

Table of Contents

Page 1
Fall Severe Weather

Page 2
Dallas County

Page 3
Be Ready Days

Page 4-6
Around the State

Page 7
At the SEOC
Risk Analysis Tool
Student Aids

Pages 8
Training

Pages 9
Mitigation Report

Page 10
Tuscaloosa County
Talladega County

Page 11-12
AEMA Buzz

Fall Severe Weather



It is important to be prepared at all times. We were reminded of this November 9-10 as we activated for Tropical Storm Ida.

Staff from other agencies joined AEMA staff on the EOC floor. For some this was their first activation experience.

The Disaster Declaration for damages which occurred in Mobile and Baldwin county was announced on December 22. The declaration is for Public Assistance.

This declaration also makes Hazard Mitigation funds available for projects statewide.

Alabama received damage in December due to significant rainfall. The severe weather began on December 12. Governor Bob Riley declared a state of emergency on December 16. Numerous homes and businesses suffered damage over a period of several days.

The Governor has requested a disaster declaration for Barbour, Butler, Clarke, Coffee, Conecuh, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Escambia, Geneva, Henry and Pike Counties. He has also requested assistance from the Small Business Administration for Escambia County due to uninsured losses to homes and businesses in that county. SBA has made that assistance available.



Photos from the Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC).

More available at <http://forestry.alabama.gov/southwestflooding.aspx>



Southern part of Coffee County furnished by Police Chief Russell Young via the Coffee County Sheriff's helicopter crew.

Table of Contents

Page 1
Fall Severe Weather

Page 2
Dallas County

Page 3
Be Ready Days

Page 4-6
Around the State

Page 7
At the SEOC
Risk Analysis Tool
Student Aids

Pages 8
Training

Pages 9
Mitigation Report

Page 10
Tuscaloosa County
Talladega County

Page 11-12
AEMA Buzz

Dallas County Doc in a Bus

Dallas County Health Department, the Dallas County Citizen Corps, Selma-Dallas County United Way, and the Dallas County Emergency Management Agency recently received an award for the Dallas County Doc in a Bus project. The 2009 Innovative Alabama Governments Award was presented by Auburn Montgomery on December 4. Doc in a Bus won in the Government Program Innovation: Local/County category. The honor goes to an Alabama local or county government that implements an innovative program (non-technical) to increase efficiency and/or responsiveness in government service delivery.



Doc in a Bus is providing education and crucial medical services to rural residents of Dallas County. The Doc in a Bus program as well as the Selma-Dallas County Medical Reserve Corps exists to provide support to emergency relief efforts and provide needs assessment and ongoing assistance to those who are uninsured and to help build community resiliency in the event of a disaster.

Initiated in 2008, Doc in a Bus operates out of a 33 ft recreational trailer (FEMA Trailer) as a state-of-the-art clinic with three exam rooms and a lab area. The "Bus" operates bi-weekly and performs basic chemistry, blood count, thyroid testing, diabetes monitoring, cholesterol and liver function tests. Mammograms and pap smears are offered to female patients at suggested screening intervals. An advocacy program of community health workers are trained to assist patients fill out paperwork from the hospital, and to provide much needed education on hypertension, diabetes, obesity and elevated cholesterol. Medication prescriptions which are not covered on the \$4.00 pharmacy listing is provided by HEALTHLINK, a service of Vaughan Community Health Services. Medical care is provided by UAB Selma Family Medicine residency program under the direction of Dr. Monica Newton. Doc in a Bus will function as a mobile triage unit which will support public health activities as well as hospital surge control during a disaster.

Dallas County Be Ready Day



Table of Contents

Page 1
Fall Severe Weather

Page 2
Dallas County

Page 3
Be Ready Days

Page 4-6
Around the State

Page 7
At the SEOC
Risk Analysis Tool
Student Aids

Pages 8
Training

Pages 9
Mitigation Report

Page 10
Tuscaloosa County
Talladega County

Page 11-12
AEMA Buzz

Alabama Be Ready Day, Florence



Elmore County



The Elmore County Emergency Management Agency & Homeland Security Office partnered with Lowe's of Wetumpka for "Preparedness Fair & Safety Saturday" on September 26. State, county and area municipal organizations participated. The Tribal Police from the Poarch Band of Creek Indians also provided personnel and equipment.

