

## 2010—YEAR IN REVIEW



### Message from Director Brock Long

The events of 2010 have again shown that the best emergency management personnel in the country work in the state of Alabama. Everyone worked hard on a wide variety of weather and technological disasters. This year we experienced:

- A sustained period of freezing temperatures, January 7-12, resulting in damage to roadways, bridges and public utility systems all over the state. The Governor requested a disaster declaration. PDAs were completed in 17 counties.
- April 24 severe weather which resulted in a disaster declaration for DeKalb, Marshall and Walker counties.
- The Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill which consumed the time and energy statewide beginning April 29 when a Unified Command was opened in Mobile.
- AEMA staff worked cooperatively with county, state and federal personnel to advocate for Alabama.

The National Emergency Management Association report on Alabama for 2009 which was released this year showed how hard Alabama emergency managers work and how high the standards for excellence are in this state.

Facts reported were:

- Alabama had the most Federal Disaster Declarations in 2009 with five.
- AEMA ranked in the top five for EMPG pass through funding to local programs.
- In 2009 Alabama became 1 of 28 states to establish a state level disaster program for Public Assistance.
- AEMA is one of 23 state programs to offer EM certification – CLEM
- Alabama is one of 23 nationally accredited state emergency management agencies (EMAP).

Alabama is currently ranked seventh in the most declarations received overall. Our goal should be to be number 50. We can do this through education to improve the preparedness level of all residents in the state. It is also important that we build resilience and capability on the local level.

Alabama will be a part of the National Level Exercise in 2011. The scenario for this exercise is an event involving the New Madrid Seismic Zone. We will be participating with seven other states in four FEMA regions. We hope as many Alabama residents and organizations as possible will be a part of this through the Great Central United States ShakeOut. A calendar of events is on the last page of this newsletter.

I appreciate all that all of you do and your focus on hard work and excellence. It has been an honor to serve the people of Alabama with you.



# Around Alabama

## January winter weather

Bitter cold and winter weather caused road and school closures during the period from January 7-12. The more unexpected results were the damage to roads and bridges as extreme cold which followed freezing rain caused paving on roads to crumble. An additional problem was the effect on local water systems. For example, Thomasville struggled with water shortage as 90 percent of plumbing shut down locally.

Governor Riley requested a disaster declaration to help struggling communities with repairs but the request was denied.



## DR-AL 1908 April 24 Storms



Severe weather moved across Alabama on April 24. Many small communities in North Alabama maintained substantial damage.

Albertville High School was damaged in an EF-3 tornado that struck the community on the 103rd anniversary of a deadly tornado that killed hundreds.

VOAD provided food for responders in Albertville and 211 worked to provide information for local residents.

Recovery Section personnel worked with FEMA at the Joint Field Office in Huntsville until the middle of June.

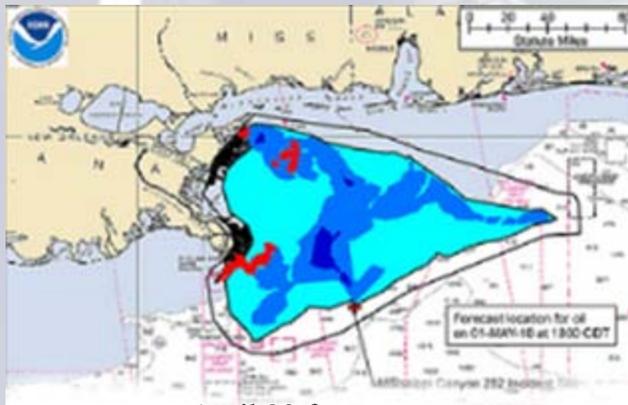


# Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response

## Early Days

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The Deepwater Horizon oil rig sank and the oil began to flow in earnest on April 22. By April 29 Alabama EMA and nine other agencies began deploying personnel to the Unified Command Area in Mobile. A State Forward Emergency Operations Center was established in the Renaissance Hotel.



April 29 forecast map



# Alabama Claims Action Teams



Claims from Alabama residents and businesses impacted by the oil spill were only at 6,528 on June 2. Governor Riley formed the Alabama Claims Action Teams to provide information to those who were confused or hesitant about the claims process. Alabama Emergency Management Recovery Section, Preparedness Section, and Field Services personnel as well as over 150 members of the Alabama National Guard 1200th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion were deployed to provide this assistance.

Fourteen teams went into coastal communities to provide information about filing claims. Some went door to door in communities and some were stationed at established locations.

On July 29 when the mission was ended the official number of claims was 27,651.



