more house fires between October and February than any other time of the year.

Did you know that according to the National Fire Protection Association, December is the leading month for home candle fires with twice the average number of incidents? No matter if candles are being lit, food being cooked, lights being plugged into electrical outlets, or fireplaces being burned, the cause of fire can be prevented. More than one-third of deaths related to home fires occur during the winter months. In fact fires causes more deaths than any other disaster that occurs during the year.

Candle fires are the leading cause of house fires during the winter. There are several tips so that you won't be another statistic. Make sure you secure candles in a sturdy holder on a flat surface that won't tip over (make sure the holder is big enough to collect the dripping wax). Don't place candles in windows where blinds or curtains can close over them. Do not leave a burning candle unattended. Do not carry a lit candle or use a lit candle to look for things in a closet or confined area and last but definitely not least make sure to place candles out of reach of children, and in a position where pets won't be able to knock them over.

Heating equipment is the second largest cause of house fires and is the biggest fire culprit from December to January. Heating equipment includes portable heaters, space heaters, kerosene heaters, and fire places. To be safe make sure to keep portable heaters at least three feet from anything that can burn including furniture, bedding, clothing, pets and people. Do not leave space heaters on when you are not in the room or when you go to sleep. Do not use gasoline or other substitute fuel in a kerosene heater. Store kerosene away from heat or open flame

in a container approved by the local fire department.

Holiday trees add bright lights to one's home; however, holiday trees are directly responsible for almost 40 fatalities every year. It is important to make sure that the lights and electric items connected to the holiday tree are properly installed and plugged in correctly according to the directions. Overloaded circuits are the cause of many house fires during the holiday seasons. Further, one should make sure the tree is away from any source of ignition such as candles, space heaters, and fireplaces.

Home fires often start in the kitchen so make sure to take proper precautions in the kitchen area. Never leave the kitchen area while cooking. Keep plenty of oven mitts on hand. Have a working fire extinguisher nearby and know how to use it. Keep children and pets away from the cooking areas. Falling pots and pans can burn children. If you see sparks, broken or frayed wires, or if you smell hot insulation, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker. **KEEP MATCHES AND LIGHTERS OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.**

Always remember that smoke alarms save lives so make sure to install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including sleeping areas. Test and dust smoke alarms monthly. Change the batteries twice a year and replace smoke alarms every 10 years.

The American Red Cross of the Southeast Georgia Chapter wants everyone to have a safe winter. It's up to you to keep fires out of your homes. Remember fires are not in control. We are.

ESF 06: Mass Care

Salome Singleton and Laketa Lewis, Southeast Georgia Chapter, American Red Cross

Home Fires: America's Biggest Disaster Threat

- The American Red Cross responded to more than 74,000 disasters last year and 93 percent were fire related
 - Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries
 - Heating fires are the second leading cause of home fires
 - Smoking is the leading cause of home fire deaths
- Children under five and adults over 65 are more than twice as likely to die in a home fire than the rest of the U.S. population



CEMA Search and Rescue Team Members Receive National Certification

In 2009, the Chatham County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) began organizing a local Search and Rescue (SAR) Team. Initially, 17 CERT members attended several weekend training sessions presented by SAR Instructors certified by the National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR). NASAR is an organization that has established minimum training requirements and levels of certification for SAR personnel. **These initial 17 went on to earn their NASAR SAR Technician Level 2 certification.**

Today the SAR Team boasts an active membership of 30 dedicated volunteers. SAR Team members train each month to maintain their skills and training is conducted in both the classroom and field environments. Earlier this month, nearly a dozen team members obtained their SAR Technician 2 National Certification. The Team members travelled to Washington, North Carolina, where over a two day period they were tested on their land navigation, survival, and search skills.

Next year the County SAR Team will be establishing its own local training program and certification standards, all based on the program of instruction established by NASAR.

If you are interested in joining the County's SAR Team, please contact either Kelly Harley or Don Sullens at CEMA, 912-201-4500.

ESF 09: Search and Rescue
Don Sullens, EM Specialist, CEMA



CEMA has established partnerships with both Home Depot and Walmart to help equip the Team and Team members as required by the NASAR equipment standards. CEMA and the SAR Team would like to thank Bobby Pounder and Steve Dickey from Home Depot, and Mark Smith and Sandra Palmer from Walmart for their assistance.

Information Officers Visit Hunter: Fire Rifles, Eat With Soldiers

The Chatham County Public Information Officers Association is designed to promote networking opportunities, conduct training for public information officers, and to coordinate and execute emergency support as directed in the County's Emergency Operations Plan. Sometimes though **members can have a little fun, shoot assault rifles, and talk to soldiers.**

Public affairs staffers from Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield served as hosts for their Savannah peers of professional spokespersons when they visited Hunter Army Airfield in October.

The military public affairs staff recently joined the Chatham County Public Information Officers Association (CCPIOA) to gain networking opportunities and to promote its mission, to conduct training for public information officers; to promote cohesive communication within county businesses and government entities; and to coordinate and execute emergency support as directed in the Chatham County Emergency Operations Plan.

"The true value of hosting and being a part of the Public Information Officers (PIO) group comes down to two words— 'relationship building,'" said Ron Elliott, the Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Public Affairs Chief. "This venue provides networking opportunities among professional communicators throughout Coastal Georgia," added Elliott.

The PIOs come from a cross-section of local, state and federal government law enforcement and fire agencies, along with others from medical, emergency management, transportation, public works and other public safety and emergency agencies.

The group began their visit with an overview of Fort Stewart and Hunter units, along with the mission of the consolidated public affairs office. It was followed by a tour of Gannam Heights, one of Hunter's newer housing communities, and the U.S. Coast Guard's Air Station Savannah to see the HH-65 Dolphin helicopter and learn how the aircraft is used to conduct patrol and search and rescue missions. The group also toured Hunter's Engagement Skills Trainer, where they engaged targets with an M-4 assault rifle. They ended their visit with lunch in the Hunter Dining Facility.