Cullman County Be Ready Day



Table of Contents

Page 1
Fall Severe Weather

Page 2
Dallas County

Page 3
Be Ready Days

Page 4-6
Around the State

Page 7
At the SEOC
Risk Analysis Tool
Student Aids

Pages 8
Training

Pages 9
Mitigation Report

Page 10
Tuscaloosa County
Talladega County

Page 11-12
AEMA Buzz

2010 AAEM WORKSHOP

**The Hotel at Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama
January 26 - 28, 2010**

Hope you plan to attend. Register online at www.acca-online.org. Click on the Conferences and Events tab on the top left hand side of the menu bar. Scroll down to the ACCA District Meetings. Click on the tab to register online. Follow the online instructions. Make your hotel reservations by calling The Hotel at Auburn University (1-800-228-2876).

Workshops and Breakout Sessions:

- ❖ EOC Operation and Decision Making Course (Monday, January 25, before the conference begins). *Registration for this course is limited to 60 participants. If you would like to attend just the course, and not the entire conference, there will be a charge of \$50 per person.*
- ❖ Legal Affairs of EMA Programs and the Importance of Documentation
- ❖ Understanding the Stafford Act at the Local Level
- ❖ Emergency Preparedness for Citizens with Disabilities
- ❖ Conflict Resolution
- ❖ Public Event Planning
- ❖ Social Networking and Web Based Applications for Public Information
- ❖ Legislation: From an Idea to a Bill
- ❖ AEMA Planning and Initiatives
- ❖ AEMA Communications

Contact Donna Key at (334) 263-7594 if you have questions.

SAVE THE DATE "State of Alabama 2010 Preparedness Workshop" February 23-26, 2010

**Marriott at Capital Hills, Prattville, Alabama
Registration Information Coming Soon!
contact: pws@ema.alabama.gov**

EAR Distribution, Phase II



Project Manager Steve Swafford briefed local media, elected officials and other community leaders Dec. 15.

Plans for Phase II of the Emergency Alert Radio Distribution were announced December 15 during a media conference and reception in Anniston. More than 50,000 free radios will be distributed between January and April 2010 in Calhoun County's Pink Zones and Immediate Response Zones. During Phase I, more than 108,000 radios were distributed to homes, schools, churches, businesses and other locations in Clay, Cleburne, Etowah, St. Clair and Talladega counties, and Calhoun County's Protective Action Zones. The Distribution Program is funded through the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP).

Table of Contents

Page 1
Fall Severe Weather

Page 2
Dallas County

Page 3
Be Ready Days

Page 4-6
Around the State

Page 7
At the SEOC
Risk Analysis Tool
Student Aids

Pages 8
Training

Pages 9
Mitigation Report

Page 10
Tuscaloosa County
Talladega County

Page 11-12
AEMA Buzz

Did You Know?

CLEM materials are now online

Student aide applications are now online

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

County Briefs

- Two County Directors will retire effective January 31, 2010. Both have been directors for more than 10 years.
 - Don Greene, Shelby County EMA Director
 - Nelson Bates, Talladega County EMA Director
- Lee County EMA director Katherine Russell was recognized at a County Commission meeting for her work and study in receiving the Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) credential from the International Association of Emergency Managers. Russell was presented her credential by Chance Corbett, CEM, associate director emergency management Auburn University's Department of Public Safety and Security.

In Memory....

- Jim Aldridge died at his home August 27. He worked for the State of Alabama in Emergency Management for 25 years and was once the AEMA Training Officer. According to his obituary he helped to design and test many of the states' emergency systems.
- Ray Phillips, former Dale County EMA Director, died November 13.
- Tom Lemons, who served as Monroe County EMA Director for some twenty five years passed away November 29.
- Leon Dillingham, passed away December 9. Mr. Dillingham worked as a volunteer for Clay County EMA for nearly 15 years. He was instrumental in establishing of Clay County's 911 system.

