

CEMA Signal



Designing a New Emergency Operations Center



Stronger Than a Cat 5

Every year during St. Patrick's Day festivities Chatham County activates the EOC on Chatham Parkway. About two dozen partners staff the EOC and from the room filled with computers, phones, televisions, and screens, they can maintain situational awareness, coordinate response to a small or large scale event, and continue recovery efforts for multiple operational periods if needed.

In comparison with many buildings in the county, the EOC on Chatham Parkway is a small room; however, it can make big things happen. It has 65 workstations and if it's not being used for a planned activation, it's considered a warm facility, as it takes preparations and movement of equipment to get it to a functional state. The Chatham Parkway EOC is one of two in the county. The County's primary EOC is located inside the Old Courthouse on Bull Street and it always remains at a state of readiness

to support immediate response to emergencies. While not only insufficient for handling the needs of response and recovery, the additional problem lies in their ability to weather a hurricane. Neither is sufficient to handle anything beyond a Category 3. Structural engineers report that the primary EOC will not even survive a Category 1 storm. Because of this, and the importance of being able to continue operations during and immediately following a storm, having an adequate, survivable, work place is essential.

In late July, CEMA Director Clayton Scott went before the Chatham County Commission to brief the group on the new EOC that has been designed for the county. Thanks to primarily grant funds, CEMA has worked closely with Architects Design Group based in Winter Park, Florida, Barnard Architects here in Savannah, and other local and state partners to

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CEMA partners with the Georgia Department of Transportation to conduct a contraflow exercise. Read about the plan and how officials will turn all four lanes of Interstate 16 westbound during a mandatory evacuation of the county.

MOULAGE = REAL

The CERT disaster simulation gets real. Volunteers attend moulage training and the injuries from a simulated explosion will have you looking twice. See some of their work and find out how the simulated injuries help students going through the training.

SYSTEM UPDATE

CEMA now has the capability to sound specific outdoor emergency warning sirens throughout the county. Find out how it works and why this new technology will benefit residents.

A Message from the Director

Welcome to another edition of the CEMA Signal. So far this hurricane season has proven to be rather



tranquil and here along the Georgia Coast we have been especially fortunate. Despite these quiet times, we still must prepare which is why during the first quarter of 2013, CEMA hosted the 13th annual Chatham County Hurricane Conference. More than 350 people attended this year, making it the largest attended conference on record. As with prior years, attendance grows and makes it easier for us to bring in speakers on a variety of topics. This year we had speakers from across the country and much of the focus was on lessons learned during Hurricane Sandy. Speakers included the Mayor of Westfield New Jersey, the Director of Emergency Management at the Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City, a Collections Manager at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, as well as excellent state and local presenters. We were very pleased with the

presentations and hope that attendees learned valuable information to take back to their agencies, organizations, and departments. We appreciate the continued support we receive, not only on a local level, but State and National levels as well.

As we enter the peak of hurricane season, we encourage everyone to take a look at their own personal preparedness plans. Unfortunately, we see a high level of complacency across the country when it comes to preparing for disasters. On one hand it is good that Chatham County has been spared from a major disaster; however, on the other hand, residents tend to get into the "it's not going to happen to me" mindset. If you take small steps at home and in your workplace, you can make a big difference in helping us become a better prepared community. On our website, www.ChathamEmergency.org, we have many helpful tips when it comes to disaster planning.

Also this year, we rolled out CEMA's new Mobile Emergency Operations Center (MEOC). So far it has supported several events to include St. Patrick's Day festivities along River Street. We are fortunate enough to be able to take it to numerous public safety events around

the county so the public can see what type of mobile resources we have in Chatham County. The MEOC was paid for entirely through grant funds.

Plans for the new County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) continue to move forward. We presented the architectural renderings to County Commissioners in late July. Through grant funding, CEMA has worked with Architects Design Group based in Winter Park, Florida to develop blueprints for the new EOC. The goal is to build an EOC that will withstand a Category 5 hurricane. Currently neither of our two county EOCs will weather even a Category 3 storm. CEMA is working with the Department of Defense to secure a piece of land just inside the gates of Hunter Army Airfield with sufficient elevation to survive a Category 5 storm.

With new and exciting things on the horizon, we hope that you continue to work on your own preparedness plans for the future. Remember hurricane season does not end until November 30 and it's never too late to make sure you are ready.

Clayton Scott
Director

Join the Team

CEMA is recruiting and seeking team-oriented individuals from public safety and private organizations to staff a County Type IV Incident Management Team (IMT).

An IMT is a comprehensive resource available to County jurisdictions, equipped and trained to either augment ongoing operations through the provision of infrastructure support; or when requested, transition to an incident management function to include components/functions of a Command and General Staff. The IMT will:

- Include command and general staff members and support personnel.
- Have pre-designated roles and responsibilities for members (identified and able to be contacted and respond/deploy.
- Will be available 24/7/365.

Individuals are being recruited for the following IMT functions:

Command, Logistics, Finance, Operations, Planning, Safety, Public Information

Retirees may also be considered for membership on the IMT. If you have any questions regarding membership and/or to request an IMT application, please contact Don Sullens or Dennis Jones at 912-201-4500.

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Resource Management - Chatham County CART List

Emergency responders must have the right tools in order to effectively respond to, manage, and mitigate incidents and emergencies. In order to meet incident needs, emergency managers and incident responders must carefully manage available resources (facilities, teams, personnel, equipment/supplies). It is impossible to predict the type or severity of an event that may occur within Chatham County. Because of this, it is important to know what tools and resources are available and who has control of, or access to, these valuable assets. More important than having the appropriate resource is having the knowledge of resource availability and location before an event occurs.

Identification of resources has been standardized by the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and utilizes the concept of typing, or placing it into categories based upon its capabilities. This can be done for equipment, emergency response teams, and even facilities. Equipment can be efficiently managed before, during, and after an incident if it is typed, organized and tracked during the preparedness phase of emergency management.

The Chatham County Local Emergency Planning Committee, or LEPC, is taking on the challenge of building a resource list that can be utilized in the event of an incident, planned activity, or emergency.

The Chatham Area Resource Table, or CART List, is a collection of resources within the county that can be called upon during any type of routine or emergency event. During the evacuation of 20+ injured persons, it would be good to know where to find dozens of patient transport litters. Having items on the CART List does not assume a commitment, so disbursement of equipment or personnel on the list

will always be voluntary. Remember to keep usage records or “man hour” logs for any personnel or equipment loaned out during a disaster in the event that the disaster becomes reimbursable. There may be a possibility that usage of that asset will result in financial reimbursement.

To place items on the Chatham County CART List, contact Anson Calmes at 912-201-4500 or through the CEMA website at www.chathamemergency.org.

ESF 07: Resource Management

The Chatham Area Resource Table		
Company/Agency:	Date:	
LEPC Rep Name:		
Physical Address:		
24-Hour Emergency Contact Info	Cell #:	
	Office #:	
	Email:	
CHLORINE KITS & EQUIPMENT: Type A or B, cylinders, pumping equipment, tools, etc.		
FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT: Fire engines, tankers, portable pumps, portable pools (include GPM pump sizes & gallon sizes of water tanks & pools, bunker gear, firefighting foam & type of foam, specialty vehicles, etc.)		
HAZMAT EQUIPMENT: Level A, B, C, D suits, specialty suits, decon items, spill control materials, diking materials, drum & tank repair kits, non-sparking tools, specialty vehicles, etc.		
HEAVY EQUIPMENT: Forklifts, bulldozers, tractors, heavy chains, cargo lifts, cranes, specialty ladders, power jacks, front-end loaders, portable heavy duty cutting tools, heavy & light duty towing trailers, etc.		
GENERAL EQUIPMENT: Safety glasses, hardhats, gloves, pumps, building materials, sand bags, flashlights, lighting kits, portable power generators, tents, tarps, air compressors, etc.		
MONITORING EQUIPMENT: Portable gas monitors (combustion, H ₂ S, SO ₂ , CO, NH ₃ , etc.), portable sampling pumps & meters, pH meters, detector tubes, electronic detectors & air monitors, etc.		
RESCUE EQUIPMENT: rescue ropes, chains, retrieval systems, harnesses, first aid supplies, patient stretchers, stokes baskets, inflatable lift bags, cribbing, specialty vehicles, towing harnesses, etc.		
RESPIRATORY EQUIPMENT: airline respirators, cartridge respirators, escape respirators, cascade systems, breathing air compressors, SCBA's, 1 hr - 30 min SCBA cylinders, full & partial filter masks, etc.		

EOC

Continued from front page

design a state-of-the-art EOC. What's more important is the new EOC would be able to withstand a Category 5 storm. CEMA is currently in negotiations with the Department of Defense to secure a piece of land just inside the gates of Hunter Army Airfield. This area was chosen because of its elevation, meaning it would not be affected by storm surge, which in a Category 5 storm could be as high as 31 feet in parts of the county. “Other than the 53 foot intersection of the runways at the Savannah Hilton Head International Airport, at 41 feet, the Hunter Army Airfield site is some of the highest property in Chatham County. This means the area is one of the few in the county that can withstand its potential storm surge, thereby allowing the emergency staff to remain in the EOC and operational throughout any category storm,” said CEMA Director Clayton Scott.

The building's design meets criteria for Survivable and Redundant Facility Systems as established by FEMA. There would be systems in place for: Power/Emergency Generators, Water/Back-up potable water systems, Sewer/Waste Water Systems, Communications/Back-up or Secondary Systems and Air Handling Systems. There are also security

issues addressed in the design to include added site and systems protection. For example: ducted return air systems that are zoned to protect or separate highly sensitive areas, such as incident command centers and communications center would be used. The two story building would have a 35,000 square footprint and a total of 56,000 square feet; CEMA offices would be housed in the building and 150 work stations for EOC staff. It is possible that the 911 dispatch center would be located in the new EOC as well.