"This was great," said Pete Nichols, the Chatham County PIO and CCPIOA Chairman. "It gave all of us a chance to learn about Hunter and to see some of the units here. It also allowed us to see what the public affairs staff does in their military environment. Another benefit of having tours at our members' workplace, is the networking opportunity and camaraderie that we experience."

Elliott agrees, and sees additional benefits.

"I believe our involvement [in this organization] will strengthen our ability to relate to the media and will improve our skills and confidence when handling all types of incidents. As public information officers, being prepared for the worst-case scenario is something that each one of us should strive for. I have always said "it's not a matter of if something big will take place on our installation or in our city; it's a matter of when." Whether it's a major motor vehicle collision, to a wide-spread fire, or an act of Mother Nature or worse, being prepared, as well as having access to experienced information officers like this

group provides, is extremely beneficial.

According to Kelly Harley, the PIO for Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) and CCPIOA Vice-Chairman, other goals and objectives of the association include: enhancing the business community's understanding of professional communications; promoting the professional communicator's role within an organization; making available comprehensive training that effectively addresses the needs of member professional communicators; serving as a catalyst for building positive, professional relations with Chatham County media outlets; publishing a directory of members and other related information; providing Emergency Management support to the Chatham County Emergency Operations Center and/or Joint Information Center (JIC) System; and ensuring coordination and execution of those requirements identified in emergency support functions.

Elliott said that he was proud that his staff had the opportunity to host the visit and that as a public affairs officer, he understands the critical importance of developing and maintaining relationships with the media, the need to stay abreast of the latest trends in the rapidly changing communications industry and the necessity of continuing training and education.

Group meetings are held the second Thursdays of every other month and are often in conjunction with a tour of a member's workplace. For additional information about the Chatham County Public Information Officers Association, contact Kelly Harley at 912-201-4500 or reach her by email at kharley@chathamcounty.org.

ESF 15: External Affairs
Nancy Gould, Public Affairs Officer, Hunter Army Airfield



One Hospital's Incredible Response to Aurora, Colorado Shooting

The emergency response to the mass shooting at the movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, on July 20 follows a quick timeline — and one that probably saved lives. Police officers and firefighters arrived on the scene within about 90 seconds of the first dispatch, and about 15 minutes into the response, the Aurora Police Department requested that people begin to be moved from the scene to health-care facilities. A few miles away, staff members at the University of Colorado Hospital (UCH) were attending to a full emergency room and a nearly full waiting room unaware of what had taken place at the Aurora Century 16 Movie Theater — that a gunman had entered a packed showing of the newest Batman movie with intent to kill. In the EMSsystem, which is used by all Colorado hospitals to track available beds among other things, UCH was on ER divert. Mentions of a shooting were heard on a fire radio in the hospital, but no details were provided. “There was a sense that something unusual was happening in the community,” Patrick Conroy, manager of support services for UCH, told attendees at Emergency Management’s All-Hazards, All-Stakeholders Summit on Sept. 20 in Denver. What follows is a look into the University of Colorado Hospitals response, which earned it Emergency Management’s Disaster Humanitarian Preparedness Award. “The exceptional response by the University of Colorado Hospital and its staff to the emergency illustrates its commitment to preparedness and the community, and for that, Emergency Management is honored to give it the Disaster Humanitarian Preparedness Award,” said Marty Pastula, vice president of emergency management and homeland security for the Emergency Management Media Platform. Conroy — along with Justin Oeth, associate manager of the emergency department, and Rob Leeret, director of emergency and trauma services — accepted the award.

Responding to a No-Notice Event

According to police, James Holmes, who was charged with the attack that killed 12 people and injured 58, entered the movie theater through an emergency exit door at 12:38 a.m. The first 911 call was made at 12:39 a.m., and Holmes was apprehended by officers at about 12:45. Shortly after 1 a.m., a request for bed counts went out over the EMSsystem, which automatically paged several members of the UCH staff, including Conroy. And at 1:01 a.m., the first patients from the shooting, a mother and her four-month-old child, arrived at the University of Colorado Hospital by private vehicle. That was just the beginning. Conroy said that within about five minutes of the first patients arrival, police officers began bringing more victims to the hospital for treatment. Within about 15 minutes, nine Aurora Police Department patrol cars each transported between one and three patients to UCH. “All this happened before an ambulance ever arrived at the hospital with patients,” Conroy said. In total, UCH received 23 patients from the Aurora massacre. In addition to those brought by private vehicle and patrol cars, three victims arrived by ambulance and another ran from the theater to the hospital. Although UCH was originally on ER divert, it eventually made no difference, Conroy said. “One of the takeaways that the local EMS providers are looking at is how we do distribution of patients in no-notice events.” At 1:30 a.m., Conroy assumed the hospital incident commander position under the emergency operations plan. Although staff members were

already working from the emergency operations plan, it was formally announced, which triggered internal notifications and call downs. UCH then began focusing on its initial priorities, including: ensuring there was adequate staff in the ER; offloading patients who were in the emergency department to the post-anesthesia care unit; securing the area; and working with people in the lobby who were inquiring about loved ones. To help the public, UCH established a hotline within the first 12 hours of the emergency. It received more than 2,000 calls of people looking for loved ones. UCH worked collaboratively with other hospitals and its partner, the Tri-County Health Department, to get each health-care facility’s patient list so family members could be directed to the correct location.

“The downside of that, a lesson learned,” Conroy said, “is if someone is calling for John Smith and John Smith isn’t on any of those lists, we have a pretty good idea that John Smith was still on the scene awaiting the coroner’s response, but what do you tell those family members?”