Alabama Region IV Meeting



Agenda included: Legal Issues in Emergency Management (ACCA. Mary Pons), The Declaration Process (AEMA, Bryant Prescott), Role of the PIO (Rita Smith, Lee Co. EMA), Region IV Communications Vehicle (Donnie Smith, Chambers County EMA, with vehicle tour), AEMA Region IV Coordinator Discussion (Darrand Cleckler), Region IV Area Director Discussion (Eric Jones, Elmore County EMA), Lee County EMA Discussion (Kathy Russell, Lee County CERT advertisement/commercial presentation).

Alabama State Defense Force Recognition



On December 7 the Alabama State Defense Force held their annual Christmas party at the Longhorn Steak House in Montgomery. Maj. Gen. Charles Rowe the Commander of the Alabama State Defense Force announced his intent to retire early in the New Year. Representing AEMA, Sandra Lucas presented Maj. Gen. Rowe with a certificate recognizing him for his service, both as the Commander of the ASDF and his service to the citizens of Alabama.

The ASDF is established by Alabama Code Section 31-2-8. Recognized by the emblazon red ASDF name tag on the battle dress uniform. ASDF volunteers perform numerous duties, but none more important than those during times of disaster. This all volunteer force is to be commended for their dedication to service. To learn more about the ASDF visit www.sdf.alabama.gov.

Table of Contents

Page 1
Fall Severe Weather

Page 2
Dallas County

Page 3
Be Ready Days

Page 4-6
Around the State

Page 7
At the SEOC
Risk Analysis Tool
Student Aids

Pages 8
Training

Pages 9
Mitigation Report

Page 10
Tuscaloosa County
Talladega County

Page 11-12
AEMA Buzz

All Hazards Incident Management Team Training and Exercise

An all Hazards Incident Management Team Training and Exercise took place at the Alabama Fire College in Tuscaloosa December 7 through 12. AEMA staff participating included Bill Atchison, Darrand Cleckler, Kyle Eskridge and Don Hartley.

The Alabama AHIMT sent seven members to Los Angeles County in September to assist with command and control functions related to the Station Fire, which consumed thousands of acres and claimed the lives of two firefighters. The following IMT members deployed: Donnie West, Asst. Chief, Center Point Fire District; Gene Coleman, Captain, Birmingham Fire Rescue Service; Matt Russell, Battalion Chief, Birmingham Fire Rescue Service; Jim Coker, Captain, Hoover Police Department; Bill Hunter, District Chief, Mobile Fire Department; Shayne Lovitte, Logistics Officer, Saraland Fire Department; David Thornburg, Regional Director, Alabama Fire College.



CERT for Teens by Lauree Ashcom

Be Ready days provide an excellent opportunity for networking and getting inspired by what other organizations are doing. At the Alabama Be Ready event in Florence, I got inspired.

Ric Wilkinson is a HEMSI paramedic who is dedicated to emergency preparedness and training. Over the last few years he has worked with several schools in Madison County to offer Teen CERT during the school day.

He was inspired by what he saw at BeReady Camp two years ago. This camp is sponsored by the Alabama Department of Homeland Security. Sixth grade students come to the Space Camp facility, learn first aid, preparedness and emergency management skills and participate in a disaster exercise.

For Ric it was a natural progression to take this to high school ROTC students. The curriculum is already available. He compressed the modules to fit in school scheduling. He met with the principal weekly so she would know what was going on in the class.

As with most programs funding and staffing is an issue. VISTA has been instrumental in getting the funding for the CERT bags and also helps with staffing the classes. Instructors are required to complete the CERT Train the Trainer. Ric has organized the training at two schools so far.

I asked him how he would advise someone who is interested in starting this sort of program. His advice is to approach local Citizen Corp organizations first to get them involved. Then approach the local school system in appropriate manner, possibly via school principals and resource officers. According to Ric, "Reach out and ask. The worse they can say is no."

Ric did have a positive story. During a tornado warning CERT students were deployed with their bags at locations in the hallways. It was a lesson for the students in the personal satisfaction of helping others and added a level of calm and confidence for other students in the hall.