So what does the future hold? Funding options are being explored. It's hopeful that the money to break ground will have to come from SPLOST funds. “It's essential that Chatham County have a facility that is technologically equipped to coordinate the massive response and recovery effort that will be required when our area is eventually struck by a hurricane. Unfortunately this is inevitable and the time to prepare for the eventuality must be now,” added Scott.

ESF 05b: EOC Coordination

A More Efficient Evacuation

"On September 15, 1999 I was with my family sitting in our vehicle on what I am sure was the largest parking lot in the world at that time, westbound Interstate 16. *Like thousands of other folks from Chatham County, we were going nowhere fast trying to get out of the path of Hurricane Floyd.*"

Prior to 1999, local and state emergency planners knew at some point there might be a need to move the population of Coastal Georgia inland due to an approaching storm. However, those plans basically said when required the local governments would order a mandatory evacuation and everybody would go west (inland) to wait it out. As they say "the devil is in the details"; and the County's evacuation plans in reality were only concepts and did not include those pesky planning details.

The evacuation conducted almost 14 years ago throughout Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina during Floyd, was the largest mass movement of people away from coastal areas in the history of the United States. Thankfully we have not been confronted with another monster like Floyd, but since then the lessons learned from that storm and other mass evacuations in the Gulf Coast areas of the country have provided Chatham County and state emergency planners with several best practices which have been incorporated in our evacuation plans.


Looking at a map, it is obvious there aren't a whole lot of choices when it comes to going west from Chatham County. In cooperation with state emergency planners, there is now an established plan to turn (contraflow) all four lanes of I-16 westbound from Savannah to Dublin. This plan will be activated when needed to support the mandatory evacuation of the County. The state has invested in the infrastructure

that will allow such an operation by installing vehicle crossover lanes and ramp barriers at critical locations to safely control the flow of one-way traffic. Local and state agencies with responsibilities to support contraflow operations inspect and maintain the infrastructure and conduct exercises on an annual basis. Agencies supporting contraflow operations include: Georgia Emergency Management Agency, Georgia Department of Transportation, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and Georgia State Patrol; along with our local law enforcement and emergency planners.

Chatham's emergency planning efforts since Hurricane Floyd also includes further development of the County's Evacuation Assembly Area (EAA) Plan. The EAA is located at the Savannah Civic Center and is the primary location where people without their own transportation can board buses to safe, inland shelter locations. Unlike in 1999, the EAA outlines staffing and resource support requirements to ensure this facet of the County's evacuation plan is accomplished. In a smooth well coordinated effort, the EAA is still considered the transportation means of last resort, and citizens are encouraged to secure other transportation with family, friends, neighbors, or through church and social organizations.

Even now, the problems encountered during Chatham County's mandatory evacuation ahead of Hurricane Floyd are remembered by many with a great deal of frustration; however, it is just as important now as it was then to heed government evacuation recommendations and orders to assure your family's safety. Your local and state emergency planners have invested a great deal of time and resources to ensure an efficient evacuation next time a serious storm threatens our area.

ESF 01: Transportation



On September 14, 1999, Chatham County officials called for a mandatory evacuation of all residents. Residents were stuck in long lines of traffic to escape from the projected path of Hurricane Floyd. (Photo courtesy: Savannah Morning News)

CEMA and GDOT Conduct Contraflow Exercise on Interstate 16

At CEMA's request, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) conducted an exercise of the contraflow function of Interstate 16 on August 14. GDOT managers reported to various staging areas throughout the region. While equipment was not moved to the areas, managers exercised their response time to those various locations.

Crews also tested the gates at the Contraflow Crossover Area on Interstate 16 westbound near Chatham Parkway. GDOT raised and lowered the gate and placed barrels along the median. Georgia State Patrol (GSP) Troopers also assisted in the exercise by providing visibility to motorists along Interstate 16 since traffic was not stopped or slowed.

In the event of a Category 3 storm, GDOT will turn Interstate 16 contraflow (all four lanes westbound) from Savannah to Dublin, that's approximately 125 miles. Gates at several crossover points would be raised to allow motorists in westbound lanes access to the eastbound lanes. Motorists would not have the ability to enter onto eastbound ramps at any time during an evacuation for a major storm.

It's imperative that motorists evacuate Chatham County in a timely manner should a hurricane threaten our area. This exercise provided a valuable opportunity to demonstrate that resources and staff are familiar with the contraflow process and that it runs as smoothly as possible.

"We hope we never have to implement the contraflow on Interstate 16, but Georgia DOT is equipped and prepared for an emergency hurricane evacuation. These simulations are important because contraflow is a complicated process with numerous amounts of activities involved, including matters of jurisdiction. Our hurricane readiness exercise was a tremendous success, and once again Georgia DOT has proven we are prepared to serve the citizens of Coastal Georgia," said District Communications Officer Jill Nagel. "The exercise was an excellent opportunity to have representatives from all the players that are responsible for turning a major interstate highway one-way, or contraflow, in the event Chatham County elected officials order an evacuation," said CEMA Director Clayton Scott.

GDOT maintains all dropdown gates and crossover points throughout Interstate 16. In April and May, GDOT tested the gates to ensure they worked properly and in mid-July, crews swept the shoulders of the interstate in order to allow emergency vehicles to travel safely along the shoulders. During an evacuation, GSP and local emergency personnel will assist GDOT in lowering on-ramp gate arms and those in the crossover areas.

ESF 01: Transportation

GDOT crews raise the gate arm at the crossover area on I-16 just north of Chatham Parkway. Crews also staged barrels in the median.



Clearance Times Increase: Evacuation Guidelines Change

STORM CATEGORY	EVACUATION ACTIONS							
	Tropical Storm Force Wind Arrival	RECOMMENDED S & E of Abercorn/US-204	MANDATORY Islands & Low-lying Areas	RECOMMENDED S & E of Abercorn/US-204	MANDATORY Islands & Low-lying Areas	RECOMMENDED S & E of Abercorn/US-204	MANDATORY East of I-95	MANDATORY Entire County
Cat 5								36 (48NH)
Cat 4								36 (48NH)
Cat 3							36 (48NH)	
Cat 2						30 (36NH)		
Cat 1 Direct					24 (30NH)			
Cat 1 Parallel to Coast				24 (30NH)				
Tropical Storm Direct			24 (30NH)					
Tropl Stm Parallel Coast		18						
Islands and low-lying area "Early" evacuations occur 6 to 12 hours prior to "Mandatory" Evacuations. Numbers indicate hours for evacuation; (NH) indicates hours required for Nursing Home & Special Needs evacuations								

Coming Home After the Storm

After the County is evacuated and the storm danger has passed, returning home will not be as simple as jumping in the car and driving back to the house. Chatham County's Command Policy Group will make the decision when conditions allow for citizens to return home. When announced, a progressive, three-phase plan will be initiated to ensure an orderly re-entry into Chatham County.

Phase I access into Chatham County will be restricted to only those First Responders, Emergency Personnel, and other Designated Personnel having the task/mission to move throughout Chatham County to neutralize and mitigate life-safety issues. Law enforcement officers, with assistance from additional security personnel, will be posted on all major roads and highways to enforce re-entry guidelines by checking the identification and justification of those attempting to gain access into the affected area(s).

Phase II of Re-Entry is very controlled and begins the process

of returning the general population to affected area(s) and/or to the County. However, even after life-safety issues have been mitigated to an acceptable level, conditions in an affected area and/or the entire County may be far from "back to normal". There is a very real possibility it will take weeks if not months to restore basic utilities such as electricity, water, and sewer services to some areas. Living conditions throughout the County may be difficult at best. In an attempt to avoid over taxing requirements levied on County public services and infrastructure, and to mitigate possible traffic congestion problems, Phase II may be announced and conducted by allowing gradual access into the County by designated geographical areas. Examples of a designated geographical area would include: zip codes, municipalities, neighborhoods, and/or other definable geographical areas.

During **Phase III**, access and movement throughout the affected area(s) and/or the County is monitored and will be restricted to residents and business owners.

After the Storm: How You Can Help

In recent weeks, the summer precipitation in Chatham County has proven to be abundant and somewhat troublesome. Residents, employees, and visitors have enjoyed moderate summer temperatures with umbrellas and occasional flooded streets causing gnarled traffic. Where does all of the stormwater go? Is it hazardous?

Stormwater from most city streets and neighborhoods flows into the storm sewer system. It is not uncommon in Chatham County for stormwater to flow directly into a river, stream, wetland, or coastal waterway. Any of these means result in untreated water finding its way to areas used for recreation, swimming, fishing, or even drinking water. It is imperative that we all do what we can to limit the amount of dirt/debris, chemicals, and pollutants that can become a part of stormwater runoff. Contaminated stormwater can have a negative impact on wildlife, vegetation, and even humans.

What can we do to help? Sweep and absorb the dirt, oil, and debris that can be easily seen in driveways, parking lots, and paved areas before it is washed away during a storm. Cover trash receptacles, grease traps, fueling stations, and hazardous materials storage areas to avoid contaminated runoff. Immediately report any evidence of material spills in accordance with the Chatham County Spill Ordinance and ensure that the proper clean-up procedure is conducted. Utilize and maintain oil/water separators in areas that have a high probability of containing contaminants.

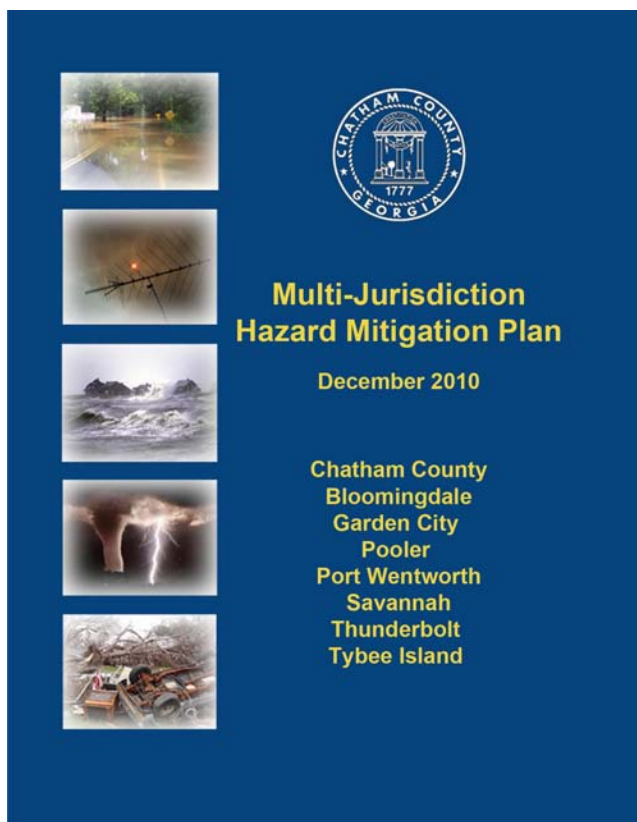
So as we prepare for future storms, afternoon thunderstorms or a hurricane, anticipate what happens after the storm and mitigate the potential for contaminated stormwater.