Reviewing the Response

Other takeaways from UCH’s after-action review include that health-care facilities cannot train, exercise and drill too much, especially for a no-notice event, like the mass shooting in Aurora. “A lot of us in the hospital environment tend to believe we will have some level of notice and control of the number of patients that are coming in the door,” Conroy said. “Certainly that didn’t happen in this event.” UCH conducts a monthly emergency management activity, such as a policy review, drills, training and table top exercises. Conroy said in 2012 the hospital has completed 34 preparedness activities to date. Conroy also addressed other implications for health care and emergency management. Unified command is necessary because of the complexities of large health-care organizations. “Unified command in a health-care setting is a reality of our existence,” Conroy said. The liaison officer’s role also proved to be critical during the response. The liaison officer coordinated with other hospitals, the local governments’ EOCs and the Tri-County Health Department. Conroy also said new technologies will help hospitals get a clearer picture of different situations, and more importantly, help filter out what the information means to the organization. Another takeaway Conroy pointed out is the importance of Emergency Support Function 8 (ESF-8). According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ESF-8 involves supplemental assistance to state, tribal and jurisdictional governments in identifying and meeting the public health and medical needs of victims of major disasters or public health and medical emergencies. Conroy said that many times, there is an assumption that hospitals will be self-sufficient, but in reality that isn’t necessarily true. He added that all hospitals must have a plan for how they will sustain themselves for 96 hours, and although the plans look great on paper, they can’t be tested in a real-world environment. For example, hospitals relied on local community support during Hurricane Irene and after the tornadoes struck Joplin, Mo., in 2011. “Unless there is a good ESF8 partnership» that is up and running and dialed in and active, something is going to ultimately get lost and unfortunately it might be lives,” Conroy said. The Aurora tragedy will continue to be studied from all sides of the emergency management community, but it’s important to remember that the response was successful. Conroy»

Gala Honors Local Law Enforcement

On October 24, law enforcement from across the county came together for a night of dinner and dancing at the 2nd Annual CrimeStoppers Policeman's Gala. CrimeStoppers began the tradition in 2011 in an effort to allow law enforcement personnel fellowship and enjoy a night out on the town. This year's event was held at the Marriott Riverfront and nearly 200 guests attended. People danced away the night with tunes from the Second Chance Band, enjoyed wonderful food, and received great door prizes supplied by local businesses. CrimeStoppers would like to thank all those who made this a successful event: our law enforcement partners, corporate sponsors, and the community.

ESF 13: Law Enforcement
Catherine Neal, Media Coordinator, CrimeStoppers



CrimeStoppers Director Demery Bishop and Board of Education Police Chief Ulysses Bryant. (Photo courtesy: Gena Bilbo, Metro Police)

continued from previous page

said every patient at every hospital survived. (The two fatalities at health-care facilities were deceased before they made it inside a hospital, he said.) "The bottom line, at least from a hospital perspective, no matter what the lessons we ultimately learned from, we know absolutely without a doubt that internally our response was nothing less than extraordinary," Conroy said. "The entire health-care community in the entire metro area really deserves the credit for their response and their ability to say ... „we'll take care of it."

This article was printed from:
<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/safety/One-Hospitals-Incredible-Response-to-the-Aurora-Colo-Mass-Shooting.html>

ESF 08: Health and Medical
Elaine Pittman

ICS, NIMS, EOC: Take Your Pick

In October, CEMA sponsored an Incident Command System (ICS) 300/400 class taught by the Georgia Public Safety Training Center Fire Academy. The class spanned a week, with ICS 300 being Monday to Wednesday and ICS 400 on Thursday and Friday. These classes are needed by mid-level and upper management of agencies that have roles in a disaster, which is really most governmental agencies and many private and non-profit agencies. The classes cover topics such as transfer of command, ICS forms, resource management, interagency mission planning and procurement, unified command, area command, and how all of these topics integrate together to ensure that a community can have a coordinated response to a situation. These classes are part of the annual NIMSCAST training requirements that CEMA has to submit to the State of Georgia. The state ensures that our agency is staying compliant with federal standards. CEMA will work to bring the class again in the Spring of 2013. When you see the announcement, get your application in, the class fills up fast!

CEMA also hosted a class for City and County Public Information Officers (PIOs) to get them familiar with the ICS, the Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) and the National Incidents Management System (NIMS). The PIOs are part of the Chatham County Public Information Officers Association (CCPIOA) and meet regularly and train together in case of a large-scale emergency affects Chatham County.

During HURREX 2012, the group participated in a Joint Information Center (JIC) exercise and it was discovered that many PIOs were not comfortable with ICS, the EOC and NIMS. Through the two hour training in the beginning of November, members of the CCPIOA gained a better understanding of how everything works together and how a JIC would work with the various components during a disaster. Nearly two dozen PIOs from various municipalities and organizations attended the training.

CEMA would like to thank those who take the time to attend trainings like this in order to better help their community.

Re-Write in the Works for the County's Flood Mitigation Plan



Photo: Savannah Morning News

A Flood Mitigation Plan is required by all Community Rating System (CRS) communities that have ten or more repetitive loss properties that have not received mitigation. Unincorporated Chatham County has a total of 44 repetitive loss properties on record with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). A repetitive loss property is one for which two or more claims of \$1,000 or more were paid by the National Flood Insurance Program within any given 10-year period since 1978. Of those 44 properties, six were mitigated in recent years via relocation or acquisition/demolition. In some cases, the mitigation projects were accomplished using a 75% federal match from Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program funds. These federal grant funding opportunities would not have been available without a multi-hazard mitigation plan that was formally adopted by the community.

The re-write of the Plan began on February 29, 2012 by holding a meeting called, Organizing to Plan. The format for the Plan was determined by the Planning Committee using the guidelines outlined in the "Draft April 6, 2012 Edition of the CRS Coordinator's Manual." Several outreach projects were implemented to involve the general public through media such as outdoor bill boards, flyers in public buildings and on the web via Facebook, Twitter and the County Website. The general public was provided several opportunities to comment on the Plan during the re-write period through Public Information Meetings held in the Conference Room of the Chatham County Department of Engineering at 124 Bull Street, Room 430, Savannah, Georgia 31401.

FEMA requires the Plan be submitted for compliance on or before October 1, 2012 but not before being adopted by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners.

