

# CEMA Signal



Chatham EMA @ChathamEMA - Jan 29  
Forest River Bridge on HWY 204 is closed due to ice and multiple vehicle crashes.

## Arctic Air Puts Chatham County on Alert



### Winter Weather Response

On January 28, 2014 arctic air moved into Chatham County; it was a weather phenomenon that residents here don't normally see. The National Weather Service (NWS) put the area under a Winter Storm Warning and cautioned that conditions would be adverse, especially during the overnight hours when rain would begin freezing. The warning produced exactly the conditions the NWS forecast and roads and bridges were lined with ice; snow even fell in a few parts of the county.

Despite the fact that we don't see this type of weather too often in Chatham County, the moment the warning went out, CEMA, the municipalities, police and fire sprang into action. Municipal and Chatham County Public Works as well as the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) worked diligently to put salt and sand on the main roads and bridges that were covered with ice. Police and fire

monitored those areas and provided the resources to close the roads and bridges that needed to be shut down. The Houlihan and the Sam Vernadoe (Island Expressway) Bridges were closed Wednesday and remained closed until Thursday morning. On Wednesday temperatures barely made it above freezing and because the bridges are made of grate they couldn't be sanded or salted, the ice never had a chance to melt.

Because of the inclement driving conditions, schools, city and county offices, and numerous companies decided to close Wednesday; some remained shut down until Friday. "It was better to err on the side of caution. While public works and GDOT did an excellent job clearing roads with the resources we had, Chatham County residents aren't used to driving in New England weather conditions. We thought it was best to avoid people being on the

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#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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

#### SOCIAL MEDIA IS HOT

Social media heats up during the recent winter weather. If you don't think you need to be a part of the social media storm, think again. See proof on why using it leads to a better informed public.

#### MOSQUITO CONTROL

Winter months and Chatham County Mosquito Control go hand and hand. Find out how staff is getting ready for the busy summer months.

# A Message from the Director

Welcome to 2014. We have exciting things on the agenda for the



New Year and we look forward to working with our partners to continue building upon our emergency management program in Chatham County. This year started out busy with unusually harsh winter weather hitting the County. Cold arctic air provided for icy conditions and even snow in some areas. Because of these conditions, CEMA, along with our municipal partners, coordinated a response that we don't normally have to do in our area. From loading sand trucks to staging barricades at bridges, we planned for the best and anticipated the worse. This event allowed us to prepare and respond and provided valuable experience for our entire community. It was pleasing to see the efforts of the municipalities as well as the support from our local media to ensure the public stayed safe during the threat of extreme weather.

From winter weather to hurricanes, CEMA is already

planning the 2014 Chatham County Hurricane Conference. This year's theme is "Planning to Win" and we anticipate close to 500 attendees at the International Trade and Convention Center on Hutchinson Island. There is a great lineup of presenters and workshops to include: communicating in a disaster, GA National Guard capabilities, the state GSAR program, social media, animal management, and much more. This year's registration fee is \$55 and includes lunch. To register for the April 22 conference, visit [www.ChathamEmergency.org](http://www.ChathamEmergency.org).

With the New Year, comes new training and exercises. On the calendar this year we have a damage assessment exercise, a joint information center tabletop exercise, the statewide HURREX tabletop, and several workshops to include points of distribution and mass casualty events. Of course there are additional exercises scheduled and it's imperative that our partners support them. Practice makes perfect and these exercises provide a platform for such practice.

CEMA experienced several changes in the beginning of 2014 to include the hiring of two new staff members. Kate Busbee moved from

our finance to operations department where she can now apply the skills she gained while earning her State Certified Emergency Manager credentials. Stephanie Cox joined the team in early January and she is responsible for overseeing the budget and grants, as well as disaster finance. CEMA also hired Meredith Ley as the Public Information Officer (PIO) and Volunteer Coordinator. Her responsibilities include overseeing the agency's media strategy and Community Emergency Response Team volunteers. Kelly Harley, the former PIO, departed CEMA in mid-February to take a job in the Corporate Communications Department of Gulfstream.

We hope that in 2014 Chatham County doesn't experience any type of disaster; however, we know that we can't avoid the inevitable and at some point, we will be faced with one. It's how we respond and recover that will set the stage for how our community rebuilds. I'm confident in our partners that if a disaster should happen, we will be ready. As we saw from our winter weather, working together is key for an effective response.

**Clayton Scott**  
Director

## Join the Team

CEMA's Search & Rescue (SAR) Team was organized to ensure volunteers are properly trained and prepared to assist jurisdictional first responders locate and help with the recovery of missing persons. The team is sponsored by and operates under the authority of CEMA in accordance with SAR procedures and operational guidelines established in the Chatham County Emergency Operations Plan.

SAR operations require a broad range of knowledge and skills. The CEMA SAR Team recognizes and has adapted the training and individual certification standards established by the National Association for Search and Rescue. The Team meets on a monthly basis for training and exercises. Training is routinely conducted with other SAR resources such as: SAR K9 teams, aviation assets, marine assets; and as other government and non-governmental SAR agencies and organizations.

SAR Team volunteers must meet the following criteria:

Be at least 18 years old, have a valid driver's license, be able to walk at least three miles (in any terrain), be able to work under stressful conditions, be able to work outside in all kinds of uncomfortable conditions (weather, during all seasons, both day and night).

For additional information about joining the CEMA SAR Team, please contact CEMA at 912-201-4500.

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# Chatham County Planning Paid Off

All year long Chatham County plans, trains and exercises our emergency operating plans for any type of incident or event. This approach is called all-hazards, kind of one size fits all.

On January 28, an winter storm created a countywide call for all hands on deck. We prepare for hurricanes, tornadoes, plane crashes and many more emergency situations, but a winter storm is not usually on our list. So what do we do for this type of event? We respond just like any other.

At CEMA we started plugging things in, turning equipment on and establishing the necessary communications with the agencies across the county. Before we knew it, the phones started ringing, meetings and conference calls were being scheduled and social media was keeping the staff busy. This was the beginning of two days of an adrenaline rush.

For 24 hours a day, CEMA staff members had their hands full. We found ourselves working with police, fire, city officials and public works. What added a new dimension to this event was the coordination required between the municipalities and Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). The response priorities were focused on public works providing sand/salt/stone to bridges and flyovers with State and Federal roads on the top of the list.

GDOT had mobilized first thing Wednesday morning sending trucks east to Tybee Island and west to Interstate 16, Interstate 95 and US Highway 80. The big bridges started freezing first which of course were considered major highways. As calls were coming in, GDOT was notified immediately and added to their long list of hot spots. The only thing that slowed them down was reloading their trucks.

The other partner that had planned to respond in full force was Georgia Power. They had plenty of resources staged, but fortunately did have many service calls. They were right there on the phone with us and ready to move at a moment's notice.

By Thursday morning, Chatham County made it through a natural event that we had not experienced in years. Our emergency planning worked as expected. The relationship we developed with our emergency management local partners paid off; the County is ready to handle anything nature can send our way.

## ESF 5: Emergency Management

## Winter Weather Response

*Continued from cover*

roads unless they absolutely had to be," said CEMA Director Clayton Scott who worked closely with other officials to make decisions regarding closures.

Another concern was the potential loss of power through the winter storm. Georgia Power staged resources at various sites to include the parking lot of Walmart in Pooler. The company brought in trucks and crews from other locations and Jacksonville Electric Authority; however, fortunately only a few residents lost power which was quickly restored and the crews weren't needed.