ESF 10: Hazardous Materials

Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan

Chatham County has a history of both natural and technological disasters. To reduce the financial, economic and human impact of disasters, the Chatham County Commission and local municipalities partnered with CEMA to develop and implement a plan for mitigation actions. The Chatham County Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan provides a coordinated structure to guide county hazard mitigation efforts and investments in the future. The purpose of the plan is to assess capabilities, analyze existing conditions and organize data in order to make Chatham County eligible for Federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs.

CEMA conducted the last capabilities assessment and analysis of existing conditions in 2010 and developed an inventory of potential mitigation actions. Individuals as well as public and private organizations which could be affected by mitigation actions were invited to participate in the development of a plan. The Plan is required to be updated every five years.



In 2012, CEMA conducted a review and update of the open items.

In 2014, the County will form a planning committee comprised of representatives from various departments, state and regional agencies, local businesses, residents, and the Cities of Bloomingdale, Garden City, Pooler, Pt. Wentworth, Savannah, Thunderbolt, Tybee Island. This committee will meet on a regular basis to address updates and revisions from the original plan's review. Outside interested parties will be invited to participate by direct invitation and by public posting and meeting notices.

This activity will benefit the residents of Chatham County by providing a current and up to date hazard mitigation plan that ensures eligibility to participate in future mitigation grant programs.

ESF 14: Hazard Mitigation



New Land Navigation Course in Chatham County

Land navigation is the military term for the study of traversing through unfamiliar terrain by foot or in a vehicle. Even with today's modern technology such as Global Positioning Systems (GPS), there are times when getting from point A to point B without getting lost still depends on being able to use a good old map and compass. This is especially true when walking through densely wooded areas and thick underbrush. Search and Rescue Teams continue to depend on their land navigation skills to help search for missing and/or lost persons.

Orienteering is a competitive-sport version of land navigation. It began in 19th century Sweden and has gained in popularity around the globe. Upon the start of an orienteering competition, orienteers are normally staggered so they do not interfere with one another on the course. These courses are broken up into multiple legs and the objective is to reach the control point of each leg fastest by any route the orienteer chooses. The control points are marked as features on the orienteering maps. They are marked with white and orange flags along the orienteering course. To ensure that each orienteer reaches these control points, they are required to carry a control card that is marked at each control point. The sport of Orienteering is for all ages and degrees of fitness and skill, and provides the suspense and excitement of a time sensitive treasure hunt.

CEMA recently established a permanent Land Navigation Course in Chatham County. The primary purpose of this course is to provide the County's Search and Rescue Team with a realistic training area to practice day and night woodland navigation skills and search techniques throughout the year.

The course consists of 25 "control points" which are simply green fence posts with brown point designators, and could easily go unnoticed by any passerby. Each point was established first on a map then physically surveyed with the most modern GPS equipment available. Once all point locations were confirmed, the data entered was crunched using a special computer program which provided directions and distances between all of the points. Utilizing the final course data, the difficulty and length of the course can be adjusted as required depending on the training objectives for the day or night. A special "Trainers Special" map has been developed to support the course.

When we send people to search for those who have lost their way in the woods or marsh, it is very important for those doing the searching not become "temporarily disoriented" or lost themselves. Confidence with land navigation skills comes with practice and proficiency. The County's new permanent land navigation course is an excellent year round tool to provide this critical training for new and seasoned orienteers alike.

ESF 09: Search and Rescue

CEMA would like to acknowledge the County Manager's Office, the Savannah Area Geographic Information System Office, Chatham County Public Works and Parks Services, and the Chatham County Engineering Department for assisting with this project.

GPA Unveils Mobile Command Center



Eleven work stations make up the central part of the Georgia Ports Authority Mobile Command Center. (GPA Photo/Stephen Morton)

The Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) recently unveiled a new Mobile Command Center (MCC). The MCC is a deployable unit from which the GPA can manage its entire operation.

In the case of a hurricane or any other natural or man-made disaster the new unit ensures data is safe and port operations can continue. The MCC is part of GPA's hurricane preparedness plan.

"With our location on the East Coast, we know it is important to be prepared for storms that might affect our operation," said Executive Director Curtis Foltz. "Creating this Mobile Command Center through a partnership with our Port Police and Information Technology teams is one way we can assure our business partners their information is safe and their cargo will continue to move in the most efficient way possible immediately after - and sometimes even during - an emergency situation."

Bill Sutton, GPA's Director of Information Technology, said the 53-foot-long Mobile Command Center consists of sections dedicated to security and information technology. There are three Port Police workstations and 11 general access workstations along with the crucial computer systems required to resume operations in case of a disaster.

"The Mobile Command Center contains all of the information, records and capability required to operate the port remotely and securely," Sutton said. "The value of this project really provides piece of mind for GPA customers."

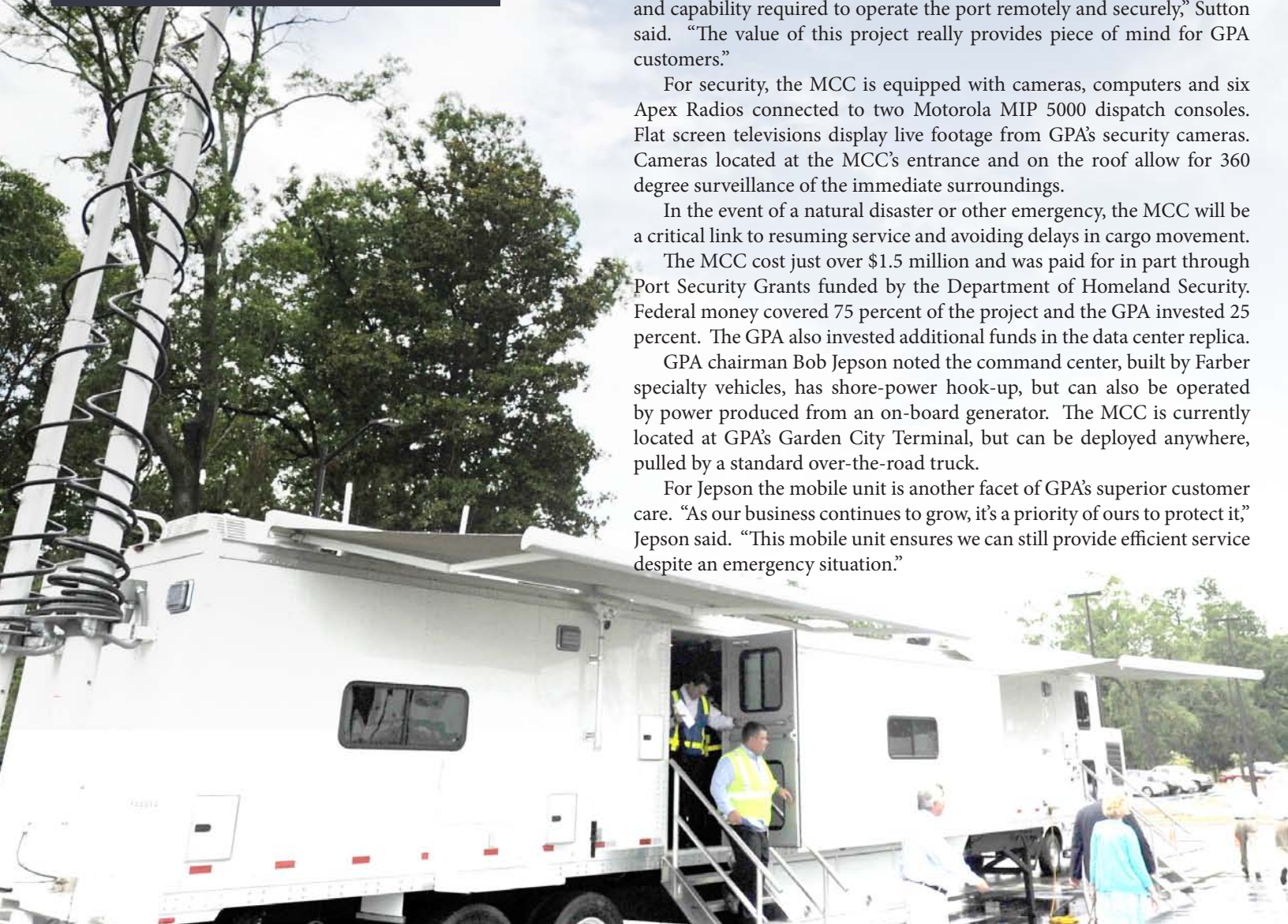
For security, the MCC is equipped with cameras, computers and six Apex Radios connected to two Motorola MIP 5000 dispatch consoles. Flat screen televisions display live footage from GPA's security cameras. Cameras located at the MCC's entrance and on the roof allow for 360 degree surveillance of the immediate surroundings.

In the event of a natural disaster or other emergency, the MCC will be a critical link to resuming service and avoiding delays in cargo movement.

The MCC cost just over \$1.5 million and was paid for in part through Port Security Grants funded by the Department of Homeland Security. Federal money covered 75 percent of the project and the GPA invested 25 percent. The GPA also invested additional funds in the data center replica.