Following submittal of the Plan to FEMA shortly after October 1, 2012, the Planning Committee realized opportunities for additional CRS points not accounted for in the Plan. An effort to revise the Plan commenced in an attempt to regain approximately 150 CRS points. Presently, the Plan is being revised with language, charts and tables to account for previous omissions. Target dates include posting the Plan for public review on November 26, 2012. A Public Information Meeting is scheduled on December 5, 2012 to gain public comments and suggestions. The Plan is scheduled to go before the Chatham County Board of Commissioners on December 21, 2012 to be adopted in the form of a resolution. The final act will result in submitting the Plan to FEMA for approval and CRS scoring.

The Planning Committee is scheduled to meet quarterly to monitor and review activities outlined in the Plan. Annual Progress Reports are required by FEMA and must be submitted no later than October 1 for any given year. The Plan will require updating/revising in five years or during the year 2017.

Lessons Learned for Memorial Health; Hospital Continues to Improve

On July 20, 2012 an Aurora, Colorado movie theater was the site of a shooting disaster where 12 people were killed and 58 injured. The University of Colorado (UCH) hospital was the receiving hospital for a majority of the victims. During the After Action Report (AAR) UCH described many opportunities for improvement within their hospital emergency protocol.

On February 7, 2008, Savannah had its own community disaster, the Imperial Sugar Refinery explosion. Memorial's Team Members performed outstandingly well under the circumstances. Within 10 hours of the incident, all patients were shipped to the Augusta Burn Center. Mission well done! However, no matter how often such disasters take place, there will always be opportunities for improvement. Memorial addressed several areas of improvement on how to fine tune its overall Hospital Incident Command System (HICS) protocol.

During the evening of the incident there was a delay in the internal notification system. Operators immediately used the back-up calling tree plan to notify all needed personnel. Because this disaster was such a major event, the local media were broadcasting throughout the city on radio and television. Without any hesitation, Team Members began to report to work. (Memorial has now partnered with the Mutual Aid Georgia Hospital Association alert notification system. This system is managed by operators and more reliable for first time notifications.)

Our Incident Command did not get enough accurate information from the disaster site and all types of rumors were coming into the command center that slowed up the preparation process while leadership deciphered what was valuable and what was not. (Memorial now works with CEMA by providing a hospital liaison to occupy a seat within their Emergency Operation Center (EOC) during an emergency. All information is channeled through the EOC before it is disseminated to the proper agency. This support helps to avoid or limit false information which slows down the response process.

The city had great Air Medevac support. By utilizing an onsite Transport Coordinator, managing the inbound helicopter traffic was the difference in getting victims immediate medical attention versus having to deliver them by ambulance. However, there were some difficulties getting the lights turned on at the Jenkins High School football field. As part of our corrective actions, Memorial's security acquired keys from school security which is to be maintained within the Memorial Security Dispatch Office.

In a mass casualty event, shortage of supplies and equipment are critical in providing care to victims. Working with other regional hospitals and boarding state line facilities, Memorial was able to commandeer depleted supplies. The Joint Commission now requires hospitals to maintain or have access to 96-hours of resources.

Memorial takes every opportunity to exercise with its All Hazard Partners to highlight issues that could hinder its disaster protocol. Memorial continues to exercise internally to make sure the staff and doctors are prepared to provide the best care possible. Memorial realizes it cannot prevent or predict when another community disaster may take place, but guarantees its staff and doctors are better prepared than ever before.

ESF 08: Health and Medical
Jimmy Gordon, Safety Manager, Memorial Health



Imperial Sugar Refinery on February 7, 2008. AP Photo/Stephen Morton.

Pet Parents Beware

In today's busy lifestyle we tend to forget that we must prepare for the worst and in today's news headlines that message is becoming even clearer. ***Disaster and medical emergencies do happen, and that is why you should take action not only for your family, but for your pets as well, as they depend on you for their survival.***

Here are the most important things you should do if you have pets before, during and after a disaster;

Always, always have identification on your pet! Even if your pet has a tattoo or id chip they should wear an ID tag, don't assume everyone knows your pet. The ID should include the Pet's Name, Your Name and a Contact Phone Number (preferably your cell) and note "Needs RX", if the pet needs medication daily or "Handicapped", if your pet is blind or deaf or has a difficult physical disability like bad arthritis, etc.

Use an emergency information kit like the Pet Alert Emergency Information kit that can help identify all your pets and all vital information needed to protect them at home or while traveling or in the event something happens to you.

Always have emergency phone numbers available and near your home phone, in case of an emergency or medical need. So even if you can't call for help, someone else can and will know whom to call. The phone list should include your veterinarian and emergency animal clinic nearest to your home, with your contact numbers (i.e., cell, work), plus someone that can care for your animals for more than a few hours, such as a friend or pet sitter.

Do a pet safety check in and around your home, to help lessen immediate dangers. Check for unstable objects, top heavy book cases, dangerous chemicals that are not contained, etc. You can find a list and more information to keep your pets safe from everyday hazardous in the book, the "Guide to Pet Safety".

Know your pet's vital signs so you know if they are ill or need help.

Know what to do if your pet is injured and how to transport them correctly an injured dog is transported differently from an injured cat for intense.

Prepare a Poisonous Incident and First-Aid kit for your pet and include a First-Aid book that is appropriate for your pet for proper information during a medical emergency.

Prepare a Disaster Evacuation kit that includes all your pets and their needs for a minimum of 3 to 10 days. Make sure to include any medication that your pet requires in you kit and health records.

Don't assume that your neighbors or friends will be available during an emergency to help you or your pets. You should also realize first responders will not know about your pets either and their presence may frighten your pet.

The key to saving lives is to pre-plan so you know what to do "before, during and after" a natural or man-made disaster strikes in your area.

To help you understand what is needed and how to prepare for all

your pets easily, I encourage every pet parent to use the "Guide to Pet Safety" for the vital information it teaches you. It provides step by step instructions to complete the list above and much more to be pet safe. Educating yourself and keeping control of your pet during a disaster or emergency, not only can keep your pet safe but help emergency personnel and others trying to do their jobs.