"I was very impressed with how all of the partners worked together to ensure the response to the winter weather was successful. We had no loss of life, no residents stranded, and no serious safety issues during the height of the storm. It wasn't as bad as it could have been, but the efforts on the part of everyone, to include residents, minimized the effects of a major emergency," added Director Scott.

On February 14, 2014 the Chatham County Commission recognized CEMA, Public Works, and Metro Police for the hard work and dedication during the winter weather.



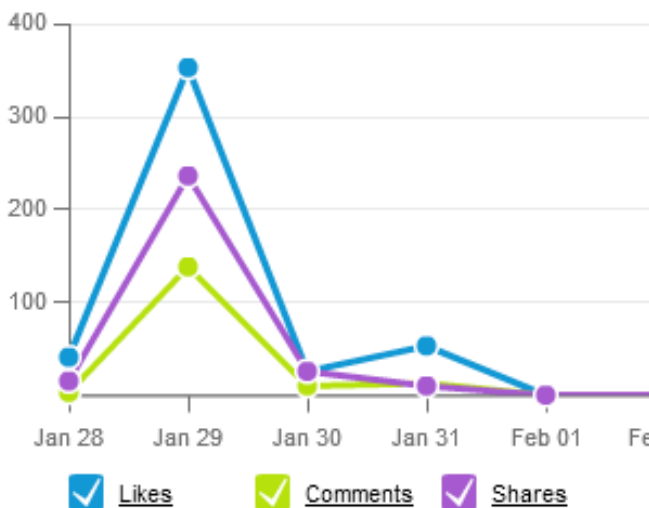
CEMA holds a conference call with ESF partners during the day Wednesday January 28. CEMA entered into a Level Three Activation of the Emergency Operations Center, and staff worked around the clock through Thursday evening. Local media were instrumental in getting information out to the public about road closures and office/school closings.



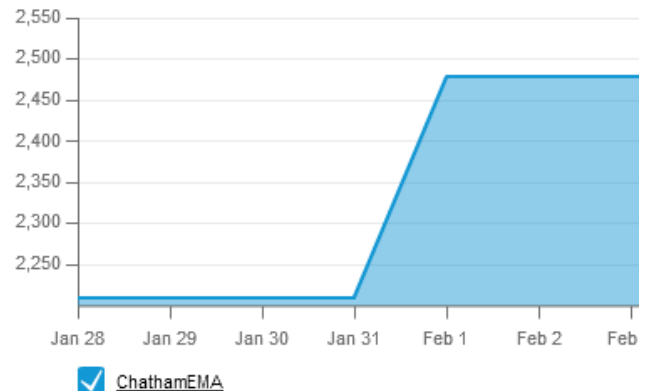
# Social Media Hot In Winter Weather

During the winter weather that blew through Chatham County on January 28 and 29, 2014, social media played an instrumental role in warning residents of inclement weather and the numerous road and bridge closures. With today's technology, residents want and deserve information as quickly and effectively as it can be distributed, especially lifesaving information. CEMA uses Twitter and Facebook to warn residents of inclement weather, road closures, dangerous fires, as well as a tool to distribute preparedness information. During the winter storm both CEMA's Twitter and Facebook pages were heavily used to pass on road conditions, weather forecasts and cold weather related tips. Both sites grew by the hundreds in the amount of followers and not only did more people begin following CEMA's Twitter and Facebook accounts, followers were sharing CEMA's posts. Because of the quick sharing capabilities both sites provide, the results were that more people saw the message and became better informed. It's evident that public safety agencies can use social media to their advantage and help with the overall response to a small or large scale emergency.

**Facebook: Follower Growth**  
**Daily Post Feedback**



**Twitter : Follower Growth**



On January 29 there were 393 new likes on CEMA's Facebook page, 236 posts shared, and 138 comments posted. During the height of the winter weather, CEMA's Twitter account gained 268 new followers. Follow ChathamEMA on Twitter and Facebook .

## HAM Radio Operators Moving Forward

### USING MORE FORMS OF DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

The State Amateur Radio Emergency Service Convention held at the Georgia Public Service Training Center on January 25 was the platform to encourage amateur radio operators working in the emergency communications field to start using some of the digital modes of communications. The 19 hospitals of the Atlanta area are installing SignaLink \* modules on their radios to allow for the use of the PSK 31 digital mode to send spread sheets and other data at a higher speed more accurately with a lower band width and with less interference to the signals for atmospheric phenomenon.

It has been decided Region J should also follow suit and start working on equipping the hospitals in our region to allow for this type of communication. With that in mind, a proposal has been written to the Region J Coalition that it seek funding to purchase the modules, along with printers for each of the stations.

When the project is completed, we will be able to use HF for passing digital messages as well as UHF and VHF. This capability will greatly enhance our ability to get the messages and requests into the other hospitals in the state.

While we are working on that project, we are also trying to obtain the funding to install a D-STAR repeater stack in the Brunswick area. If that is accomplished, we will have good communications along the southeast coast of Georgia from Charleston, SC, to Jacksonville, FL.

These projects are being pushed to give us better capabilities during emergencies and times of disaster.

# Winter Storms Unsung Heroes, Public Works

Most of my life, I lived in the Philadelphia area and frequently experienced winter storms. I remember many days waiting for the snow to start falling and how I enjoyed looking at the beautiful picture it painted around the house and in my neighborhood. The snow drifts were perfect white rolling mounds that you wish could be left undisturbed. Everyone always wanted a white Christmas and I remember one year opening the storm door and it scraped over the fresh snow. As I looked down the sidewalk, I didn't want to be the first one to leave footprints and ruin that perfect painting. This scene is short lived and life must go on.

**Reality check.** Will roads be plowed and open to traffic? Schools open or closed? Does the sidewalk need to be shoveled to the car so you can be driven to school, assuming it is open? Of course the car had to be parked on the street the night before because there was no way I was going to shovel the snow on our steep driveway. That was pre-planning and common sense.

Let's get back to evaluating our options.

**Phase 1.** Dress in layers, parka, boots, gloves, scarf, and wool hat. Now I need to clear a two foot path from the front door to the curb. Somehow it looked like a straight line when I was clearing my route, but even with the concrete walkway, I had chunks of grass and dirt lining the top of the fresh snow. That perfect picture is gone forever and it's back to work. Now I am standing in front of the family car that is up to the bumper is snow on my side and at least two feet more on the street side.

**Phase 2.** Evaluate your options. Most likely, the snowplow made a first pass while we were sleeping. There is probably enough snow cleared that you can drive on it. Let's not assume it would be safe unless you have taken proper contingency measures by planning for such an event. Here are your options. Rear wheel drive - snow tires, studded tires, or chains. Front wheel drive - you can go through anything. Four-wheel drive - indestructible, let's see how it does on ice.