GPA chairman Bob Jepson noted the command center, built by Farber specialty vehicles, has shore-power hook-up, but can also be operated by power produced from an on-board generator. The MCC is currently located at GPA's Garden City Terminal, but can be deployed anywhere, pulled by a standard over-the-road truck.

For Jepson the mobile unit is another facet of GPA's superior customer care. "As our business continues to grow, it's a priority of ours to protect it," Jepson said. "This mobile unit ensures we can still provide efficient service despite an emergency situation."



Outdoor Warning Sirens Go High-Tech

In the Spring of 2013, CEMA purchased new siren control equipment through an Emergency Management Performance Grant. This new equipment merges the control of the existing 60 Emergency Warning Sirens placed throughout the County, covering 95% of the residents.

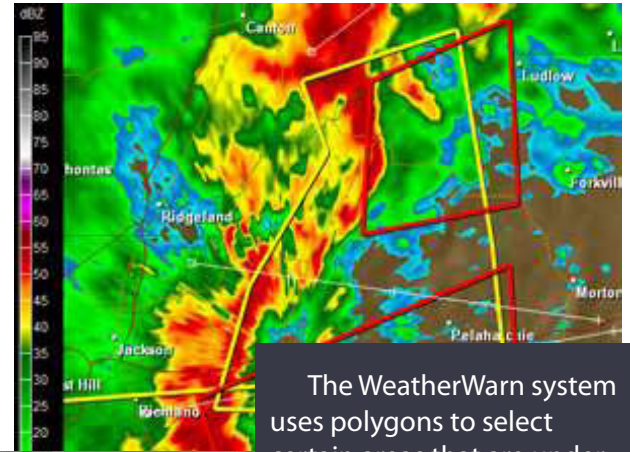
The WeatherWarn Control System is a very easy to use software program to activate any of the sirens. The sirens are grouped into eight zones across the County to better coincide with weather patterns typically impacting Chatham County. The software utilizes the National Weather Service's (NWS) polygons that are placed over an area in the event of an emergency, such as a Tornado Warning. WeatherWarn then overlays that polygon on a map and individually activates sirens inside the polygon.

At the time of this article, CEMA only activates the emergency warning sirens for a TORNADO WARNING. Using best practices from areas that experience tornadoes more frequently than Chatham County and GEMA's *Outdoor Warning Sirens: Guidelines for Operation and Testing in Georgia*, we have configured the WeatherWarn computer system to activate only those sirens that are in the selected polygons. The system will run those sirens for three minutes, then pause for ten minutes, then activate for three minutes. This cycle repeats until the warning is canceled by the NWS.

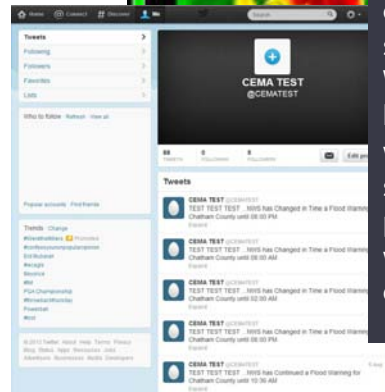
One of the goals is that the system will also reduce complacency. Before, the weather could be sunny with no clouds on the eastern side of the County and a severe thunderstorm on the western side that required a Tornado Warning. The older system required activation of every siren in the network. Now with the new system, we will not have to sound the sirens in areas outside the tornado warning. Residents still will need to remain vigilant to their surroundings for potential adverse weather; however, residents who hear the warnings will know that there is an immediate threat in their area.

Besides emergency activations, the system can also perform the weekly silent tests and log the data automatically as well as email out a report. Soon, we will activate the function that allows the WeatherWarn system to automatically sends Tweets and email alerts to our subscribers.

A weather radio is still the best defense against severe weather because in the message from the NWS, they will outline the areas that are to be impacted by the approaching weather. Questions about the emergency warning siren program can be routed to Dustin Hetzel either by calling 912-201-4500 or email, DJHetzel@chathamcounty.org.



The WeatherWarn system uses polygons to select certain areas that are under severe weather threats. When selected, only sirens located in specific polygons will sound. The system will soon be able to automatically push updates to residents who subscribe to CEMA's email and Twitter alerts.



There are 60 outdoor emergency warning sirens throughout Chatham County. This one stands in the Hudson Hill community.

ESF 02: Communications

The sirens have an effective range of two miles in diameter. At 100 feet, the sirens are heard at 129 decibels (the equivalent sound level of a jet engine taking off). At one mile, they're heard at 70 decibels (the equivalent sound level of a normal conversation).

Communications Update

Over the past year, the focus on radio communications has been implementing a newer VHF paging system and working through the Southeast Georgia Regional Radio System (SEGARRN) on establishing recommended radios.

A new VHF paging system was needed to meet Federal Communications Commission requirements that all VHF systems operate "narrowband". The narrowbanding of a radio system basically means doing the same job of transmitting audio with half of the radio frequency, hence a narrower section of brand.

To accomplish the task, Chatham County upgraded the VHF system with a newer, expandable, radio transmitter configured for narrowband communications. The system was implemented throughout the second half of 2012 and has been in use now for nearly eight months. Expansion plans in the coming year include another redundant site for enhanced coverage and reliability. This system is primarily used for firefighter emergency notification and the emergency alert sirens operated by CEMA.

In selecting a brand of radio, SEGARRN recommended the newer Motorola APX series radio to all public safety and emergency response staff. Those looking to purchase new radios which will be able to take full advantage of the vast SEGARRN flexibility, this radio will certainly perform. Several models are available to fit the needs of various functions and each model can be outfitted with a list of features needed for special operations, such as high grade encryption.



Motorola

In lieu of buying the Motorola APX series radios, other vendors have been evaluated for compatibility and may be less expensive. The results of the testing reveal models of Harris, Thales, and RELM will also work with the SEGARRN system, though Motorola still remains the preferred brand.



Thales



Relm



Harris

ESF 02: Communications

Nick Batey, ICS Director, Chatham County

Storm Stories: Plan for the Safety of Your Pets

Kayla Patterson and her little girl, Jazmyn, didn't have time to grab anything when they were forced to leave their New Jersey home during Hurricane Sandy. They left without a cell phone, a change of clothes, or even their cat. For days, Fluffy was all they could think about. They worried that the 6-month-old kitten might be lost, or worse. Not allowed to go back to their neighborhood to look for the cat, they turned to The Humane Society of the United States for help.

The HSUS Animal Rescue Team had arrived in the disaster zone soon after the storm ended. Their trained search and rescue teams began going door-to-door looking for stranded animals—not an easy task. Whole towns were flooded; houses were destroyed, and highways,

schools, and businesses were under water. The rescuers waded through high water, mud, and rubble. They crawled through windows and under beds—anywhere a frightened pet might be hiding.

On one flooded street they found cats in a house that had floated a block from its foundation. Another cat was found in the rubble of a just-bulldozed home. In the end, the rescuers helped save cats, dogs, ferrets, hamsters, parakeets, chinchillas, snakes, rats, iguanas, hermit crabs, and goldfish.

The HSUS opened emergency shelters to care for rescued animals. Knowing their pets were safe at the shelters gave people comfort while they put their lives back together.

It was at one of these shelters that Fluffy and Jazmyn were reunited. "Fluffy came in healthy and happy to be somewhere warm," says The HSUS's Hetti Brown. She was even happier when she was once again in Jazmyn's loving arms.

ESF 11a: Animals and Pets

Reprinted from *Kind News Magazine*, June/July 2013



The Mississippi Cottage was constructed in response to the housing problem that followed Hurricane Katrina. These cottages are estimated to have a useful life of 30 years.

Post Disaster Housing Planning

In Chatham County, in a Category 1 hurricane, 26,583 structures would be impacted. In a Category 3 hurricane, roughly 106,000 structures would be impacted. Based on these numbers, it is clear that we would have an enormous housing challenge after the storm. The thought is that many people would make assumptions that housing is an individual or an insurance problem and not a government problem. In a perfect world, after a storm, everyone would be properly insured and there would be swift action by the insurance companies and contractors and everyone would be back in their homes within weeks. In the interim, the insurance company would work with the homeowner to find sufficient housing until the home is restored. Unfortunately, this is not the case and in reality the government has to plan for post disaster housing issues. Six months after Hurricane Sandy, people were still living in hotels or with friends, unable to return to their homes waiting for a housing recovery plan to be enacted.

A cornerstone of community recovery and economic viability and stability, one of the most challenging and controversial issues faced by Federal, State, and Local governments is that of post disaster housing. The purpose of disaster housing is to retain the original population and to provide survivors with shelter and support services when their homes and communities have been destroyed. In 2009, the Federal Emergency Management Agency released the National Disaster Housing Strategy. It describes how the nation provides housing to those affected by disasters and includes principles and policies that help guide the housing process. It recognizes and addresses that all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations and the private

sector must be prepared to work together to support disaster housing operations to meet the needs of disaster survivors.

Chatham County is embarking on the development of a Disaster Housing Strategy which will be part of the Recovery Support Function of the Disaster Recovery Plan. The strategy will develop a framework for providing safe, sanitary, and functional housing options for displaced residents in order to expedite long-term recovery. The plan will outline

“One of the most challenging and controversial issues faced by governments is that of post disaster housing.”

housing options, funding opportunities, and pre-identified obstacles for implementing housing. It will also address the steps needed to develop expedited processes to ensure timely housing developments.

As we work to develop this community plan, it will require the support and input from many different agencies and jurisdictions. If you want to participate in the task force or for further information, please contact Jennifer Rodriguez with CEMA at 912-201-4500.