The simple facts; why pets suffer the most from disasters.

After every natural and man-made disaster we see and hear about countless misplaced and homeless pets of all types. Which is heart breaking and takes tolls on many pets, people and resources and the major factors that hinder pets and their safety are their parent's attitudes about disasters. These are the biggest obstacles that take so many pet lives;

Complacency. 98% of people think that a disaster will never happen to them or that they will have time to prepare when a disaster is imminent. In most cases, like fire or flood, your lead time will be minimal to retrieve needed supplies, valuables and your lives. You need to deliberately plan ahead and not let you and your pets become victims.

Procrastination. Even if people understand the threats they may be involved with during a disaster, people just don't know where to start or what to plan for, so they put it off for later. Putting not only themselves in jeopardy, but their pets that rely on them.

Not taking action. Just talking about what needs to be done, does not solve the problem. You need to take action. Know you must make those critical steps and educate yourself, get organized, rely on your preparation and your resources to stay safe and save lives.

Abandonment. Because of not enough time and failed attempts to plan. Please - Friends shouldn't leave friends behind.

Solutions for pets and their safety are in the hands of their pet parents and not animal control.

"Knowledge is power and your pet depends on you and your knowledge when in trouble."

Pet parents that love their pets take the following steps to protect their pets and everyone with a pet should take their example to heart, as we are pets guardians, they rely on us for everything.

1. Recognize the scope of the hazardous concerns and their responsibility that lies on them for their pet's health and safety along with theirs during emergencies and underlying environmental threats that can happen in their area (fire, flood, earthquake, hurricanes, etc.).

2. Know the bare necessities that will help protect your type of pet in different type of situations. Remember the requirements for pet safety and evacuation are different, and all emergencies are not the same, such as a house fire vs. hurricane. You must take into account the different types of planning that may be required for the pending danger and the type of pet involved. For example, it doesn't make sense to prepare for transportation of horses if you have dogs.

3. Implement the solution. Be pet alert, by preparing and»



A Rude Awakening Without Emergency Preparation

continued from previous page

educating yourself. Learn to protect your pet from every day hazardous and what you'll be involved with in the event of a disaster and most importantly what will be required after the disaster to keep you and your pet safe and healthy. Take action, help your pets be able to count on you in troubled times by being prepared and by knowing what to do. Remember, you are your pet's guardian; for their life and their needs, all of the time.

4. Don't forget "out of the ordinary". Most people think of pet safety and disaster preparedness as being just for small household pets such as a cat or a dog, but many pets include reptiles, fish, and larger pets, such as horses. These types of pets take more preparation and may require foods that may not be available after the disaster, so be ready with supplies. Be responsible, these usual pets can cause much strife to our natural wildlife and environment during a disaster if let lose.

5. Rehearse your disaster plan at least once a year to ensure that others who may be required to help implement it are aware of it and any changes, don't assume. Make sure all required items in your pet disaster kit and pet first-aid kit are not expired, if so replace them. Prevention is the best protection.

ESF 11a: Pets

Cameron R. Thumwood,
Author, "Guide to Pet Safety"

Living in a society filled with complexities such as ignorance and complacency; we are periodically faced with challenging situations in which we must make critical and immediate decisions. Sometimes minimal advance notice allows little or no time to make life threatening decisions. Survival may depend on quick responses and advance planning.

CEMA has created a brochure called "Vital Documents To-Go-Box" for use in the event of an emergency. It is recommended that these vital documents be preserved in a to-go-box or kept in a safe place in case of an evacuation or simply for emergency purposes. It is very important to know where the vital documents and records are stored. With no time to gather personal items or documents, a to-go-box can be a major component of any emergency plan. The devastating impact that violent storms like Hurricane Sandy can have on communities is a rude awakening for many who lived in areas that were left with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Living along the coast that has never been threatened by such a violent storm was a rude awakening! This is why it is so important to have an emergency disaster plan and to be prepared.

Make a to-go-box that includes the following important items:

- Shot records for all family members (including pets)
- Medical & dental records
- Copies of all prescriptions
- Bank account & safe deposit box information
- Monthly bill information and addresses
- Pay check 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
- Powers of Attorney
- State and Federal Tax records
- Wills
- Insurance policies
- List of immediate family addresses & Phone numbers
- Court orders: divorce, child support, child custody, etc.
- Real estate documents: e.g. leases, deeds, & mortgages
- Copies of any installment contracts (car, furniture, etc.)
- Pet records and supplies

It is of the utmost importance to have a to-go-box in a disaster of the magnitude of Hurricane Sandy. Also include a safety plan that includes food and water. There are lots of lessons learned from Hurricane Sandy that have left our society with numerous questions, of not "If" but "When" disaster strikes can we survive? The question is, "Can we prepare to be prepared in times of a disaster?"

Information on the "Vital Documents To-Go Box" can be found on Chatham Emergency Management's website (<http://chathamemergency.org>).

Preparedness
Nell Hart, Administrative Assistant, CEMA

A Proactive Approach to Getting the Money

DISASTER FINANCE TRAINING

When it comes to understanding how getting reimbursed after a disaster really works, it can be quite a challenge. The paperwork alone is something that you must pay close attention to and since we are lucky enough not to have to deal with it on a daily basis, many are unsure of what to do. To help municipalities better understand how it works, CEMA hosted a two-day training designed to prepare local governments how to successfully navigate the process of receiving Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance funding following a presidentially declared disaster. Nearly 50 people, from various municipalities, attended the free training held in August. The workshop began with a four-hour introductory overview of the FEMA Public Assistance program. The first afternoon was the more in-depth training series focused on the FEMA Public Assistance program and how to understand and work through the various programs, policies

and worksheets. The training advanced to cover a series of hands-on segments that introduced participants to the various forms that make up the FEMA project worksheet and supporting documentation. During the afternoon of the second day, the instructors presented realistic scenarios that challenged participants to apply the information and skills they gained in the various combinations.