We have front wheel drive and now the clock is ticking. It's on, a race with a mean looking public works snow plow that wants to make your job ten times harder. Here's the plan, dig out the front first just wide enough to pull into the street. Time permitting; continue to dig out the street side of the car creating a parallel parking space. I know about parallel parking, but living where I did, that is the first thing on your driving test. It saved the state a lot of time on testing. Now this is when your senses come into play. Unless you have experienced this, there is a certain quietness outside after a snowfall. Sound travels long distances and a plow scraping on the street surface will provide advanced notification of its arrival. Timing is everything at this point. Anticipate the ETA of the public works snowplow, get in the car, which of course is already warmed up and drive around the block. Timing is important. The goal is to have the plow clear the snow in front of your house up to the curb. If your plan works, you drive back into your parking space, climb over a big pile of snow, go inside and have a cup of hot chocolate. Your job is done, unless it continues to snow. And then it's back to Phase 1.

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

## Fire at Georgia Ports Authority

At approximately 11:45 a.m. on 8 February, Savannah Fire was dispatched to a warehouse fire at the Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) Ocean Terminal. An explosion followed by a fire created a large volume of smoke and at 11:58 a.m., CEMA was notified by Savannah Fire Dispatch that it had turned into a 2 alarm response. At 11:59 a.m., the US Coast Guard called the CEMA Duty Officer and left a message reporting the fire. Two CEMA Duty Officers and the Deputy Director responded to the Ocean Terminal in support of Savannah Fire, Garden City Fire, Metro Police and GPA. CEMA's Mobile Emergency Operations Center (MEOC) was deployed and arrived on scene around 1:00 p.m. CEMA provided support to the Incident Command and GPA by coordinating with the Chatham County Health Department, American Red Cross, SCAD, EPD and others. At approximately 5:00 p.m. Garden City and Savannah Fire Departments started to apply foam to the fire. The fire had been greatly mitigated and CEMA demobilized operations at the Ocean Terminal.

On Monday, the US Coast Guard (USCG) requested CEMA setup the MEOC at the Ocean Terminal to support their follow-up operations. The MEOC served as the Field Operations Office for USCG and GPA while they continued working on the fire scene.



# American Red Cross Issues New Pet App

App helps dog and cat owners provide emergency care *until veterinary assistance is available*.

Pets are an important part of many families and a new Red Cross Pet First Aid App puts lifesaving information right in the hands of dog and cat owners so they can provide emergency care until veterinary assistance is available.

The 99 cent Pet First Aid app gives iPhone and Android smart phone users instant access to expert information so they learn how to maintain their pet's health and what to do during emergencies.

Owners have access to step-by-step instructions, videos and images for more than 25 common first aid and emergency situations. Users learn how to treat wounds, control bleeding and care for breathing and cardiac emergencies. Additional topics include burns, car accidents, falls and what to do for cold- and heat-related emergencies. The Red Cross app contains resources to help owners include pets in their emergency action plans as well.

History shows that people have not evacuated during disasters because they did not want to leave their pets behind; and including pets in emergency planning before a disaster occurs helps keep the entire household safe. Pet owners may also take a Red Cross Pet First Aid course so they can practice the skills and receive feedback. People can go to [redcross.org/takeaclass](http://redcross.org/takeaclass) for information and to register.

The Pet First Aid App and other Red Cross apps can be found in the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store for Android by searching for American Red Cross or by going to [redcross.org/mobileapps](http://redcross.org/mobileapps).

Other features in the app allow pet owners to:

- Create a pet profile including tag identification number, photos, list of medications and instructions.
- Use the list of early warning signs to learn when to call their veterinarian.
- Use "click-to-call" to contact their veterinarian.
- Find emergency pet care facilities or alternate veterinarians with the "animal hospital locator."
- Locate pet-friendly hotels.
- Test their knowledge with interactive quizzes and earn badges that they can share on their social networks along with their favorite picture of their pet.

ESF 06: Mass Care



## Top 5 Features of the American Red Cross **Pet First Aid App**



Step-by-step instructions for first aid emergencies



Animal hospital locator



Pet profile for storing tag ID, photo and medical information



How to include pets in emergency preparedness plans



Early warning signs for when to contact a veterinarian

Download at Apple App Store or Google Play Store for Android. Learn about all Red Cross apps at [redcross.org/mobileapps](http://redcross.org/mobileapps).





# One Year Later: Southside Fire's New Digs Providing Preparedness

During February of 2013, Southside Fire/EMS/Security Headquarters personnel moved into a new headquarters (HQ) facility at 1399 Dean Forest Road. The “official grand opening” occurred in April of 2013. So here it is a year later and how’s the new site? Doing great!

The Hqs complex is approximately 38,000 square feet within two buildings housing Fire, EMS, Administration, Office Staff, Dispatch Center, and a Mechanical Shop facility. Out of this HQ, Southside operates 24 Fire/EMS sites and multiple Security sites: all spread throughout Chatham County and open 24/7/365.

The original concept for this HQ facility grew out of discussions concerning Chatham’s coastal location and the potential threat for hurricanes and other possibly destructive natural disasters. The facility has living areas, not only for the 24hr Fire and EMS crews, but also for dispatchers and command staff. Should a major disaster occur, command staff could operate an emergency operations center, or command center, within the building as the structure has independent power generators and is designed to withstand 125 mph winds. Also, the top floor with dispatch and command staff is separated, electrically, from the ground floor in case of a major flooding event. Command and operations would be able to continue 24/7 at disaster time. As ESF4

coordinator for CEMA and Chatham during disasters, it is important to be able to continue to function despite surrounding destruction. The new Hq facility provides for that.

With over 235 career personnel plus 140 volunteer Fire and EMS personnel, Southside has grown tremendously since its humble beginnings in 1961 of a single fire station and 20 volunteers. A new HQ was needed to handle the larger personnel and response capabilities and the very much larger call volume: up from 2000 calls in 1997 to nearly 53,000 calls in 2013 covering all aspects of fire, rescue, EMS, and security concerns as needed by the citizens Southside serves. And, those 140 volunteers not only answer emergency calls to help the citizens of Chatham County, they also save citizens \$5,000,000 per year in costs. Pat ‘em on the back next time you see them; they are here to help and serve.

The site is dedicated to Mr. James Robertson, former general manager and chief of Southside, who led the organization from the late 1960’s until the late 1990’s and laid the foundation for Southside’s continued success. The administrative section is open for normal business five days a week, 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

**ESF 04: Firefighting**

**Hugh Futrell, Assistant Chief, Southside Fire/EMS/Security**

Southside Fire/EMS/Security Headquarters is located off Dean Forest Road. The 38,000 square foot complex has two buildings, independent power generators and can withstand 125 mph winds.



# Humane Society Calls On Volunteers

volunteer [vol-uhn-teer ] noun

1. a person who voluntarily offers himself or herself for a service or undertaking.
2. a person who performs a service willingly and without pay.

In this day and age where one too frequently hears: "Ain't nobody got time for that", it is touching to see the world of volunteerism is still thriving. Every two weeks or so, I hold an orientation for anyone who has an interest in volunteering at the Humane Society for Greater Savannah (HSGS). Every time I wonder if anyone will actually show up to the orientation, to the necessary training and after all is said and done, at the shelter on a regular basis to volunteer. (Commitment is key!) And the answer, I am pleased to say, is YES! Yes, the good people of our community do come to our aid. They may not come in droves, but they show up when and where we need them the most.

As someone who was new to a career in the shelter/animal welfare world, my biggest hurdle was wondering if I could keep my emotions in check. So I understand when people initially say, "I just can't go in there." Well, here's what I've learned: when you volunteer, you are proactively working towards making a difference for the better. The success stories are what stick with you. They are what you will

remember and what drives you to come back again. The sweet purrs, the wagging tails – that's what makes it very easy 'to go in there'.