Proper Tools for Planning

PLANNING FOR RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

They say in a lot of places that, "if you don't like the weather, just wait a few minutes and it will change." At least, we've have heard that everywhere we have lived, so it seems to be a widely known expression. Planning for and responding to a hurricane is no exception to this rule, it is undoubtedly going to give planners a run for their money on how to react and what to do, sometimes with very little time or information. Most hurricanes start out as yellow circles on a National Hurricane Center map and even at this time, before it is a hurricane or a tropical storm, CEMA duty officers are monitoring the information about this yellow circle—which is formally known as an Invest and followed by a number (example: Invest 91). The Hurricane Center puts out advisories four times a day and another set of intermediate advisories four more times a day once it becomes a threat to land. CEMA uses this information along with track modeling, known as spaghetti models, and a National Hurricane Center computer program known as "Hurrevac" to understand the storm in more detail. This is all being done well before a storm is a threat to the United States.

As the storm advances and becomes more of a risk or hazard to the United States, CEMA continues to monitor all the tools above, but also begins to review and look at the Hurricane Response Timeline (HRT). The HRT is a planning tool that is reviewed and updated routinely throughout the year, not just hurricane season. The overall goal of the HRT is to ensure that any responses necessary progress in an orderly fashion and things are not forgotten. Let's face it, when we are overwhelmed, sometimes things get left off or undone. It's the reason we have grocery lists. Hurricane response planning is no different. The HRT starts at Operating Condition 5, which is a monitoring phase that begins about five days out or more from the arrival of tropical storm force winds. Most of these actions are primarily CEMA staff obligations,

but on occasion they may include a notification to partnering agencies. As the storm gets closer, the HRT gets more detailed and more action oriented. Many agencies have adopted a HRT for their own agencies and work to mirror the actions of the County, so that as a community we can act cohesively. The HRT is flexible, depending on the specifics of the storm. Some actions may not apply to a storm; however, it is better to have a detailed plan instead of having a flimsy plan full of holes and missed opportunities. The HRT ends roughly 6 to 12 hours before the arrival of tropical storm force winds, giving responders time to get field personnel to safety.

Post storm is a bit more complicated because it is harder to envision and practice. Still, as with the HRT, we need a plan to go by to ensure that we are working to respond to and recover from a storm in the most efficient and safest way possible. The Stability Plan is similar to the HRT by providing a guideline of activities for emergency operations center positions and Emergency Support Functions to follow during operational periods for the first 72 hours(+) following a storm. The goal of the Stability Plan is to provide for a guided response during the first 72 hours post storm. This is the time period most critical to response and to ensure the community gets back on solid footing. The Stability Plan is a compilation of plans, annexes, SOPs, and partner input that address post storm stabilization or recovery. In 2014, there are plans to begin exercising various parts of the Stabilization Plan.

If you would like to review any of the tools used for planning and response, please contact the CEMA office or review them online at www.ChathamEmergency.org.

ESF 05a: Planning

CEMA Supports National Night Out

In early August, dozens of neighborhoods throughout Chatham County participated in National Night Out. The night is about bringing together public safety personnel with the community in order to better relationships and reduce crime. This year CEMA supported two events. In Southside Savannah, we partnered with Target and set up an information booth at an area church. In Bloomingdale, our Mobile Emergency Operations Center (MEOC) was parked outside the Bloomingdale Community Center and we allowed residents to come inside and take a look.

ESF 13: Law Enforcement

Bloomingdale Police greet residents during National Night Out. CEMA's MEOC also opens to the public. (Photo courtesy: Bloomingdale Police.)



New Savannah Fire Station Opens

Savannah Fire Chief Charles G. Middleton and city officials dedicated the new Thomas Square Fire Station (Station 5) on July 25, 2013, with a grand opening ceremony and a ribbon-cutting event.

The new station is located at 10 W. 33rd Street and replaces old Savannah Fire Station 5, which is situated just a few blocks away on West Henry Street. The station is home to Savannah Fire & Emergency Services (SFES) Engine 5, Truck 5, Battalion Chief 1, Investigations and Fire Marshal.

The new, two-story station includes three bays for apparatus, fill station for re-filling firefighters' air packs, and a decontamination room. It also has a multi-purpose room, offices space, conference rooms, interview room and secure evidence storage for investigators.

The second floor is the living quarters for the two dozen firefighters assigned to the station. It includes a dormitory, kitchen, bathrooms, shower facilities, and a computer room.

The mechanical, electrical and plumbing provisions, along with the radio and computer technology are specific to the SFES function. A stand-by emergency generator supplies back-up power to the station.

Construction of the new 16,000 square foot facility was financed with Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funds.

The old Station 5 on W. Henry St. is now home to the department's Special Operations Division which includes Hazmat, Technical Rescue, Water Rescue, Georgia Search and Rescue Task Force 5 operations and Industrial Firefighting.



Joining Chief Middleton were city leaders, including Mayor Edna B. Jackson, City Manager Stephanie Cutter, and Aldermen Van R. Johnson II, Mary Osborne, Dr. Estella Shabazz and Tony Thomas. Also attending the activities were community leaders from several neighborhood associations in the immediate area around the new station, as well as representatives from the general contractor Dabbs-Williams from Statesboro.

ESF 04: Firefighting

Mark Keller, PIO, Savannah Fire & Emergency Services

Staying Alert: May Just Save Your Life

It is sometimes complicated to stay alert in times of disaster especially during the calm seasons of the year. We get relaxed and experience the good weather, lots of fun in the sun, boating and family activities. It is so easy to forget other reasons which can bring about disasters that can spoil the vacations and memorable moments with our friends and families.

Staying alert means keeping abreast of the current weather, signs of mild weather situations that can get potentially stormy and can become a danger to the family or community.

Working in an agency where you should never become complacent requires staying alert and on your best behavior during any situation. We are an agency which takes the lives of citizens and their property very seriously. In fact, our job is ensure the lives and property of citizens are kept safe. It is always heads up for me because my job primarily entails answering first calls to the agency for help, providing information and directions to our residents and other agencies as well as the other job tasks. These calls are then directed to the appropriate staff members (Emergency Management Specialist) for their response/

expertise. The response can range from a simple answer to an actual response to a critical situation. This requires "Staying Alert"! There is no room for complacency. It is a heads up thing! You never know what type of call or situation you are going to encounter from day to day.

There are other methods we as residents can use to stay alert and stay informed during developing dangers within the community. Some ways will be addressed by other staff members. Broadcast media, paging services, alert devices such as the NOAA Weather Alert Radio, and/or an emergency alert system that can provide information both day and night. But for these systems to work, we as a community must accept responsibility for our own safety and use the tools that can best serve in keeping us safe.

In this complex world, we need to stay alert even with the advance technology that warns us of imminent danger. This makes it imperative that we "Stay Alert" to developing dangers and other situations.

Preparedness

The New Chatham County Health Department Opens Its Doors

The Chatham County Health Department was officially renamed the Dr. Martha B. Fay Public Health Center in 2008 in recognition of the leadership, vision, and passion of local public health advocate Dr. Martha B. Fay (1913-2009). Dr. Martha B. Fay dedicated herself to promoting and protecting the health of the citizens of Chatham County and the state of Georgia for more than 40 years.



Chatham County Health Department officials have worked with faculty and graduate students from the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) to develop interior color schemes and choose appropriate displays, including original graduate student artwork, to enhance the building's interior spaces.



Dr. Diane Weems is joined by current and former Chatham County Commissioners; former and current Chatham County Board of Health members; city and county officials; and Mary Fay Nelson, Dr. Martha B. Fay's daughter.

Chatham County has been at the forefront of public health in Georgia since a law was enacted in 1786 creating the state's first health officer in the city of Savannah. Today, with a brand new, state-of-the-art facility, Georgia's first city continues to be a driving force in state public health initiatives.

Public health employees, city and county officials, friends and family of Dr. Martha B. Fay – for whom the health department was renamed in 2008 – and other citizens of Chatham County gathered for an official ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house for the Dr. Martha B. Fay Public Health Center/Chatham County Health Department in July. The 33,000 square foot building includes a high-tech patient flow system and an advanced emergency response center all within a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certified structure which means that the building will be extremely energy efficient.

"This has been a long time coming and we are truly excited to show off our new location," said Diane Weems, M.D., Coastal Health

District Health Director. "The design and openness of the building will create a welcoming environment and be more accommodating to those seeking public health services."

The \$8.5 million facility was built using Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funding and replaces a building that was constructed in 1961. The Health Department is home to multiple exam rooms for both child health and adult health services; family planning services; vital records (birth and death certificates); immunization and travel services; the Women, Infant, and Children's (WIC) program; tuberculosis services; and environmental health services.

"Everyone in Chatham County benefits from public health services either directly or indirectly and deserves the best public health has to offer. This new facility is part our commitment to provide that," said Diane Weems, M.D., Coastal Health District Health Director.

ESF 08: Health and Medical
Sally Silberman, Risk Communicator, Coastal Health District

Public Assistance Alternative Procedures Pilot Program

On January 29, 2013, President Obama signed into law an amendment to Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. The program will remain in place for one year, at which point the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will assess the pilot's effectiveness at achieving its goals. Based on the evaluation of the pilot, FEMA may elect to discontinue the program, extend the pilot for an additional performance period, or issue regulations that would institute the program changes authorized by the law.

The alternative procedures authorized under the law pertain to debris removal (emergency work) and repair, restoration, and replacement of disaster-damaged public and private nonprofit facilities (permanent work). This guide outlines the alternative procedures for debris removal only.