## Sweet Home Alabama

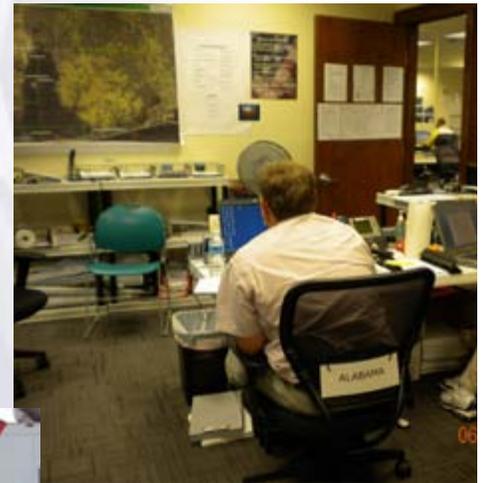
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Unified Command moved to the Downtowner Corporate Center the first week of June. This secure facility housed representatives from state agencies. Daily briefings with county personnel, BP representatives and U.S. Coast Guard personnel were important to overall operation. Personnel from Alabama Emergency Management, Environmental Management, Conservation and National Resources, Public Safety, Public Health, National Guard, Governor's Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives, Forestry Commission and Marine Police worked daily for the residents of Alabama.



The Joint Information Center was housed in a different section of this facility. Public Information Officers from additional agencies assisted in providing Alabama specific information to the news media. These additional agencies include the Department of Education, Homeland Security, Tourism, the Alabama Development Office and Post-Secondary Education. We appreciate PIOs from the counties who were willing to assist when needed.



# In the Gulf and on the beach

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Along the Gulf there was a lot of activity: daily fly-overs, tarball and oil clean up, hard and absorbent booms deployed, controlled burns, the operation of cleaning stations for boats coming into boomed areas, and the use of Vessels of Opportunity, More pictures are available at [www.restorethegulf.gov](http://www.restorethegulf.gov).





# Changes in County EMAs

## In Memory of Spencer Black



Spencer Black retired in February after serving 39 years as director of the Limestone County EMA. Retirement was expected to be an adventure.

He was injured in an accident April 15 and remained in the hospital until his death on June 22.

The Limestone County Commission proclaimed the EMA building the Spencer Black Facility in February and the dedication of the building was held September 10.

Spencer's dedication to family and community as well as his love of what he did will always be honored in the emergency management community.

### Retired County Directors

- Butler: Bob Lumen
- Barbour: Hugh Boyd
- Calhoun: Dan Long
- Shelby: Don Greene
- Pike: Larry Davis
- Talladega: Nelson Bates



**Eddie Hicks sworn in as IAEM-USA President**

Eddie Hicks, Morgan County EMA Director, was sworn in November 3 as the 2010-2011 president of the USA Council of the International Association of Emergency Managers.

### New County Directors

- Baldwin: Melvin Stringfellow
- Barbour: Will Slade
- Bullock: Johnny Adams
- Calhoun: Jerry Jackson
- Gadsden/Etowah: Mike Bryant
- Shelby: Jeff Edwards
- Limestone: Rita White
- Pike: Jeanna Barnes
- Talladega: Deborah Gaither



**Ronnie Adair receives IAEM award**

Ronnie Adair, Mobile County EMA Director, has received the Clayton R. Christopher Memorial Award. This award is presented to an IAEM member in recognition of their unselfish devotion and outstanding contribution to their local EMA program.

### County EMA Staff Retirement Celebrations

Kirk Paradise retired after working for Madison County for over 30 years.

Jane Stump worked 37 years in Jackson County

Ethelene "Beanie" Duster retired from the Florence-Lauderdale EMA

# Building Capability

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**Mitigation** is the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. Mitigation efforts provide value to the American people by (1) creating safer communities by reducing loss of life and property, (2) enabling individuals to recover more rapidly from flood and other disasters, and (3) lessening the financial impact on the Treasury, States, Tribes, and communities.

from [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

## Construction of facility to shelter special needs residents in Robertsdale

A \$6 million facility currently under construction will provide a home and work site for members of the Baldwin County Association for Retarded Citizens. The 33,000-square-foot building will house the ARC vocational program on a day to day basis. Some ARC members will live there full-time and others come to work during the day. Ground was broken in January of 2010 and is on schedule to be completed in 2011.



It will serve as a special-needs hurricane shelter for up to 400 people when needed. The building is being constructed to withstand hurricane winds up to 200 miles an hour.

During Hurricane Ivan ARC members had to be evacuated to Tuscaloosa and remained there for 2½ weeks. The facility will provide sheltering in familiar surroundings with a reduced need for disruptive travel.

The project is being jointly funded through Federal Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Program funds (HMPG) and a loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Office.

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## NIMS Certified All Hazards Public Information Officers

Make sure you congratulate the following when you see them.

Left to right:

**Scott Porter, EMA Director Fayette County**  
*first Director in the State of Alabama to receive this certification*

**Rita Smith, PIO, Lee County EMA**  
*first female from Alabama to receive this certification*

**David McCombs, Huntsville Fire and Rescue**



AEMA—Alabama's Coordinating Agency for disaster response, recovery, and preparedness

Around the State of Alabama



# AAEM: 50 years of service

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AAEM is celebrating 50 years of service to communities all over the state of Alabama. Many hours were spent gathering historic materials and building a visual timeline of the growth in the emergency management profession over the years.