Why do we need so many volunteers? Well, our shelter is a revolving door of animals who have come from homes that can no longer keep them, from Animal Control or other rescue organizations. We give them clean, comfy 'rooms' free of charge while we find them new homes. In addition to treating, feeding, vaccinating or "fixing" them, and we try to teach them manners (to improve their adoptability) as well as give them lots of play time and love. Our goal is to give them the best care while they are with us and our small staff simply can't do it all. That is why volunteers are so important! In addition to shelter volunteers, HSGS always needs foster homes and event volunteers.

The reasons to become a volunteer and the experiences taken away from it will be different for every person. But at the end of the day, everyone is motivated by a similar passion – see that all the pets find responsible, loving homes while getting in a snuggle or two in the process. And, volunteerism has been proven to reduce stress, make you more connected to your community and make you a more desirable candidate in the professional world because you can follow directions and work well with a team. True story, I didn't make that up. Come to one of my orientations, I'll show you the slide. Email me for more information [sdalacos@humanesocietysav.org](mailto:sdalacos@humanesocietysav.org).

**ESF 11a: Animals and Pets**

**Selah Dalacos, Volunteer Coordinator, Humane Society**

## SHER Membership Drive Underway

Savannah Heritage Emergency Response (SHER) elected new officers (and some returning) for the next term. The 2014-2015 officers are: Chairperson Laura Seifert, Vice Chairperson Debbie Linn, and Secretary Lynette Stoudt. In addition, Sherryl Lang has agreed to head the Training & Education Committee, and Caroline Hopkinson will be leading the Membership Committee.

Our 2014 membership drive is currently open. Membership forms are due by March 1, 2014. We renew membership every year in order to update members' contact information, which is critical during emergencies. We are using an online membership form accessible from our website, <http://sheronline.info>. Just click the big red button. Membership is free and any organization with cultural or natural resources is eligible for membership. As a SHER member, you receive the following benefits:

### Information:

- Membership is kept apprised of potentially hazardous situations as they are developing via CEMA
- Your site will be documented as a critical facility by CEMA

### Training:

- Quarterly meetings and other workshops will inform you about important disaster planning and mitigation topics

### Communication:

- Our Google Group enables us to contact each other efficiently
- SHER website: <http://sheronline.info/>
- Develop relationships with local emergency personnel and first responders

### Resources:

- Freezer space at CEMA during individual disasters
- Freezer space at Base Camp during major disaster (government agencies and collections only)
- Access to disaster recovery vendors through the state contracts
- The SHER team at Base Camp during a major disaster



**ESF 11c: SHER**

**Laura Seifert, Chairperson, SHER**



# Law Enforcement's Role in Responding to Disasters

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

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

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

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

When Hurricane Sandy impacted the United States, the storm brought hurricane and tropical storm force winds, storm surge, and flooding that impacted 12 states, with over eight million people losing power and impacting transportation systems in New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and Washington, D.C. Throughout the response and recovery, officers went from house to house searching for the injured or needy in neighborhoods from North Carolina to Maine. Local and state police manned rescue boats, working with the National Guard and the Coast Guard, to perform evacuations and search and rescue operations. The officers were able to provide emergency medical care when needed, support search and rescue operations with other rescue personnel, and maintain security in unsafe areas following the aftermath of the storm.

Bridgewater Police Department, New Jersey, reported a resident who was an organ transplant survivor and had pneumonia was without power and using a generator. The generator was extremely low on fuel and by reaching out to residents; local officers were aware of the need and able to arrange fuel for the individual.

Often the impacts of a natural disaster will devastate infrastructure causing the loss of electricity and water, making communities unsafe for

both traffic and pedestrians. In these situations, police officers depend on their day-to-day skills and can reroute traffic, close roadways, and identify new routes for emergency responders. These actions maintain safety for the survivors and enable the rest of the emergency management team to do their jobs and focus on the more vulnerable populations.

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

In order to fulfill their primary mission of public safety, members of the law enforcement community need to prepare their staff and be prepared themselves. It is difficult to be a first responder when you are torn between serving the needs of your community and the needs of your own family. In this profession, it is vital to make sure you have taken the necessary steps to protect your family so that you are able to support your community. It is critical to plan ahead and FEMA provides resources to help with this planning. Visit [www.ready.gov/responder](http://www.ready.gov/responder) and take a look at FEMA's Ready Responder tool kit, which provides templates and information to help families and departments develop their own organizational preparedness plans.

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

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

It is vital that each organization has input; if you do not have input,

# CCPIOA Winter Conference Successful

The mission of the Chatham County Public Information Officers Association (CCPIOA) is to provide a foundation and structure for developing and delivering coordinated information during times of emergencies. Whether it be a small scale or large scale disaster, learning from each other and designing a public information system is one of the top priorities of the CCPIOA. The goal is to work collectively to maintain structure and organization for information management; to improve upon established policies and procedures; as well as anticipate shortcomings or emerging ways people share information.

More than 50 public information officers (PIOs) from around the state of Georgia attended the first annual Chatham County Public Information Officers Association (CCPIOA) Winter Conference in December 2013. Conference presenters shared important lessons learned from events that garnered local, regional, and even national attention.

“The goal of the conference was share some best practice strategies from public information officers who have been in the trenches during a major, high-profile event,” said CCPIOA Chair, Pete Nichols.

Conference presenters included Effingham County Sheriff’s Department PIO, Detective David Ehsanipoor, who handled all media relations during the Heidt murder case in Effingham County; Eric Mosley, Wildfire Mitigation Program Manager, and Allison Segrest, Communications Specialist for the Georgia Forestry Commission who spoke about wildland fire operations and public information outreach; Jan Smith, News Director at WTOG-TV, who talked about building relationships with media outlets; and Heather Smith, Director of the Public Affairs Division of the Seminole County Sheriff’s Office, who discussed media relations strategies employed during the George Zimmerman trial.

There was a question and answer period following each presentation to give attendees a chance get more insight about how events were handled, what went right, and what could have gone better. The CCPIOA is planning to make the conference an annual event.

The CCPIOA is organized to provide networking opportunities, such as the Winter Conference, among professional communicators in Chatham County, to conduct training for members that will contribute to their professional development, to serve as a cohesive unit that enhances communication with the media and the public and promotes the communication function within Chatham County organizations, to provide communication support to members who need assistance, and to coordinate and execute the requirements of Emergency Support Function #15 from the Chatham County Emergency Operations Plan.

“One of the main goals of the CCPIOA is to share information on how to respond during emergencies and the Winter Conference helped to accomplish that,” said Nichols.