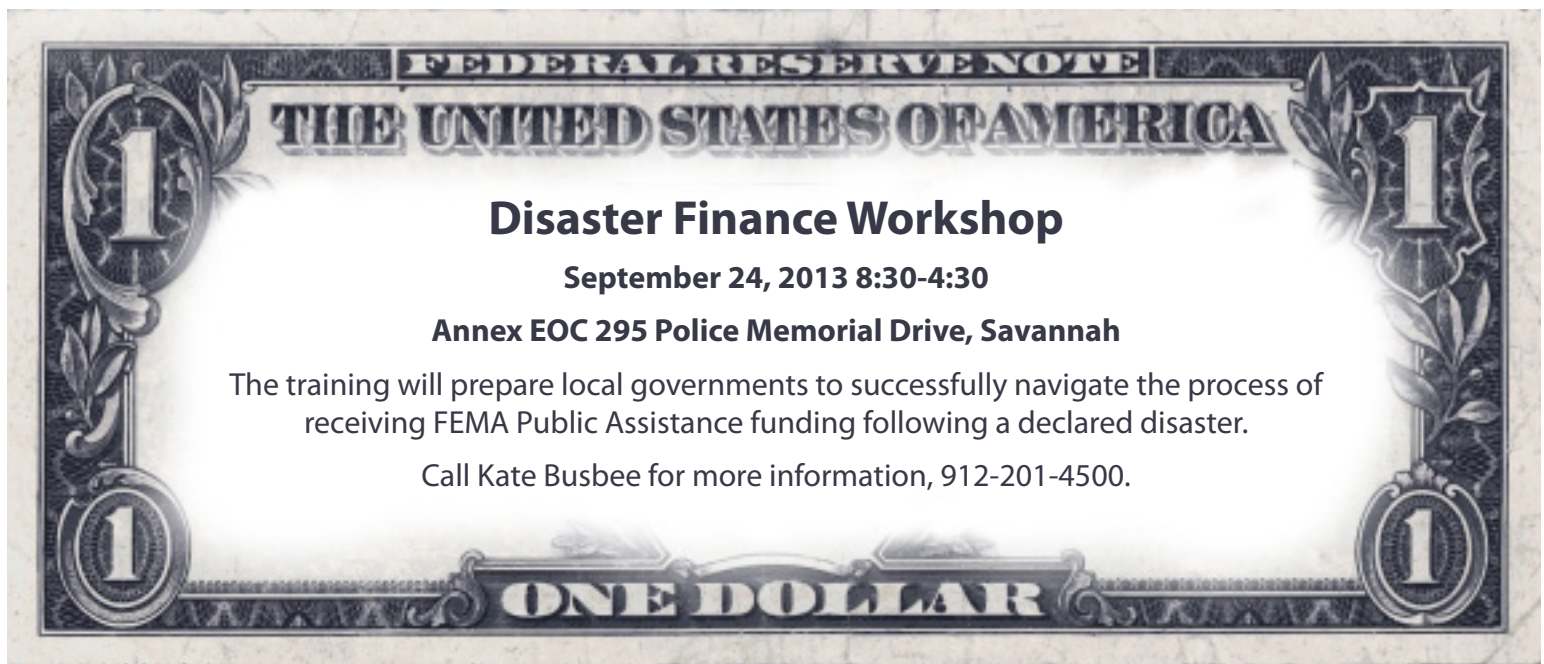
For debris removal, the law allows for, and FEMA is currently piloting:

- The use of a sliding scale for determining the Federal share for removal of debris and wreckage based on the time it takes to complete debris and wreckage removal;
- The use of program income from recycled debris without offset to the grant amount;
- Reimbursing base and overtime wages for the employees of State, Tribal or local governments, or owners or operators of private nonprofit facilities performing or administering debris and wreckage removal; and
- Providing incentives to a State or Tribal or local government to have a debris management plan approved by the FEMA Administrator and have pre-qualified one or more debris and wreckage removal contractors before the date of declaration of the major disaster.

The program authorizes and increased Federal cost share for the collection, hauling, and processing and disposal of debris when Subgrantees complete removal operations within a specified time frame. The table below indicates the sliding scale of Increased Federal Cost Share.

Debris Removal Completed (Days from State of Incident Period)	Federal Cost Share
0-30 Days	85%
31-60 Days	80%
91-180 Days	75%
Federal dollars will NOT be provided for debris removal after 180 days (unless an extension is granted)	

Disaster Finance



Disaster Finance Workshop

September 24, 2013 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 Kate Busbee for more information, 912-201-4500.

Disaster Simulation Gets Real

Moulage (French: casting) is the art of applying mock injuries for the purpose of training Emergency Response Teams and other medical and military personnel. Moulage may be as simple as applying pre-made rubber or latex "wounds" to a healthy "patient's" limbs, chest, head, etc., or as complex as using complicated makeup and theatre techniques to provide elements of realism (such as blood, vomitus, open fractures, etc.) to the training simulation.

For Tom Johnson Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training prepared him to better take care of himself and his family immediately following a disaster. What he didn't know was that a little bit of makeup and a lot of creativity was something he wasn't as prepared for.

In August, Johnson, along with more than a dozen residents were put through a mock disaster simulation (an explosion at a carpet factory) following the classroom portion of CERT training. The free program, coordinated and supported by CEMA, teaches residents how to take care of themselves before first responders arrive. They learn a variety of skills and techniques including fire suppression, first aid, light search and rescue as well as a disaster psychology. The simulation is their graduation and that's when it gets real. "The feel of realism provided through the use of makeup, not only lends to a sense of the severity of the injured, but gives that all important pause for safety, to be taken when handling injuries, and wounded victims," said Johnson.

The tough part of CERT training is to truly test students' abilities, especially since we can't plan when disasters will happen, nor do we wish them to happen. In order to make it feel like an actual disaster with real victims, seasoned CERTs turn to moulage. Using creative techniques, makeup, household items, and props, CERTs are able to produce wounded victims that will have you looking twice. The injuries can be anything from a small laceration, to a fracture with the bone sticking out of the leg.

In this latest round of CERT training, some of the injuries looked so real, it was hard to remember that it wasn't real. "It is easier to grasp what you need to do when you see a wound verses reading a card. For instance seeing a compound fracture bleeding, you realize you have to stabilize the leg, taking care not to wrap the exposed bone immediately," said Laura Watson, a CERT volunteer who has been with

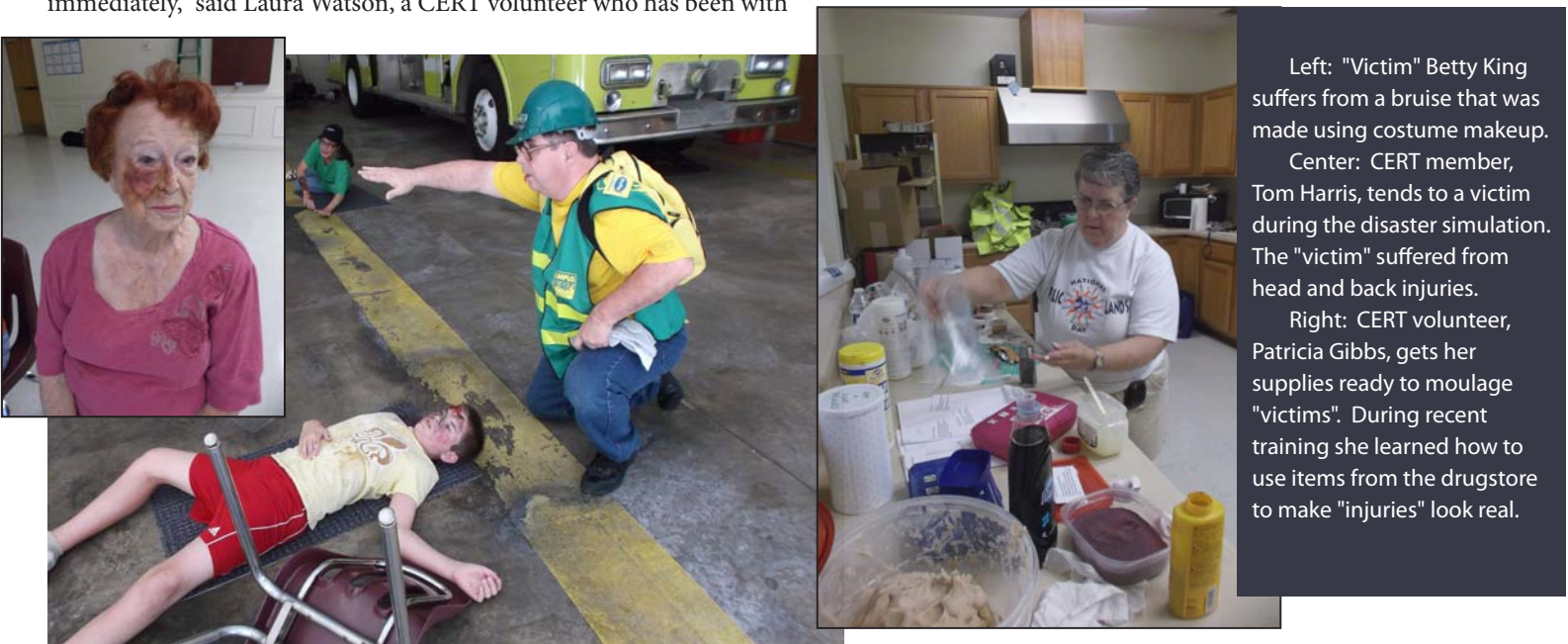
the program since its existence in Chatham County. She along with CERT volunteers Beth Foust and Patricia Gibbs, recently attended a moulage class conducted in Camden County. Captain Stan Pye with Peachtree City CERT was one of the instructors. "Moulage takes the standard drill to a more realistic and believable event. Without moulage the rescuers tend to not take the exercise as seriously as they would otherwise. It provides the rescuer a visual depiction of what a real time event would look like. Done correctly moulage also offers a chance for all the senses to come into play. The visual injury coupled with strange smells helps to gain the attention of your rescuers," said Pye.

The art of moulage takes practice, patience and a strong stomach. You also don't need a lot of money or a fancy moulage kit either. Pye offers some examples. Ground deer meat (free from any hunter) serves great for torn flesh or gunshot wound debris. Chalk line powder makes great bruising material. Simple dish soap and food coloring gives great blood effects. Crushed beets give the appearance of coagulated blood; water and drops of glycerin account for imitation sweat.

"I really believe that having more realistic injuries for our training helps. It takes longer to visualize the wound and students may miss it altogether if they only had a card to read with the injury on it. Also you find out how you will react when seeing terrible wounds," said Watson.

That's exactly what happened to Johnson. His reaction when seeing the "wounds" helped him to gain the whole perspective of what it could potentially be like after an explosion. "The realism added through the "excellent use" of makeup, could only have been surpassed by an actual blast, preceding the exercise," added Johnson.