If you missed this training opportunity, the good news is that the training does not end there. CEMA is currently working on designing more disaster finance training sessions and plans to announce the opportunities during the first and second quarter of 2013.

Finance
Kate Busbee, EM Specialist, CEMA

Mobile Joint Information Center Helps Keep the Message Moving

In late August, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security (GEMA) took delivery of its mobile Joint Information Center (mJIC), one of the first such dedicated vehicles in the country. The new vehicle provides a central facility where public information officers (PIOs) can work and meet with reporters, citizens and officials in the field.

“Providing coordinated, factual and timely public information is a critical part of any emergency response effort,” said GEMA Public Affairs Director Ken Davis. But identifying a suitable brick and mortar facility can take several days to accomplish – and frequently an event begins to wind down just as the Joint Information Center (JIC) becomes ready for full operation.

That is the situation Davis has found during numerous deployments over the years when he was tasked to quickly find functional locations able to accommodate a rotating contingent of local, state and federal PIOs. And, the location needed to be equipped with phone, fax, copier and internet access – a big challenge sometimes for remote or impacted areas in and around disaster areas.

“Local officials are always very supportive of establishing the JIC, but getting everything wired up and delivered can take several days even during the best of times. In one instance we were driving five minutes to get a cell phone signal just to check and return media calls because land line phone service wasn’t available,” Davis said. “We all recognized that GEMA needed to be more self-contained when it came

to quickly setting up a JIC.”

Built on a 2012 Freightliner Sprinter 3500 chassis by MBF Industries, Inc., of Sanford, Fla., the mJIC supports four work stations, including internet access, fax/copier, Southern Linc cellular, cellular signal booster and WiFi booster. Media monitoring capabilities allow the mJIC to receive multiple local and national television feeds and AM/FM radio signals. Additional staff can tap into an exterior power outlet and there are four dedicated voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP) phone lines and two cordless phones supported through a satellite hook up. Local responders and news agencies can even plug into onsite video feeds, local and national media feeds and conduct live broadcasts from the mJIC. It can be powered by a 6 kilowatt under-hood generator fueled by a 3.0 liter diesel engine, 120 -volt shore power or 3-amp shore power hook-ups. Most importantly, upon arrival on scene, the mJIC set-up takes less than 20 minutes.

More information regarding the vehicle’s specs are at: <http://www.mbfindustries.com/gema>

ESF 15: External Affairs
Crystal Paulk-Buchanan, Public Affairs Officer, GEMA

CEMA Secures Company to Establish Incident Base Operations

It may sound like a military thing, but what we are talking about is a central location that would be established after a disaster in Chatham County to provide logistical support to our first responders and other emergency support personnel.

The Incident Base is not a military operation; however, it is a complicated logistical function requiring military style coordination and management. When established, activities within the Incident base generally include: temporary housing, food service, restroom and shower facilities, laundry, temporary water systems, temporary power generation and distribution, logistical staging, fuel and maintenance, and communications. Most likely the infrastructure required to establish the above services and support will have to be brought in to the County.

In order to provide these services in a timely manner to our emergency workers following a significant event affecting our area,

CEMA has secured Deployed Resources, a company based out of North Carolina, to establish the Incident Base for Chatham County. Deployed Resources is a small veteran owned business enterprise specializing in the design, construction, operation and management of temporary life support facilities and the equipment required to support those facilities. Deployed Resources provided similar services in Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina in 2006; in Texas following Hurricanes Ike and Gustav in 2008; and after the flooding in North Dakota in 2011. Whether our requirement is for a total “Turn-Key” Incident Base, or any single component of the logistical support system, Deployed Resources is capable of supporting the post event logistical needs for Chatham County.

ESF 07: Logistics

Don Sullens, EM Specialist, CEMA

Past Plans Get Updated; Future Plans to Exercise



Planning is an integral part of Emergency Management. Without proper planning and the exercising of those plans, emergency management is not effective. CEMA understands this and is constantly working on updating the plans that will be used during an emergency or disaster. We use each activation of the Emergency Operations Center and every event that occurs as an opportunity to exercise our plans so that we will know what works and

what does not. This year alone we have updated 72 documents within our plans, and we still have a few left on the calendar to update this year. Included in that number are five that were brand new documents to add to the collection of plans. This year we created the Volunteer Reception Center Plan, Stabilization Strategy, Disaster Awareness and Preparedness Strategy, Damage Assessment Strategy, and we had each department within Chatham County develop their own Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). CEMA also restructured a few plans as

Planning for protection of life and property, as well as resources prior to a disaster is smart public policy. *A lack of preparation can lead to a confused and dangerous response and recovery.* Damage could be widespread, debris, rubble and water will need to be managed effectively and efficiently. When planning is built into the framework of response, lives can be saved and property protected.

well. We reorganized the ESF-15 External Affairs appendices to better outline the concept of Joint Information System and Joint Information Center. All of our planning documents can be found on our website at ChathamEmergency.org.

One of our biggest planning projects for this year was redeveloping the COOP and getting each department within Chatham County to develop their own COOP so that they each have a contingency plan in place. This was a large task that required endless amounts of effort from each of the department heads; they did a great job and now have plans completed for each department. This was a six month project that we look forward to exercising in January to see what improvements or changes need to be made to the different plans. Be on the look out for more information about the COOP exercise that is scheduled for January 29, 2013.

ESF 5a: Planning

Kate Busbee, EM Specialist, CEMA

SHER Taking Steps in Right Direction

Natural disasters often times affect some of our most precious documents that share the stories of where we live and where came from. That's what happened when the Connecticut River Museum was forced to close, due to flood damage left by Hurricane Sandy. "While we are relieved that we did not lose anything that is irreplaceable or of historic value, the repair and restoration process will be a significant financial setback for us," said the museum's Executive Director Jerry Roberts.

The fact that the museum didn't lose some of those irreplaceable items is because of the plans in place. Before the storm, Schooner Mary E was moved to safe harbor at Deep River Marina and staff members moved every item to the second floor.