## ESF 15: External Affairs

**Sally Silbermann, Risk Communicator and PIO, Public Health**



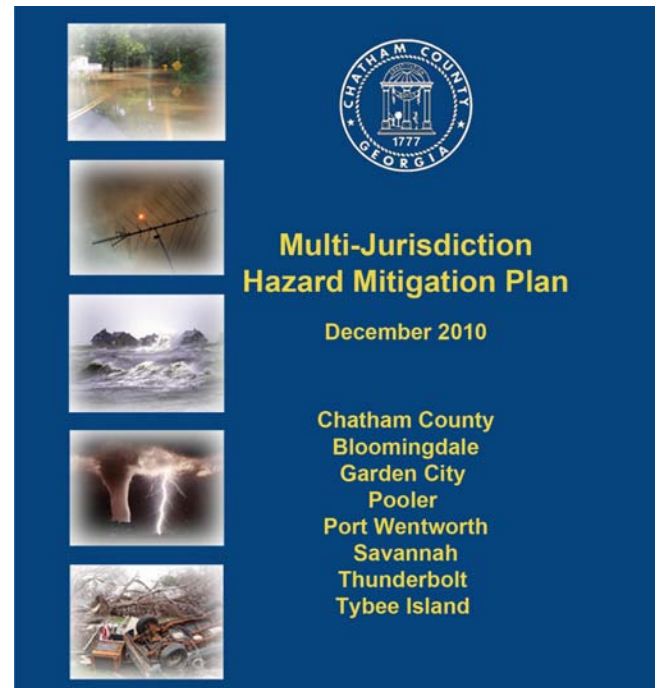
Heather Smith, Director of the Public Affairs Division of the Seminole County Sheriff's Office in Florida, discusses how she and other public information officers handled the media and the public during the George Zimmerman trial. Zimmerman was on trial for the shooting death of Trayvon Martin.

# Multi-Jurisdictional Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Chatham County will be updating the Multi-Jurisdictional Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2014. The plan will be updated through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) which provides grants to states and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. The purpose of the HMGP is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster. The HMGP is authorized under Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

CEMA will be hosting an hour long workshop session during our annual Hurricane Conference this year. The workshop session will go over the planning process and estimated timelines that will need to be met in order to have the plan approved by FEMA on time. CEMA will be working with an emergency management contractor and with each municipality to gather information needed for each jurisdiction. If you are interested in seeing what is currently in the Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plan you can do so by visiting [www.ChathamEmergency.org](http://www.ChathamEmergency.org).

## ESF 14: Hazard Mitigation



## Leading From the Front

What is leadership? Many say it is the art of guiding others to complete tasks. Others suggest it's the person in charge. Even more suggest that a leader is the one giving orders, whether they are followed or not. Yet, in reality none of these are examples of a leader. A true leader is simply someone who motivates people to do a task, not because they need to, but because they want to. This is more difficult than you think. Leadership involves motivation and team building; it is to some degree, a salesmanship mission.

The most effective leaders all have the same traits; they lead from the front, both literally and figuratively. When I think of great leaders of this Nation the first thing that comes to mind are the 3468 Congressional Medal of Honor recipients. Each and every one of these recipients went above and beyond the call of duty to serve their country, their units, and the men and women surrounding them during unimaginable events. These brave recipients exemplify leadership, not worrying about themselves or the career advancement, only worrying about the success of the mission and the survival of their fellow comrades.

We can all learn from these brave soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines by remembering that our teams look to us for guidance in both times of crisis and times of peace. We as leaders need to set the example as professionals, experts in our subject matter, and as role models. In

everything we do we lead from the front, we take on the difficult task not because it is difficult, but because we never ask someone to do something that we are not willing to do ourselves. Leaders are part of a team not above a team the team will fail or succeed because of the leader and his or her actions. Leaders do not expect team members to blindly follow directives; they guide these members to success at every level. Leaders succeed because the team succeeds. When failure happens leaders learn of the mistakes and use the failure to train for success, they do not point fingers at others.

With the recent weather events that happened in Georgia, actions or lack of actions caused thousand of people to become stranded on roadways, in business, and at schools. Governor Deal immediately took responsibility. This is a sign of a great leader, not placing blame on anyone person or agency, but taking full responsibility for the situation. This is leading from the front.

**Mark Borell, Training Chief, Isle of Hope Fire Department**



# Financing Emergency Management

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

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

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

Another major grant that supports the functions of agencies around the country is Emergency Management Performance Grant. The purpose of these grants is to assist state, local, and territorial and tribal governments in preparing for all hazards. This helps those jurisdictions implement the national preparedness system as well as achieve the

national preparedness goal. As of 2013, \$332,456,012 has been set aside to support the goal. This top down approach helps unify each jurisdiction and thus improves efficiency down through the levels of government.

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

**Disaster Finance**

**Warren Inge, Savannah State University, CEMA Intern**



## Disaster Finance - Record Keeping Workshop

**March 26, 2014 8:30-4:30**

**Annex EOC 295 Police Memorial Drive, Savannah**

The training will prepare local governments to successfully navigate the process of receiving FEMA Public Assistance funding following a declared disaster.

Call CEMA for more information, 912-201-4500.

# Hazardous Substance Filing and Chatham County Registration

This year has seen changes to the e-Plan filing process for Tier II facilities that file in accordance with federal requirements. The Tier II Submit 2013 version on the E-Plan's Online Tier II Reporting System (<https://tier2.erplan.net>) has been available for use by Tier II facilities since January 1, 2014. The new \$25 administrative charge applies to all facilities in both public and private sectors that file their 2013 Tier II data via e-Plan. The fee will be assessed as part of the e-Plan filing process.

This new E-Plan administrative charge is used to cover the costs of:

1. Updating and implementing the online Tier 2 submit tool to ensure that it is fully compatible with the EPA's 2013 Tier 2 Submit software.
2. E-Plan staff effort to service and support the data submitter throughout the data submission process (<https://erplan.net/erplan/support/contactUs.htm>).

There is *NO* fee waiver for government facilities. Technically, local and state facilities do not have to report Tier 2 since the regulation calls for "any facility required under OSHA to maintain the MSDS" and in GA neither local or state facilities are regulated under OSHA.

For questions regarding the federal filing requirements, see the link below. This link will also give definitions /exemptions under EPCRA.

<http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?c=ecfr&SID=b843807afdc641b203ffec44aa671d36&rgn=div5&view=text&node=40:29.0.1.1.12&idno=40#40:29.0.1.1.12.4.21.7>

The local Hazmat fee is determined by the Chatham County HAZMAT Ordinance:

<http://www.chathamemergency.org/documents/ChathamCoHazmatOrd.pdf>

Data from e-Plan is filed based upon the previous year as is the Hazardous Substance Registration Fee paid to Chatham County.

The Combined Average Daily Amounts of all Hazardous Substances Reported under SARA Title III, Section 312	Chatham County Hazardous Materials Registration Fee	Total Fee (including Late Fee) if received after 1 May
1 pound to 9,999 pounds	No Registration Fee; Registration Still Required	NONE
10,000 pounds to 99,999 pounds	\$1,100	\$1,375
100,000 pounds to 999,999 pounds	\$2,200	\$2,750
1,000,000 pounds or greater	\$3,700	\$4,625

The following are EXEMPT from provisions and requirements of the Chatham County Ordinance:

- a. Persons and facilities whose only hazardous substance subject to the reporting requirements cited in compliance with 312 Superfund amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA III) are petroleum products (e.g. gasoline, diesel or oil) held only for *retail sale to the general public*.
- b. Units, divisions, agencies, authorities, commissions of *local, state or federal government*.
- c. A critical facility which stores petroleum products (e.g. gasoline, diesel or oil) for use during an emergency. Only *petroleum products used for emergency operations* will be considered for exemption.
- d. A business which is *regulated by the Georgia Public Safety Commission*.

The Chatham County Hazardous Substance Registration Invoice will be sent to the e-mail address provided in e-Plan. If you prefer to have the Hazardous Substance Registration Invoice mailed to you, please contact Anson Calmes at the CEMA office at 912-201-4500.