Volunteer Programs



Left: "Victim" Betty King suffers from a bruise that was made using costume makeup.

Center: CERT member, Tom Harris, tends to a victim during the disaster simulation. The "victim" suffered from head and back injuries.

Right: CERT volunteer, Patricia Gibbs, gets her supplies ready to moulage "victims". During recent training she learned how to use items from the drugstore to make "injuries" look real.

SHER: Assist, Preserve and Protect



Annually, visitors from around the world come to visit Chatham County for its wealth of natural, cultural, and historical sites of significance. The preservation and protection of places of historic value, buildings of historical or architectural interest, museum collections and natural resources and landscapes are considered an important attribute of living in Chatham County.

The economic impact of the cultural treasures of Chatham County along with the delicacy and vulnerability of these properties and collections, are important to plan for protecting, salvaging, and/or recovering in the event of an emergency which may threaten them.

The Savannah Heritage Emergency Response (SHER) group has partnered with CEMA to develop the Natural, Cultural, and Historical (NCH) Properties Coordination Plan. This plan coordinates county, local, voluntary, non-profit, and private resources to assist, preserve, and protect public and private natural and cultural resources and historic properties before, during, and after natural or man-made emergencies or disasters.

SHER is a constituency of public and private non-profit sites, institutions and collections. First responders and emergency management personnel formed to bring together personnel from these entities to implement and maintain heritage emergency planning, networking, communication, and disaster response measures. SHER exists to promote and facilitate the emergency preparedness and emergency response of the natural, cultural and historical community throughout Chatham County with respect to the potential exposure and/or threat of major emergencies and disasters both natural and/or manmade.

Approximately 70 heritage sites in Chatham County, including historic structures, landscapes and archaeological sites, documentary collections, object-based collections, and natural science living specimen collections are members and have been identified on electronically maps. Through SHER and the NCH Coordination Plan, local sites are better prepared to respond to disasters and emergencies.

ESF 11c: Natural, Cultural, Historical

Countywide Damage Assessment Strategy Implemented

Over the past year, CEMA has been working with our ESF 3 partners developing and implementing a Countywide Damage Assessment Strategy. This is a coordinated process of activation, assignment, deployment, and operation of Damage Assessment Teams within Chatham County. The goal is to assist County jurisdictions in quickly recovering from an event or major disaster.

Pre-planning for damage assessment is an ongoing process. Procedures and teams must be in place before a disaster event occurs. Successful damage assessment begins immediately and continues through the recovery phase. Damage assessment is conducted separately from lifesaving and property protection operations.

The goal of a damage assessment strategy is to quickly and efficiently collect, analyze, and summarize data about damages resulting from an emergency or disaster event. These initial first reports are used for

emergency proclamations, and requests for assistance from the state and federal government.

Since this Strategy has been implemented, three training classes and one exercise has been conducted. The Damage Assessment Team has representatives from each jurisdiction along with more than 50 people that have completed the training. A second full scale exercise is currently scheduled and will provide an opportunity for the Team to test their skills and reporting accuracy. This will enable the county's municipalities and local damage assessment teams to understand, conduct and report damage assessments according to county, state and federal guidelines.

ESF 03: Damage Assessment

Georgia Power Offers New Outage Map

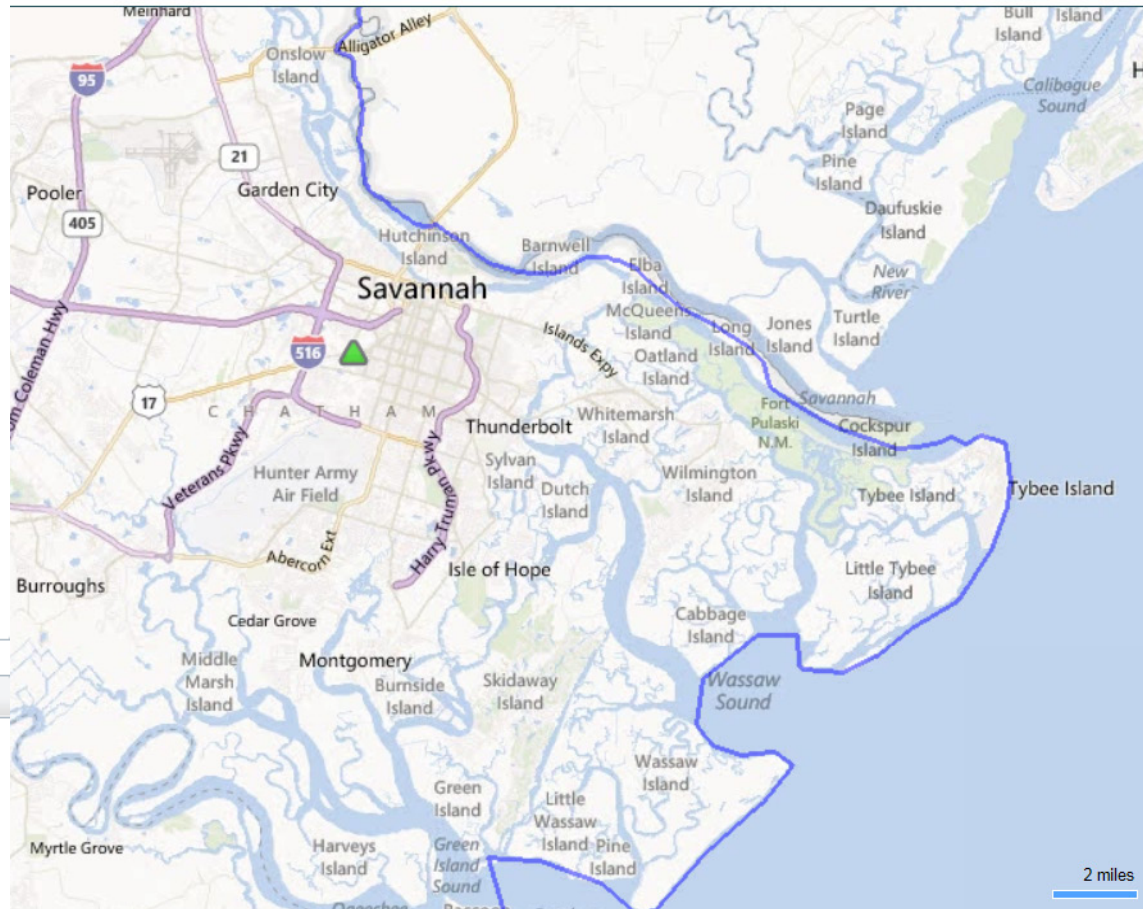
Want to check the status of an outage? Georgia Power now offers a new online tool designed to keep residents out of the dark. You can report an outage, get an estimated time for power restoration, learn the status and cause of an outage, and see how many customers are affected.

Legend
Summary
Weather

☒ **Locations**
☐ **County**

> 2,000 Customers Out
 501-2,000 Customers Out
 51-500 Customers Out
 1-50 Customers Out
 Multiple Outages
 Service Area Boundary

Active Outages: 42
Affected Customers: 607
Last Updated: Jul 31, 1:55 PM
Information is updated every 10 minutes.



Go To
Favorites

Go To Overview Map
Go To Your Location

Go to an Address, ZIP code or street, city

Go

www.georgiapower.com

How to Prepare for Power to Be Out

- ✓ Cool or heat your house. During and after the storm, keep doors and windows closed - you can hold onto inside temperature for as long as 48 hours.
- ✓ Charge your cell phone.
- ✓ Keep freezer doors closed and sealed.
- ✓ Leave a porch or front light on.
- ✓ Disconnect or turn off any appliances.

Words With Friends: PIOs Exercise Joint Information Center Plan



Words with Friends (WWF) was a full-scale exercise (FSE) activating the Joint Information Center (JIC) conducted on March 26, 2013. Coordinated by CEMA, it was designed to establish a learning environment for players to exercise emergency response and notification, plans, policies, and procedures pertaining to an emergency that has potential to escalate beyond the capabilities of a field Public Information Officer (PIO).

Disasters happen, often with little or no notice. In today's social media world, information about situations travels quicker than a single PIO can manage, especially in terms of collecting and distributing information. It is hard for PIOs to stay ahead of the story with the growing use of social media. News often spreads before first responders are even on scene to evaluate the situation. It is extremely important that PIOs work together to stay as much ahead of the information as possible and provide a solidified front when it comes to information. This exercise helped PIOs from a variety of agencies to work together to distribute timely, accurate, and effective information to the public so they can respond accordingly.

The purpose of this exercise was to expand on the abilities of the JIC allowing PIOs from varying agencies to work together to coordinate and distribute accurate information. The exercise planning team understood the constraints on this exercise based on facility location, agency obligations, and newer concepts and plans. With careful deliberation, the following objectives were developed for the exercise:

- Demonstrate spontaneous set-up of communications operations; establish positions within the JIC
- Identify key messages and establish a message verification process to ensure correct and effective information is being released
- Implement effective and consistent messages by simulating distribution of news releases, fact sheets, and media alerts to media
- Identify social media concerns and properly manage both information release and information collection
- Organize and publicize press conferences; provide talking points for agency spokespersons

Exercise Scenario

During the mid-morning of March 26th, there was a reported armed bank robbery in Pooler, GA. The assailants fled with a hostage and headed South on I-95. They ended up on Highway 17 at Chevis Road where they collided with a tanker truck. The tanker truck overturned,

entrapping the driver. One assailant fled on foot. Responding officers quickly became overcome with something and began to have difficulty breathing and burning in the throat and lungs. Southside Fire Dispatch quickly realized there was a potential hazardous materials situation and began immediate actions. Savannah Fire Hazmat Team requested an evacuation of one half mile due to the tanker car having Placard 1789-Hydrochloric Acid. Initial reports stated the tanker car contained 45,000 pounds or about 5,000 gallons of hydrochloric acid. The driver of the truck was entrapped in the tanker and 100 gallons had leaked out and were continuing to leak.

Winds were to the NNW at 8mph and a small plume was headed towards Hwy 204 and Henderson Golf. There was no chance of rain and 25% humidity.