If you are interested in starting a Teen CERT class, Ric is enthusiastic and has experience to share. Contact the AEMA Public Information Office for contact information. General information and materials are available for download at www.teencert.org.

Table of Contents

Page 1
Fall Severe Weather

Page 2
Dallas County

Page 3
Be Ready Days

Page 4-6
Around the State

Page 7
At the SEOC
Risk Analysis Tool
Student Aids

Pages 8
Training

Pages 9
Mitigation Report

Page 10
Tuscaloosa County
Talladega County

Page 11-12
AEMA Buzz

Alabama EMA Development Team creates online Risk Analysis Tool

The Development Team at the Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) has created a Risk Analysis Tool to be used by the general public and has recently posted it to the Agency's website. The tool allows users to view multiple data layers that house a variety of information ranging from live weather feeds such as the radar and watches and warnings distributed by the National Weather Service to historical data including hurricane tracks and tornado touchdown locations. The tool also has several statewide point data sets with critical facilities including fire stations, police departments, hospitals, universities, and EOC facilities.

Users can search for their home by entering an address and then turning on layers of interest to see how their area has been or may be impacted by natural hazards. For instance, a user could locate their home and then turn on the storm surge layer to determine which surge zone they fall into.

To access the Risk Analysis Tool, go to www.ema.alabama.gov and click on the link in the upper right portion of the page. For inquiries, contact the Development Team at ITDevTeam@ema.alabama.gov.

... and wins an award for it!



(L to R) John G. Veres III, AUM Chancellor; team members Trea Wilson, Ginger Boling, Melissa Mayo; Gene Akers, Senior Director of the AUM Center for Advanced Technologies

Auburn Montgomery presented its 2009 Innovative Alabama Governments Awards on December 4. The IT Development Team won in Digital Government Innovation: State/Regional Category.

This honor is awarded to an Alabama state/regional government that implemented an innovative digital government solution (technology-driven) to increase efficiency and responsiveness in government service delivery.

Meet the Interns

Quinton R. Dailey

I am one of the current student aides here at the AEMA. I am originally from Birmingham, Alabama and I was granted this wonderful opportunity through Jacksonville State University where I am pursuing an MPA with a concentration in emergency management. I am the proud father of three wonderful children who put a smile on my face everyday, and give me motivation to never quit. In my spare time I enjoy doing work around the house, fishing, participating in church activities, and some occasional reading.



Christine Banks

I am attending Alabama State University, majoring in Social Work, expected graduation date is May 10, 2010, presently interning here at AEMA. I am currently in the process of applying to Graduate School in the Advance Standing Programs at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, University of Connecticut, University of Alabama, and Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia. Enrolling in the dual studies of Social Work and Public Health, where I anticipate working policy analysis and research.

Table of Contents

Page 1
Fall Severe Weather

Page 2
Dallas County

Page 3
Be Ready Days

Page 4-6
Around the State

Page 7
At the SEOC
Risk Analysis Tool
Student Aids

Pages 8
Training

Pages 9
Mitigation Report

Page 10
Tuscaloosa County
Talladega County

Page 11-12
AEMA Buzz

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

AEMA Winter Meeting
January 26-28

Alabama Preparedness Workshop

February 23-26
Severe Weather Awareness week
February 22-26

New County Director Training

January 12, 2010
SEOC in Clanton
Contact Kyle Eskridge to register.

IS300

January 12-January 14, 2010
Jefferson State Community College (Shelby Campus)
8:00am - 4:30pm, January 12-13
8:00am - 11:30am, January 14
Class size limited to 25
Offered by Shelby County EMA
This course is for elected officials, law enforcement, fire and EMS, department heads and other personnel within your jurisdiction who may have a need for Incident Management duties.
Prerequisites:
Student must have completed IS 100, 200 and 700
Registration closes January 4, 2010
Contact Don Greene, dgreene@shelbyal.com



In October Tuscaloosa EMA hosted a Storm Spotter class at the Tuscaloosa Fire & Rescue Service Training & Logistics Facility on McFarland Blvd. Sixty students attended the class. A number were members of the Campus Cert Class and local Volunteer Fire Departments.