# What's Around the Corner? Mosquitos

To many people, mosquitoes are pesky nuisances that interfere with outdoor activities particularly a week or so after rainy weather. For most individuals, the term mosquito control is often associated with the loud noise of nightly truck sprays or the buzzing of low-flying aircraft in the evening hours. It is also probably true that during this time of year the majority of people within our area are not thinking at all about mosquitoes or what, if any, hardships could come about in the upcoming year because of our local mosquito populations. However, to the mosquito control staff, the winter months are a time to prepare for what may come. Equipment is repaired, replaced, and recalibrated; staff is taught, trained, or retrained; and even our techniques are researched, reviewed, and refined to meet whatever may come our way.



Asian Tiger Mosquito

The last three years have been extremely active in terms of mosquito borne disease on the local level. In 2011, a total of 214 mosquito samples were found to contain West Nile virus (WNV), and nine human cases were also recorded. In 2012, an additional 38 samples of mosquitoes and another human case were reported. WNV was again very evident in 2013 as 108 mosquito samples were infected with the virus, and another mosquito borne disease, eastern equine encephalitis, was detected in five of our chicken sentinels deployed within the county. Eastern equine encephalitis was also detected in one and two sentinel chickens during 2011 and 2012, respectively. Also, during 2013, two mosquito samples collected in the county were found to contain a virus from the California encephalitis group (which includes the human pathogen that causes LaCrosse encephalitis). Although the specific identity of the California encephalitis strain is still unknown, a member of this group has not been documented in Chatham County since 1972.

Considering the mosquito borne virus activity that has been present in the county over the last three years, it is crucial to remain vigilant in our disease surveillance program, and mindful of other viruses that could appear locally in the future. This is especially important in light of recent developments elsewhere. For example, dengue virus, a mosquito driven virus that sporadically occurs along the Texas/Mexico border was recorded from the Florida Keys in 2009 and 2010. It is a virus that can cause high fever accompanied with a combination of any of the following: severe headache, severe eye pain, joint pain, muscle and/or bone pain, rash, low white blood cell counts, and mild bleeding of gums, nose, etc. During the 2013 year, over 20 locally acquired human dengue cases were documented in Martin County, Florida. This virus is particularly troublesome from a human health standpoint since there are four different forms (i.e. serotypes) and a person who has contracted one form does not acquire immunity to any of the other forms.

Chikungunya is yet another mosquito borne disease that was first described from Tanzania in 1952. It generally produces similar symptoms and is often confused with dengue. Chikungunya fever has been diagnosed among international travelers entering the United States beginning in 2005 and 2006. In 2013, chikungunya became widespread among the chain of Caribbean islands that include St.

Martin, St. Barthelemy, Martinique, and Guadeloupe, and on many of these islands the trend of occurrence continues to increase. Thus far, well over 1500 human cases of chikungunya have been reported from this region, and the possibility of this virus reaching the United States is becoming more and more likely.

Regardless of the current trend in the expansion of viruses worldwide, for either dengue or chikungunya to become established within our immediate area will require the viruses to adapt to one of our locally available species of mosquitoes. For the most part, outbreaks of dengue in the United States and chikungunya in the Caribbean are in areas where *Aedes aegypti* (the yellow fever mosquito) is the dominant mosquito species that uses containers for larval development, and the confirmed or suspected vector, respectively. However, in our area this species has been displaced by *Aedes albopictus* (the Asian tiger mosquito), and we rarely collect *Aedes aegypti* on our surveillance traps. Despite the high vector competence of *Aedes aegypti* for each virus, a chikungunya outbreak on the French island of Réunion during 2005-2006 was apparently driven by *Aedes albopictus*. *Aedes albopictus* collected from Atlanta, Georgia and tested in the lab were found to be highly competent vectors for chikungunya.

With the possibility of different mosquito borne viruses, new to our area, arriving in the near future, the questions of how to prepare, provide, and perfect our surveillance and control efforts, will undoubtedly necessitate changes in our program. Some changes may involve minor modifications while others could require a great amount of time and effort to implement. These changes will be required to adequately assess the population status of the mosquito species most likely to transmit either dengue and/or chikungunya. Currently, it appears that *Aedes albopictus* would be the leading candidate as the primary vector for either of these viruses in our area. Yet, because this species of mosquito is so different from the local vectors involved with West Nile virus or eastern equine encephalitis transmission, changes from the type of traps used to the timing of treatments will be required. For example, our aerial applications for adult mosquitoes currently centers on the period just before sunset when local West Nile virus



Yellow Fever Mosquito

vectors or nuisance mosquitoes are most active, however, such treatments are likely to be less effective against the primarily diurnal (active during the day) *Aedes albopictus*. In addition, because this species of mosquito heavily relies upon containers as larval habitat, a countywide effort to educate homeowners on the importance of reducing or eliminating items that collect rainwater, runoff or condensation from their properties will also be needed to properly control this species of mosquito should either virus reach Chatham County.



# Best Foods to Stockpile for Emergencies

**Natural disasters—a flood, hurricane, blizzard—often come with little or no warning.** Stocking up now on nonperishable food items will help you weather the storm with less stress.

Fueling your body during an emergency is very different from your everyday diet. Because you'll probably expend more energy than you normally would, you should eat high-energy, high-protein foods. And because you'll have a limited supply, the higher-quality foods you eat—and the less of them—the better. "In a disaster or an emergency you want those calories," says Barry Swanson, a food scientist at Washington State University. "You want some nutrients and some fiber—something to keep your diet normal."

"In an emergency, generally you tend to think of meeting more basic needs than preferences and flavors," says Elizabeth Andress, professor and food safety specialist at the University of Georgia. "But if you plan right, you can have a great variety of foods and nutrients." Here, Andress and Swanson weigh in on what items you should include.

## What to Always Keep in Your Pantry

These items have lengthy expiration dates, so you can stash them away for long periods of time. Make a list of everything in your stockpile and check expiration dates every 6 to 12 months to keep things fresh. And don't forget to have a can opener on hand at all times—all that food won't be of any use if you can't open it.

- Peanut butter

A great source of energy, peanut butter is chock-full of healthful fats and protein.

- Whole-wheat crackers

Crackers are a good replacement for bread and make a fine substitute when making sandwiches.

- Nuts and trail mixes

- Cereal

Choose multigrain cereals that are individually packaged so they don't become stale after opening.

- Granola bars and power bars

Healthy and filling, these portable snacks usually stay fresh for at least six months.

- Dried fruits, such as apricots and raisins

In the absence of fresh fruit, these healthy snacks offer potassium and dietary fiber.

- Canned tuna, salmon, chicken, or turkey

Generally lasting at least two years in the pantry, canned meats provide essential protein.

- Canned vegetables, such as green beans, carrots, and peas

- Canned soups and chili

Soups and chili can be eaten straight out of the can and provide a variety of nutrients. Look for low-sodium options.

- Bottled water

Try to stock at least a three-day supply--you need at least one gallon per person per day.

- Sports drinks, such as Gatorade or Powerade

The electrolytes and carbohydrates in these drinks will help you rehydrate and replenish fluid when water is scarce.

- Powdered milk

Almost all dairy products require refrigeration, so stock this

substitute for an excellent source of calcium and vitamin D when fresh milk isn't an option.

- Sugar, salt, and pepper

- Multivitamins

Supplements will help replace the nutrients you would have consumed on a normal diet.