Savannah is a place that harbors many items of historic value that if lost, would be devastating. Hurricane Sandy reinforces that need for our local museums and cultural centers to be prepared. Savannah museums and historic sites are working to be as prepared as possible

with Savannah Heritage Emergency Response (SHER). SHER is a home-base and support group for our cultural organizations to train and prepare for the inevitable natural and man-made disasters. The SHER website serves as a clearinghouse for disaster preparation and recovery information specifically aimed at cultural organizations.

The group meets regularly and at the November meeting, Gloria Swift of Fort Pulaski National Monument shared her experiences as part of a National Park Service MERT (Museum Emergency Response Team). The MERT goes into national parks severely damaged by disasters and begins the recovery process. One of SHER's long-term goals is to create an emergency response team of our local professionals to help our fellow SHER members during small, localized disasters and eventually partnering with groups such as Atlanta's HERA (Heritage Emergency Response Alliance).

ESF 11c: Natural , Cultural, Historical
Laura Seifert, Chairperson, SHER

The ESF 04 Update: Holiday Safety, Info Update and Hurricane Planning 2013

So the Happy Holidays are here again! ESF 04 would like to remind all that home cooking fires are the number one fire hazard across the US and their frequency increases during the Holidays with all the extra cooking that occurs. Be safe, watch what you heat! Have those fireplaces and furnaces serviced as well. During the Holidays, check those extra Christmas lights you've been using for the last, oh, 10 to 20 years, and make sure the wiring is good. Keep the tree watered. Stay in the room with those lighted candles. Remember, when you go out, blow out. And check the different area fire department websites and our local news media for tips on the infamous turkey-frying. Be safe this Holiday Season.

For all ESF4 partners, just a reminder, if you have not done so, please do the following:

1. Update your resource lists for CEMA; (912) 201-4500.
2. Update all contact information for your Fire Department, including mailing addresses as well as the standard email, phones, etc.
3. Update your list of Emergency Operations Center qualified candidates to work ESF 04 positions during events. Please submit to CEMA, care of Don Sullens or Dustin Hetzel. January is the time for all emergency service departments in

Chatham County to review their Hurricane Plans for 2013. Check the CEMA website for the updated County-wide disaster plan. Be sure to send any info which has changed in your plans that may affect the County plan to CEMA.

ESF 04 is currently working on getting the Georgia State Patrol PPT presentation on the new "Due Regard" training for all emergency responders out to local departments. Currently, the Public Safety Commission of Georgia is requiring all those who wish to obtain/renew a red-light permit to have proof of this training on file with them before issuance of the permit. We are still working on obtaining the information as to who exactly gets the "roster" lists of completed training. When we have all the info from the State, we will forward it through the Chatham Chiefs Association to all.

ESF 04's next regular meeting will be in early January 2013. Stay vigilant, stay safe.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

ESF 04: Firefighting
Hugh Futrell, Assistant Chief, Soutside Fire/EMS/Security

Rock on Runners: EOC Supports Marathon

While many Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) around the Northeast were open to support Hurricane Sandy response and recovery operations, the Chatham EOC activated on November 3 to support the **Second Annual Savannah Rock and Roll Marathon and Half Marathon**. This event has become the second largest event in the City of Savannah, next to St. Patrick's Day festivities, bringing in estimates of 30,000 people to the downtown area. CEMA supported the Savannah Chatham Metropolitan Police Department (SCMPD) with coordination efforts by activating the EOC/Incident Command Post for the event. SCMPD used the EOC last year as well because it is equipped to manage a large event where everyone needs to be together to communicate and collaborate. Police officers from multiple departments, Fire, EMS, Transportation, Public Health and many other agencies arrived at 4 a.m. on the morning of race day. The new course

took runners through the campus of Savannah State University this year, so coordination with the university was also key in making sure the event ran smoothly. Road closures and openings were tracked and monitored, injured runners were supported, and the race was watched closely from cameras to ensure that everything was coordinated and safe for the runners and spectators that day. WebEOC, a web-based information management system, was used during the activation to make sure everyone in the EOC had situational awareness.

ESF 05b: Emergency Management
Jennifer Rodriguez, EM Coordinator, CEMA

TEAM SUPPORT

CEMA staffer Jennifer Rodriguez completes her goal of running the full marathon this year. Her son, Morgan, completed the half marathon. (Photo below are the two at the finish line.)

RUNNERS

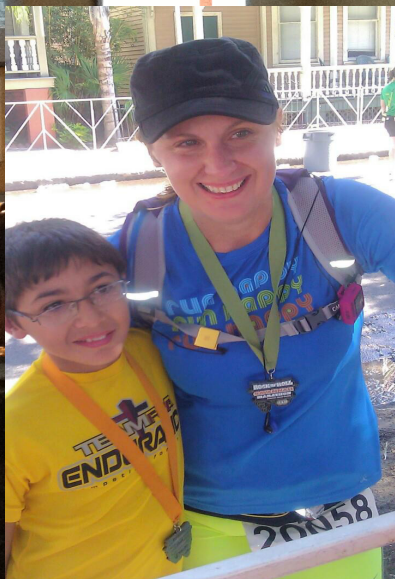
More than 17,000 runners signed up this year. The Men's Full Marathon winner completed the race with a time of 2:34:04; the Women's Full Marathon winner completed the race with a time of 2:52:05.

EOC

The County EOC located at the Annex has 65 workstations that can support multiple operational periods. The EOC opened at 4 a.m. on race day and at 4 p.m. was deactivated.

THE RACE

The race benefited the American Cancer Society. Music makes up the heart of the event and more than 35 live bands performed along each mile of the race course. The race ended with a concert in Forsyth Park.



SPOTLIGHT



KEVIN STRICKLAND

Kevin Strickland grew up in Savannah and was the son of a career Army Officer. Kevin learned early on that it's not what the country did for him, but what can he do for his country.

The words of President Kennedy must have stuck because at age 17 he joined the Army. Kevin was a paratrooper for four years and joined the reserves after he was discharged. It wasn't long before his desire to help others caught up with him and he went to work for the Southside Fire Department.