## A TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

Paulette Williams was Keynote Speaker for the awards banquet. She served as AEMA Director in 1994 and is the only woman to ever serve as director. She remembered the past and some of the lessons that are valuable for all emergency managers to learn. They were:

1. Never forget where you came from and the people who helped you.
2. Don't ever forget the importance of your support staff. Give them every opportunity. They are vital to your operation and they may be in the foxhole with you someday.
3. Fight for your identity.
4. Maintain a steady course of action.
5. Never fear change. Remember that political leaders come and go... it is the professionals who remain.

## Certifications in 2010

### Advanced

Paul Brown  
David R. Brunson  
Mike Bryant  
Steve Carlisle  
Cherie Cornelius  
John W. Dennis  
Michael Allen Gates  
James Michael Hill  
C. P. "Chip" Martin  
Perry Martin  
Roxanne Royal  
Shirley Sandy  
Kimberly L. Trost  
William H. Reid  
Susie Wickman  
Thomas L Booker  
Timothy Campbell

David Gillespie  
Hub Harvey  
Kyle M. Jarnagin  
John Kilcullen  
Randall T. Landers  
Daryl Lester  
Clark Matthews  
Marcia McIntosh  
Ronald E. Melvin  
Christopher Potter  
Sherry Shows  
Doug Smith  
Horace K. Walker  
Densie Williams

### Intermediate

Michael Amberson  
Janice Doucet  
Jamie Richard Johnson  
Michael C. LaFerney  
Ronald E. Melvin  
Robert Thomas  
Jenna S. Barnes  
Ashley Marbut  
Monique Smith  
Ronald E. Turner  
Rita Weeks

### Basic

Jonathan Gaddy  
Jayne Hunter  
Michael Stoudenmier  
Jeremy S. Beck  
Beverly Flint  
Sherwanda Gaines  
Mike Gentle  
Sarah Lawrence  
William L. Newman Jr.  
Michael Parvin  
Janice Prescott  
Alan Simmons  
Ronald M. Stell

### Recertification

David Hartin  
Mindy Nash  
Ronnie Adair  
Don Hartley



# Some changes... but not the mission

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## New Employees

January: Brandon Gray, Administrative Section

February: Rick Pirkle, Executive Section

Toni Thomas, Preparedness Section

September: Danon Hoagland, Intern

Kevin Taylor, Intern

## Section Changes

Patrick Tritz and Frank Price both moved from Preparedness to Operations

## Separations

June: Lydia Brooks, resigned

Quinton Dailey, completed internship

July: Pete McGough, retired

Christine Banks, completed internship

September: Stephanie Gibson, resigned

December: Dan Isley, retired

Leigh Ann Clecker, resigned

## Currently Deployed in the Military

Patrick Tritz



Director Brock Long talking about being prepared on WSFA Newsmakers.



Before leaving us this year, Pete McGough helped put together video and printable instructions on "How to Build a Tornado Machine". The Byards were his assistants! This material is now available at [www.ema.alabama.gov](http://www.ema.alabama.gov).



The Alabama Emergency Managers Reference Guidebook is finished. It is being distributed. Many thanks to Don Hartley, Sandra Davenport and others involved for their dedication to the project.

The AEMA Family



# We ARE family!



**AEMA staff contributed to Operation Santa Claus for fifth consecutive year!**



**Operations won the first ever breezeway decorating contest!**



**AEMA staff gave \$725.68 to the Susan B. Komen Race for the Cure**



Baby Zoe!

**Weddings**  
Sherry Ray  
Jimmy Lee  
Craig Blakely

**Babies**  
Jeff Byard, daughter named Zoe  
Missy Lenyo, son named Jackson  
Craig Blakely, son named Vann

and LOTS of grandbabies!

The AEMA Family





## Mark Your Calendar

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### Alabama Association of Emergency Managers Winter Conference

Huntsville Marriott  
January 25-27, 2011

### Severe Weather Awareness Week

February 20-16, 2011

### State of Alabama 2011 Preparedness Workshop

February 22-25, 2011  
Marriott at Capital Hills, Prattville

Registration Information Coming Soon!  
[pws@ema.alabama.gov](mailto:pws@ema.alabama.gov)



### Bicentennial Kickoff of the NMSZ Earthquakes of 1811-1812

February 11, 2011

This will be held in conjunction with Earthquakes: Mean Business event at St. Louis University in Missouri.

### The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut

April 28

Spread the word that everyone can participate.

For more information go to  
<http://www.shakeout.org/centralus/>



### National Level Exercise 2011

May 16-20, 2011

For more any information about ay of these events contact  
Charlisa Ussery, Natural Hazards Program Manager,  
Alabama Emergency Management Agency.

### Be Prepared!

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### Contact Information:

If you have an article, pictures or other information you would like to submit for the next edition of the newsletter contact Yasamie Richardson or Lauree Ashcom in the Public Information Office at 205.208.2275 or 2255.