## What to Buy Right Before an Emergency

If you've been given ample warning that a storm is coming, there's still time to run to the market and pick up fresh produce and other items that have shorter shelf lives. Most of these foods will last at least a week after they've been purchased and will give you a fresh alternative to all that packaged food. Make sure to swing by your local farmers' market if it's open; because the produce there is fresher than what you'll find at your typical supermarket, you'll add a few days to the life span of your fruits and vegetables.

- Apples

Apples last up to three months when stored in a cool, dry area away from more perishable fruits (like bananas), which could cause them to ripen more quickly.

- Citrus fruits, such as oranges and grapefruits

Because of their high acid content and sturdy skins, citrus fruits can last for up to two weeks without refrigeration, particularly if you buy them when they're not fully ripe. Oranges and grapefruits contain lots of vitamin C and will keep you hydrated.

- Avocados

If you buy an unripe, firm avocado, it will last outside the refrigerator for at least a week.

- Tomatoes

If you buy them unripe, tomatoes will last several days at room temperature.

- Potatoes, sweet potatoes, and yams

If you have access to a working stove, these root vegetables are good keepers and make tasty side dishes. Stored in a cool, dark area, potatoes will last about a month.

- Cucumbers and summer squash

These vegetables will last a few days outside of refrigeration and can be eaten raw.

- Winter squash

While most are inedible uncooked, winter squashes, such as acorn squash, will keep for a few months.

- Hard, packaged sausages, such as sopressata and pepperoni

You can't eat canned tuna and chicken forever.



**ESF 11b: Food and Water**  
**Vanessa DiMaggio**

# Returning Home After the Storm



We have all watched the 24/7 media coverage of the environmental and physical conditions people endure following hurricanes and tropical storms which have affected other regions of the United States. Those monster storms created many hazards for the populations to deal with.

Fortunately, forecasting technology, established early warning systems and mandatory evacuation planning have prevented the significant loss of life during the storms.

In the event a similar storm targets our Coastal Empire, the first significant hurdle we will have to negotiate following a mandatory evacuation will be the process of returning home. Simply put, returning to Chatham County after any evacuation may not be as simple as 'ok, y'all can come back now'. The Georgia Emergency Management Agency along with Emergency Management Directors from Georgia's Coastal Counties have defined and developed four phases of re-entry following a hurricane landfall in Georgia. Chatham County has adapted the following phased re-entry procedure:

**Phase 1.** As soon as it is practical, re-entry/road clearing teams from State and local response agencies as well as private sector utility providers will begin making their way back into the impacted areas of the County. The primary objective during this phase is to render the area safe for follow on first responders conducting life safety operations. All roadways leading into the County will remain closed and the general population will not be allowed access.

**Phase 2A.** Entering on the heels of the re-entry/road clearing teams, additional personnel conducting life safety operations such as search and rescue, emergency medical services, fire suppression; hazardous materials control and containment, preliminary damage assessment,

essential relief staff to critical medical facilities and immediate utility restoration to critical incident facilities begin operations. All roadways leading into the County will remain closed and the general population will not be allowed access.

**Phase 2B.** As re-entry efforts progress, additional support personnel from both public and private sector arrive to assist with the re-establishment of critical infrastructure to support the re-entry of the general public. Private sector personnel (contractors, subcontractors, and vendors) supporting the specific response operations indicated above, and not in possession of specific employment credentials, must be in possession of a State of Georgia, Critical Workforce Disaster Re-Entry Permit. Permits are issued to local private sector personnel only through CEMA. The general population will not be allowed access.

**Phase 3.** When local officials determine the significant life-safety issues have been mitigated to an acceptable level, County residents, property and business owners will be allowed access back into the affected area. Re-Entry Permits are NOT required. However, depending on conditions, this may not begin for a week or more following the evacuation, and access to some areas of the County may be limited. Be prepared to prove your identification and your residency status to law enforcement and security officials.

**Phase 4.** When local officials determine the County is relatively safe for the general public to enter, travel restrictions into Chatham County will be removed. Remember, there still may be issues causing limited access to some areas of the County.

You can read the details of all four Re-entry Phases and complete a Re-entry Permit Application by going to the CEMA Website, [www.chathamemergency.org](http://www.chathamemergency.org). If you have questions you may contact Don Sullens at (912) 201-4500.

**ESF 01: Transportation**

## Stepping Out of Your Comfort Zone

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Preparedness**

# SAVE THE DATE



## Chatham County Hurricane Conference

**April 22, 2014**

**Trade and Convention Center, Hutchinson Island**

### DAY AT A GLANCE

Re-Entry Procedures: State Program - Local Implementation  
 FirstNet - The First Responder Network Authority  
 ARES Part 1 - Dstar in the State of Georgia  
 ARES Part 2 - Communications Before, During and After a Disaster  
 Government Emergency Telecommunications Service  
 Debris Management Strategy for 2014  
 CBRN Hazmat Decontamination Team  
 Risk Assessment and Mutual Aid  
 Garden City: A Disaster Resilient Community  
 American Red Cross Shelter Operations  
 American Red Cross: Functional Medical Needs  
 Introduction to the Praise and Preparedness Program  
 GA National Guard Capabilities in a Disaster  
 Sandy Checks into NYC Hospitals: The Real Stories  
 Exercising Mass Care Plans - Will They Work?  
 Medical POD and CHEMPAK Briefing  
 State GSAR Program  
 Benefits and Uses of ePlan Animal Management Recovery Planning  
 Animal Management: Post Event Recovery Operations  
 Georgia's Historic Preservation Plan  
 AGL/GA Power - Safety Issues  
 GBI CART & GBI Body Recovery Team Briefing  
 Updating the Multi-Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2014  
 Beyond the Basics: Social Media 2.0 - Gaining Situational Awareness  
 GEMINI - Gemini Emergency Management Interpreting Initiative  
 Navigating Chatham County's JIS/JIC Plans for the PIO  
 In the Hot Seat - Staying Cool During Media Pressure  
 CEMA's Volunteer Programs - Using a Valuable Resource  
 Recovery Planning for the Coastal Area  
 Redevelopment Planning for the Coastal Area  
 Georgia Hurricane Evacuation Study

Register and Pay Online  
[www.ChathamEmergency.org](http://www.ChathamEmergency.org)

**Registration Fee**

**\$55**

**Lunch Included**





## SPOTLIGHT



STEPHANIE COX

Stephanie Cox joined CEMA in January 2014. As the Administrator, Mrs. Cox will process the accounts payable and receivable as well as manage the coordination of multiple grant accounts. Other duties include: creating financial reports, processing payroll, and assisting the Emergency Operations Center as needed.

Mrs. Cox graduated from Campbell University in May, 2006 with a Bachelor's in Business Administration, Master's in Business Administration and a minor in Financial Planning. After graduation, Mrs. Cox moved to Savannah to work at The Savannah Bank as a Trust Officer in the Trust Department.

Mrs. Cox and her husband reside in Rincon with their daughter.

## Outside Looking In

I am a senior at Savannah State University majoring in Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Throughout my college coursework I have gained a vast amount of information in my field. This knowledge I have recently been able to apply in real life situation while interning at CEMA. My collegiate work mainly focuses on how to effectively respond to, recover from, and mitigate an emergency. With the focus mainly on large events, I possessed little knowledge on the smaller scale things CEMA does.