After starting with the fire department, war broke out in Iraq and Kevin volunteered to return to active duty and served for the next 16 years. After retiring from the Army he volunteered for the fire department for six months before reapplying for a full time job, where he now serves as a Firefighter/EMT again with Southside Fire/EMS.

Kevin became involved with the CEMA Community Emergency Response Team after his neighbor asked him to join. Soon after that, CEMA formed a Search and Rescue Team and Kevin is now Captain of the SAR team.

He says it is a pleasure to help recruit, train and employ the dedicated volunteers that make up the team.

National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program



The Operations Section with representatives from local industries and agencies are working on the response to simulated chemical spills as a result of a disaster.

The 2012 Annual National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program is designed to provide an opportunity for learning and practice for the Savannah Spill Response Corporation (SSRC) IMT. The tabletop exercise was held on October 10 at the Coastal Georgia Center and was designed to exercise and evaluate the capabilities of the teams to respond in a coordinated manner utilizing

SSRC members' emergency response plans and the National Incident Management System Incident Command System. The ultimate goal of these types of exercises is to develop an Incident Action Plan. This exercise provided an opportunity to improve preparedness by utilizing and validating the teams' response plans and procedures.

ESF 10: Hazardous Materials
Dave Grotzmann, EM Specialist, CEMA

Savannah Spill Response was formed in the 1990s to provide coordinated and efficient response for OPA 90 requirements in the Savannah River Basin.

Members include:

ARIZONA CHEMICAL - HAWTHORNE SERVICES - COLONIAL TERMINAL - IMPERIAL SUGAR -
 PHILLIPS 66 - NUSTAR ASPHALT - EPIC MIDSTREAM LLC - PETROLIANCE - FUJI VEGETABLE OIL -
 STRICKLAND OIL COMPANY - GAF MATERIALS CORPORATION - VOPAK TERMINAL -
 GEORGIA POWER - WEYERHAEUSER

Calendar

MEETINGS

December 7, 930AM to 11AM ESF 02 Meeting

EOC Annex
Nick Batey
nbatey@chathamcounty.org
(912) 652-7343

December 12, 7:30AM EMC Advisory Council Meeting

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

December 20, TBD ESF 15 Meeting

Tubby's Tank House, Thunderbolt
Kelly Harley
(912) 201-4500
kharley@chathamcounty.org

January 11, 10AM Disability Task Force Meeting

LIFE Office
Fran Todd
(912) 920-2414
ftodd@lifecil.com

January 14, 7PM Chatham County Fire Chiefs Association (ESF 04)

Effingham County, Location TBD
Dustin Hetzel or Don Sullens
djhetzel@chathamcounty.org
dwsullens@chathamcounty.org
(912) 201-4500

January 16, 10AM LEPC Meeting

Sav Civic Center, Bryan Room
Noel Perkins
perkinsn@thempc.org

January 17, 6PM CERT Meeting

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

MEETINGS

January 17, 10AM Area 5 EMAG Meeting

Wayne County EMA
Dennis Jones
(912) 201-4500
dtjones@chathamcounty.org

January 22, 9AM to 11:30AM MACS Meeting

Coastal Georgia Center
Dennis Jones
(912) 201-4500
dtjones@chathamcounty.org

February 21, 10AM Area 5 EMAG Meeting

Effingham EMA
Dennis Jones
(912) 201-4500
dtjones@chathamcounty.org

TRAININGS

Jan 10, 8:30AM to 5PM EOC Staff Training

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

January 17, 8:30AM to 12PM Damage Assessment Training

EOC Annex
Dave Grotyohann
(912) 201-4500
dsgrotyohann@chathamcounty.org

January 23, 1PM to 4:30PM Damage Assessment Training

EOC Annex
Dave Grotyohann
(912) 201-4500
dsgrotyohann@chathamcounty.org

February 5, 1PM to 4:30PM Damage Assessment Training

EOC Annex
Dave Grotyohann
(912) 201-4500
dsgrotyohann@chathamcounty.org

EXERCISES/SPECIAL

Winter Weather Awareness Week

December 3-7
Countywide
Kelly Harley
(912) 201-4500
kharley@chathamcounty.org

Tybee Island DA/Recovery Exercise

December 6
Tybee Island
Jennifer Rodriguez
(912) 201-4500
jlrodriguez@chathamcounty.org

Chinese Delegation Visit December 10, 9:00AM

EOC Annex
Clayton Scott
(912) 201-4500
csscott@chathamcounty.org

Severe Weather Awareness Week

February 4-8
Countywide
Kelly Harley
(912) 201-4500
kharley@chathamcounty.org

Tornado Drill February 6

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

Outdoor Siren Test Dec 5, Jan 2, Feb 6, 12PM

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

CERT Graduates a New Class

Congratulations to the newest members of the Chatham County Community Emergency Response Team. More than a dozen residents learned first-hand what it would be like following a disaster. The participants took part in the 20 hour training where they learned basic first aid, fire suppression, light search and rescue, as well as other skills. The program teaches 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 October 28th at Southside Fire Station #3.



CLAYTON S. SCOTT
DIRECTOR

DENNIS JONES
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Have an Idea for the Signal

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

- **Submissions emailed to:** Kelly Harley, Public Information Officer (kharley@chathamcounty.org)
- **Deadline:** February 8, 2013
- **Article Length:** 100 - 750 words
- **Article Submissions:** Include Article Title, Author Name, Title and Agency
- **Meeting Notices:** Include Meeting Title, Date, Time, Location and Point of Contact (Name, Phone and Email Address)
- **Training Notice:** Include Training Title, Date(s), Time(s), Location, Prerequisites, Registration Deadline, Costs, Point of Contact (Name, Phone and Email Address)
- **Exercise Notices:** Include Exercise Title, Date(s), Time(s), Location and Point of Contact (Name, Phone and Email Address)
- **Editorial Note:** The Editor has the discretion to edit submissions. If changes are considered substantive, the author will be contacted to review the changes prior to publication.

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