Winter Weather Workshop,
Huntsville



HSEEP Class
Houston County

Coming Training

watch the calendar for details

Special Events Contingency Planning

Donations Management Workshop

Basic PIO

ICS 300/400

Debris Operations Planning for Local Governments



above:

Basic PIO Class in Enterprise. Every responder organization plus VOAD, 911, 211, the hospital and United Way attended. The class was hosted by Coffee County EMA at the Enterprise Search and Rescue Training Center.

below:

Pilot of earthquake awareness course called "The Central US is Earthquake Country" taught at the SEOC



Table of Contents

Page 1
Fall Severe Weather

Page 2
Dallas County

Page 3
Be Ready Days

Page 4-6
Around the State

Page 7
At the SEOC
Risk Analysis Tool
Student Aids

Pages 8
Training

Pages 9
Mitigation Report

Page 10
Tuscaloosa County
Talladega County

Page 11-12
AEMA Buzz

Mitigation Office Contacts

Call (205)280-2297

Debbie Peery
Senior Hazard
Mitigation Officer

Kelli B. Alexander
Senior Planner

Lydia Brooks
PEDS

Zakiya Darby, Planner

Robert Baylis, Planner

Janice Doucet, Planner

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

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

The Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) and Calhoun County celebrated a safer Alabama community on September 9. A grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funded the construction of a community safe room at Piedmont High School.

The purpose of the new facility is to safely shelter Piedmont students and faculty if necessary during the school day, or participants and spectators at school sporting events. After hours it will be available as emergency shelter for local residents.

This is a very personal and emotional mitigation project for area residents. On Sunday, March 27, 1994, a tornado spun out of a storm that formed in St. Clair County and headed toward Piedmont. At 11:39 am, an F4 tornado slammed into the Goshen United Methodist Church collapsing the roof on a congregation during a Palm Sunday service. It claimed 20 lives and injured 90. There were other local casualties in the same outbreak.

Local dignitaries who were a part of the dedication all had personal stories about relatives or close friends who died or were injured in that outbreak. For many the shelter dedication was an event celebrated because of the security the facility offers students at the school and residents of the community.

The 5,000-square-foot safe room will be able to withstand winds of up to 200 mph and is equipped with a generator to provide backup power in the event of a power loss. The \$750,000 grant represents 75 percent of the total project cost of approximately \$1 million, and is made possible through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The remainder will come from non-federal sources.

Mitigation is about reducing loss of life and about individual recovery. Mitigation works!



Table of Contents

Page 1
Fall Severe Weather

Page 2
Dallas County

Page 3
Be Ready Days

Page 4-6
Around the State

Page 7
At the SEOC
Risk Analysis Tool
Student Aids

Pages 8
Training

Pages 9
Mitigation Report

Page 10
Tuscaloosa County
Talladega County

Page 11-12
AEMA Buzz

In Tuscaloosa EMA's new EOC



This fall Tuscaloosa EMA conducted their first Campus CERT class for college students.



The National Weather Service Birmingham held the 2009 Weather 101 class in Tuscaloosa.



In October, Mayor Maddox's Youth Council met in the EOC to learn more about emergency operations. Mayor Maddox is pictured with Deputy Chief Ken Horst (Tuscaloosa Fire & Rescue Service) in the EOC.

Talladega County EMA Open House

by Steve Dover



The Open House for the Talladega County EMA/E911 Communication Center was held on October 21, 2009. The new \$4M, 18,000 square foot facility will house the offices of Emergency Management and 911 along with the county's Emergency Operations Center and Central Dispatch.

EMA Director Nelson Bates addressed the over 100 attendees along with other elected officials. Bates told them of FEMA's involvement in the development of

this facility. "To say that FEMA supports Talladega County is a gross understatement. They are directly responsible for obtaining the one million dollars for EMA's portion of the building as well as supporting funding for furnishings, the (communications) tower complex, the UPS (uninterrupted power source) and generator, the security system, administration telephone switch and system along with new computers."