CEMA stays in constant contact with law enforcement, fire, EMS and many other agencies in case of an emergency. Small things the public might take for granted are always being exercised or identified. For example the outdoor warning sirens throughout the county are routinely tested and are ready to be activated at a moment's notice. These sirens may be considered an annoyance while being tested, but are essential

in warning people of an upcoming threat. Just like the sirens, plans are constantly being looked at with the idea of improving the effectiveness of them. CEMA's purpose is to also educate the community on hazard mitigation. They achieve this goal by setting up workshops, events, and contact through social media to spread information throughout the county to build a more resilient community.

Emergency management is a forever changing field. Every day a different situation comes up and brings its own problems and thus different solutions. What some might consider mundane is the very glue that keeps the county moving. When looking at emergency management do not just think about the major disasters; come to appreciate the smaller aspects as well.

Warren Inge  
CEMA Intern

## Law Enforcement Role in Disasters

*Continued from page 9*

you do not have ownership. Your department may be tasked with requirements that detract from your primary mission or conflict with your resource allocations. In law enforcement, each group should identify how to apply and integrate existing resources once you have achieved your primary mission: the safety and security of the community. Then, determine how to apply your capabilities to address other challenges presented by the disaster.

Emergency management is a team effort, and FEMA will continue to engage law enforcement and its other partners to build our national emergency management team. We rely on law enforcement every day to provide for the safety and security of our communities, and, during disasters, officers are the first on the scene to assist survivors. We appreciate our partnership with law enforcement and value your contributions as part of our Whole Community approach to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. I thank the International Association of Chiefs of Police and each of its members for your commitment to maintaining safe and well-prepared communities across the United States.

**ESF 13: Law Enforcement**  
**W. Craig Fugate, From the Administrator,**  
**The Police Chief 80 (August 2013): 100-101**

# Calendar

## MEETINGS

### ESF 3 & 12 Quarterly Meeting

February 19, 1PM  
Dave Grotyohann  
dsgrotyohann@chathamcounty.org  
912-201-4500

### ESF 1, 7 & 11b Quarterly Meeting

February 26, 10AM  
Annex EOC  
Don Sullens  
dsullens@chathamcounty.org  
912-201-4500

### EMS Advisory Council

March 12, 7:30AM  
Candler Hospital  
Shawn Tice  
tices@sjchs.org

### CERT Bi-Monthly Meeting

March 20, 6PM  
Sycamore Church  
Laura Watson  
LK5860@aol.com

### ESF 13 Quarterly Meeting

March 25, 10AM  
Annex EOC  
Don Sullens  
dsullens@chathamcounty.org  
912-201-4500

### ESF 2 Quarterly Meeting

April 2, 10:30AM  
Annex EOC  
Nick Batey  
nbatey@chathamcounty.org

### ESF 6 & 8 Quarterly Meeting

April 9, 10:30AM  
Chatham County Public Health  
Todd Jones  
ctjones2@dhhr.state.ga.us

## MEETINGS/TRAINING

### ESF 15 Quarterly Meeting

April 10, 3:30PM  
TBD  
Pete Nichols  
pbnichol@chathamcounty.org  
CERT Board Meeting  
April 16, 6PM  
Savannah  
Laura Watson  
LK5860@aol.com

### ESF 7 & 11b Quarterly Meeting

April 29, 10AM  
Annex EOC  
Don Sullens  
dsullens@chathamcounty.org  
912-201-4500

### EMS Advisory Council

May 14, 7:30AM  
Candler Hospital  
Shawn Tice  
tices@sjchs.org

### ESF 1 Quarterly Meeting

May 27, 10AM  
Annex EOC  
Don Sullens  
dsullens@chathamcounty.org  
912-201-4500

### SARX 2014

February 21 -23  
Washington, NC  
Don Sullens  
dsullens@chathamcounty.org  
912-201-4500

### All Hazards Council Workshop

February 26-27  
Athens, GA  
Judy Gourley  
Judy.gourley@gema.ga.gov

## TRAINING

### CEMA SAR Training

February 28, 7PM  
Whitemarsh Island Training Area  
Don Sullens  
dsullens@chathamcounty.org  
912-201-4500

### State ESF 9 Workshop

March 4-6  
Pine Mountain, GA  
Don Sullens  
dsullens@chathamcounty.org  
912-201-4500

### CEMA SAR Training

March 22, 9AM  
METRO Precinct 5  
Don Sullens  
dsullens@chathamcounty.org  
912-201-4500

### Disaster Finance-Record Keeping

March 26, 8:30AM  
Annex EOC  
Kate Busbee  
kbusbee@chathamcounty.org  
912-201-4500

### CEMA SAR Training

April 12, 9AM  
METRO Precinct 5  
Don Sullens  
dsullens@chathamcounty.org  
912-201-4500

### CEMA SAR Training

May 17, 9AM  
METRO Precinct 5  
Don Sullens  
dsullens@chathamcounty.org  
912-201-4500

### Region J Full Scale Exercise

March 19  
Jimmy Gordon  
Gordoji1@memorialhealth.com  
912-350-8645

## EXERCISES/SPECIAL

### Hometown Heroes Day

April 5  
Grayson Stadium

### Operation West Chatham Damage Assessment Exercise

April 10  
Dave Grotyohann  
dsgrotyohann@chathamcounty.org  
912-201-4500

### Chatham County Hurricane Conference

April 22, 8AM to 4PM  
International Trade and Convention Center  
Kate Busbee  
kbusbee@chathamcounty.org  
912-201-4500

### EMAG Conference

April 23-26  
International Trade and Convention Center  
Dennis Jones  
dtjones@chathamcounty.org  
912-201-4500

### St. Patrick's Day Parade

March 17  
Savannah

### HURREX

May 5-8  
Statewide

### IAEM Conference

May 19-23  
Hyatt Regency Savannah

### Outdoor Siren Test

Mar 5, April 2, May 7, 12PM  
Countywide  
Dustin Hetzel  
912-201-4500  
djhetzel@chathamcounty.org

# CERTs Complete 20 Hour Program

Congratulations to the newest members of the Chatham County Community Emergency Response Team. Two dozen residents learned first-hand what it would be like following a disaster. The participants took part in the 20 hour training where they learned basic first aid, fire suppression, light search and rescue, as well as other skills. The program taught residents how to take care of themselves and their neighbors after a disaster, before first responders arrive. The class took part in their final simulation on February 15th at Southside Fire Station #3. If you are interested in taking a CERT class contact the CEMA office. Training is free.



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:** Meredith Ley, [maley@chathamcounty.org](mailto:maley@chathamcounty.org)
- **Deadline:** May 9, 2014
- **Article Length:** 100 - 750 words
- **Article Submissions:** Include Article Title, Author Name, Title and Agency
- **Meeting Notices:** Include Meeting Title, Date, Time, Location and Point of Contact (Name, Phone and Email Address)
- **Training Notice:** Include Training Title, Date(s), Time(s), Location, Prerequisites, Registration Deadline, Costs, Point of Contact (Name, Phone and Email Address)
- **Exercise Notices:** Include Exercise Title, Date(s), Time(s), Location and Point of Contact (Name, Phone and Email Address)
- **Editorial Note:** The Editor has the discretion to edit submissions. If changes are considered substantive, the author will be contacted to review the changes prior to publication.

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