Major Strengths

The Chatham County PIO Association provides an avenue for multiple PIOs from various agencies to work together. They meet regularly and work together to help improve public information plans and procedures. This allowed for familiarity during the emergency situation.

PIOs who participated came with varying levels of JIC experience, subject matter expertise, and overall knowledge of PIO roles and responsibilities. This made working together a better-rounded and collaborated effort.

Primary Areas for Improvement

JIC organization and leadership needs to be clear from the onset of an event. While every event is different, steps could be taken to enhance and 'jump start' operations.

Conclusion

Accurate and timely public information is critical to an emergency response. Incorrect, untimely, or the lack of information can create panic, chaos, and distrust of governmental organizations. The dedication of local partners to support an emergency public information program and JIC is commendable and to be appreciated, especially during times of non-emergencies. Working together will ensure during a real emergency, Chatham County, in its entirety, is more prepared and able to meet the needs of the community. Communication will be more accurate and more timely with the understanding of when a JIC is needed, how to activate, and how to operate within a JIC system. This exercise showed the overall need for continued planning, plan and procedure development, and recurring and repetitive training.

**ESF 15: External Affairs
Training and Exercise**

SPOTLIGHT



MINH DUC PHAN

Minh Duc Phan joined CEMA in May as our summer intern from The University of Georgia.

While at CEMA, Minh's focus was on enhancing and supporting social media and public relation efforts. Minh has worked on a variety of projects over the past few months, some of which include creating color-coded hurricane preparation handouts, writing and editing content for July's special "Hurricane Edition" of the Chatham County Connection paper, and developing a series of weather safety posters as part of a campaign to educate students in our area about the hazards of lightning, flooding, tornadoes, and power outages.

Minh is currently entering his senior year at University of Georgia. He is completing his Bachelor of Science in Geography with an Atmospheric Sciences Certificate. Minh hopes to explore the societal impacts of weather and understand the science and psychology behind communicating weather hazards and information to the public in hopes that future innovations will be developed to save more lives.

Public Safety Humor

Nick Batey, ICS Director, Chatham County

One popular method of communication has become the carrier pigeon. This method of communication not only provides messaging in the slowest of known forms other than hand delivery, but also comes with the benefits of companionship and novelty. The process is fairly simple once the fowl is properly trained and the communications are effective.



act as carrier pigeons in hopes of finding a bird more reliable or resistant to West Nile, but little success has been made so far. "We started by looking to European and African Swallows, but they are typically too preoccupied carrying around coconuts and their migratory patterns are still highly debated," says expert Ailaika Da Birdiz.

Though, there is a growing concern as this last resort for disaster communications becomes endangered. That's right, you heard it correctly, endangered. The West Nile Virus is interrupting the communications by outright killing the birds. And computer viruses don't hold a candle to this virus, since the message recipient could also be infected and become seriously ill.

With these serious threats upon us, some have begun looking to other sources birds to

So next, ducks were looked into. Unfortunately, there message carrying was weak as the birds are commonly fraught with two problems: one message was repeatedly delivered, "afak"; and they seem prone to injury and long recovery periods.

It is unknown what will be done next. Though, don't be surprised to hear a naisly sound the next time a message is delivered by a Cuban Tree Frog. And, just to be safe, mind his behavior if it starts spouting off messages about meeting his little friend.



YOU HAVE 3 UNREAD MESSAGES

militaryhumor.net

Calendar

MEETINGS

Disability Task Force Meeting August 30, 10:30AM

LIFE Office
Kelly Harley
kharley@chathamcounty.org
912-201-4500

ESF 7 & ESF 11b Meeting EOC Logistics Basics September 5, 10AM

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

Chatham County Fire Chiefs Association September 9, 7PM

Location TBD
Dustin Hetzel
912-201-4500
djhetzel@chathamcounty.org

ESF 6 & 8 Meeting September 11, 1:30PM

Chatham County Health
Department, Eisenhower
Jennifer Rodriguez
jlrodriguez@chathamcounty.org

SHER Meeting September 11, 3PM

EOC Annex
Dave Grottyhann
dsgrottyhann@chathamcounty.org
912-201-4500

SEGARRN Meeting September 12, 10AM to 12PM

Hinesville
Dave Grottyhann
dsgrottyhann@chathamcounty.org
912-201-4500

MEETINGS

County SAR Team Training September 14, 9AM

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

ESF 13 Meeting GBI Body Recovery Team Briefing September 19, 10AM

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

EMAG September 19, 10AM

Liberty County EMA
Dennis Jones
dtjones@chathamcounty.org
912-201-4500

Region J TTX Mid Planning Meeting September 24, 10AM to 12PM

Memorial Medical Auditorium
Jimmy Gordon
Gordoji1@memorialhealth.com
912-350-8645

Vulnerable Populations Hurricane Evacuation Meeting September 24, 12:30-2:30

Memorial Hospital, Hoskins
Center
Annette Neu
912-262-3092
alneu@dhr.state.ga.us
RSVP recommended

COAD Meeting Disaster Scenario September 24, 11:30AM

Salvation Army, Bee Road
Anson Calmes
awcalmes@chathamcounty.org
912-201-4500

MEETINGS

ESF 1 Meeting County Evacuation Traffic Control September 26, 10 AM

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

CCEMS

October 9, 7:30AM
Candler Hospital
Tricia Corday
912-819-6220

ESF 9 Quarterly Meeting October 10, 10 AM

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

County SAR Team Training October 12, 9AM

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

Region J TTX Final Planning Meeting

October 15, 10AM to 12PM
Memorial Medical Auditorium
Jimmy Gordon
Gordoji1@memorialhealth.com
912-350-8645

EMAG

October 17, 10AM
Glynn County EMA
Dennis Jones
dtjones@chathamcounty.org
912-201-4500

MEETINGS

ESF 15 Meeting October 17, 3:30PM

Location TBD
Kelly Harley
kharley@chathamcounty.org
912-201-4500

Chatham County Fire Chiefs Association November 11, 7PM

Location TBD
Dustin Hetzel
912-201-4500
djhetzel@chathamcounty.org

ESF 3 & 12 Meeting November 14, 1PM

EOC Annex
Dave Grottyhann
912-201-4500
dsgrottyhann@chathamcounty.org

CERT Quarterly Meeting November 14, 6:30PM

Kelly Harley
kharley@chathamcounty.org
912-201-4500

County SAR Team Training November 15, 9AM

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

COAD Meeting November 19, 11:30AM

Salvation Army, Bee Road
Anson Calmes
awcalmes@chathamcounty.org
912-201-4500

LEPC Meeting November 20, 10AM

Anson Calmes
awcalmes@chathamcounty.org
912-201-4500

Calendar

MEETINGS

ESF 13 Meeting
GBI Child Abduction Response
Team Briefing
November 21, 10 AM
 EOC Annex
 Don Sullens
 dwsullens@chathamcounty.org
 912-201-4500

TRAINING

Hazardous Materials
Awareness Training (NPQ)
August 29
 Annex EOC
 Anson Calmes
 awcalmes@chathamcounty.org
 912-201-4500

Disaster Recovery
Program: Information and
Documentation
September 20, 8AM to 5PM
 Georgia Ports Authority/Police
 Department
 Captain Eric Hampton
 ehampton@gaports.com
 912-963-5576

Disaster Finance Workshop
September 24, 8:30AM to
4:30PM
 Annex EOC
 Kate Busbee
 kbusbee@chathamcounty.org
 912-201-4500

Basic Public Information
Officer
October 16 & 17, 8AM to 5PM
 Georgia Ports Authority/Police
 Department
 Captain Eric Hampton
 ehampton@gaports.com
 912-963-5576

EXERCISES/SPECIAL

Statewide WebEOC Exercise
August 28, 10AM to 11AM
 Cory Bushway, GEMA
 Cory.bushway@gema.ga.gov

Regional Youth Detention
Center Disaster Drill
August 30, 10AM
 RYDC, Savannah
 John Parker
 johnparker@djj.state.ga.us

LEPC Awareness Day
September 19, 9AM to 12PM
 Oatland Island Education Center
 www.lepc.com

CERT Disaster Simulation
September 21, 10AM
 Garden City
 Kelly Harley
 kharley@chathamcounty.org
 912-201-4500

Damage Assessment Exercise
September 18, 8AM to 12PM
 Savannah Gardens
 Dave Groyt Johann
 dsgroytjohann@chathamcounty.org
 912-201-4500

SSRC NPREP Training and
Exercise
October 8 & 9
 Coastal Georgia Center
 Anson Calmes
 awcalmes@chathamcounty.org
 912-201-4500

Region J Hospital TTX
October 30, 2013
 Memorial Hospital
 Jimmy Gordon
 Gordoji1@memorialhealth.com
 912-350-8645

EXERCISES/SPECIAL

Outdoor Siren Test
Sept 4, Oct 2, Nov 6, 12PM
 Countywide
 Dustin Hetzel
 912-201-4500
 djhetzel@chathamcounty.org

Daniel Defense Patriot
Weekend
September 6 & 7
 Pooler
 912-330-9415
 info@patriotweekend.org

September
National Preparedness Month

Rock N Roll Marathon
November 9
 Dennis Jones
 dtjones@chathamcounty.org

November 30
End of Hurricane Season

2013: Lessons Learned from Sandy

The 2013 Chatham County Hurricane conference drew record numbers. More than 350 attendees participated in the day-long event held on April 23, 2013. This year much of the conference focused on lessons learned from Hurricane Sandy. Many of the presenters were from the northeast and brought with them valuable experiences we learned from. Greg Brunelle, Acting Director of the New York State Office of Emergency Management gave the opening session and Westfield, New Jersey Mayor Andy Skibitsky was the guest speaker during lunch. (Photo: Westfield, NJ Town Administrator Jim Gildea discusses how they used conference calls to help spread information during Hurricane Sandy.)



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:** November 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.



CLAYTON S. SCOTT
DIRECTOR

DENNIS JONES
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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