Bates also recognized local elected officials in attendance as well as AEMA representatives Charles Williams, CSEPP Program Manager; Jeff Byard, Executive Operations Officer; Perry Martin, Branch Chief

Field Services; Ricky Little, former Regional Coordinator and Larry Patterson, current Regional Coordinator.

In closing, Bates stated that he would be retiring on February 1, 2010 but plans to remain a citizen of Talladega County and thanked everyone for "making Talladega County a safer place to live."

After the ceremony, tours of the facility were given by EMA employees. Lunch was provided by Motorola and McCord's Communications.



Congratulations to Chance & Jennifer Corbett who welcomed Baby Alice into their family October 14 8 lbs, 1 oz, 19" long

Table of Contents

Page 1
Fall Severe Weather

Page 2
Dallas County

Page 3
Be Ready Days

Page 4-6
Around the State

Page 7
At the SEOC
Risk Analysis Tool
Student Aids

Pages 8
Training

Pages 9
Mitigation Report

Page 10
Tuscaloosa County
Talladega County

Page 11-12
AEMA Buzz



AEMA is a family in so many ways. So here are a few pictures of fun and time together.



December

2 Ricky
8 Les
10 Kevin
13 Trea
18 Leisa
31 Jim C

January

2 David C
5 Bryan
5 Kyle
8 Donna
8 Westly M
8 Carol
13 Frank M
15 Charlisa
17 Lisa
21 Perry
24 Melissa
27 Robert

February

18 Larry S
20 Debra
21 Kristy
26 Bill A
27 Judy

Birthdays!



March

3 Kathy
10 Pam
14 Yasamie
17 Karla
19 Jeb
20 Ginger
26 Lydia

April

2 Terry H
6 Richard
6 Brock
8 Sandra C
8 Stephanie
18 Alicia
28 Benny

This tour group included the mothers of several employees!



Kaelyn Payne

Granddaughter of Tim Payne
Born December 17
6.5 lbs, 19.5 inches
Parents are Michael and Katina Payne.
Michael is currently stationed in Afghanistan, so please keep all the family in your prayers.



Isaac Long

Son of Brock and Mandi Long
Brother of Jonah Long!
Born August 18, 5:17 p.m.
6 lbs. 12 ozs.

Did You Know?

AEMA reached 148% of our goal for the State Combined Campaign.

Table of Contents

- Page 1**
Fall Severe Weather
- Page 2**
Dallas County
- Page 3**
Be Ready Days
- Page 4-6**
Around the State
- Page 7**
At the SEOC
Risk Analysis Tool
Student Aids
- Pages 8**
Training
- Pages 9**
Mitigation Report
- Page 10**
Tuscaloosa County
Talladega County
- Page 11-12**
AEMA Buzz

Service Awards

- 30 years**
Nell Dennis
- 25 years**
Sandra Connell
- 20 years**
Benjie Abbott
Michelle Majors
Fred Springall
- 15 years**
Pete McGough
Debbie Peery
Charles Williams
- 10 years**
Darrand Cleckler
Danyula Flowers
Larry Patterson
- 5 years**
Earl Alexander
Bill Atchison
Stanley Batchelor
Lydia Brooks
Jeff Byard
Karla Esco
Michael Johnson
Tim Payne
Charlisa Ussery
Trea Wilson



clockwise from top left:
Nell Dennis--30 years of service
Recovery staff assisted in Georgia
AEMA staff provided Christmas
presents for Chilton County kids.



"Stockings for Soldiers" was
a great success again this year.
On December 4th, 348 stockings

were shipped overseas to Iraq and Afghanistan. Stockings, stocking stuffers, and postage donations came from AEMA as well as Autauga, Clay, Sumter, St. Clair, Jefferson, Blount, and Lee County EMAs.

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

Be Prepared!

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Email:
info@ema.alabama.gov

Please use the dates below to submit newsletter information in 2010.
Info due date: April 1. Publish April 16
Info due date: August 18. Publish September 1
Info due date: December 1. Publish December 15.

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.