

Message from AEMA Director Art Faulkner

AEMA Newsletter December 2011

New Year, New Opportunity to Build on Lessons Learned

It's hard to believe we are starting a new year at AEMA. Since joining the agency almost a year ago we have been through a lot. Without question, 2011 is a year that will forever be etched in our minds and hearts. I must give a tremendous and heartfelt THANK YOU to our staff and local EMA family who dedicated so much of their time, heart and soul into helping the people of Alabama this year. Response to and recover from one of the worse natural disasters in the state's history was a monumental task. One of AEMA's main priorities is getting reimbursements for disaster response to the local entities as quickly as possible. We know the disaster was a huge financial burden on many of the local governments. Also, to mitigate the effects of future disasters, Governor Bentley has placed a priority on funding community and individual safe rooms with federal disaster mitigation funding. AEMA staff are working to get as many safe rooms as possible approved and in place before the 2012 tornado season.

I was pleased to see our EMPG funding remained consistent last year and I'm hoping for the same this year. Working with local EMAs, we will continue to foster relationships with our federal partners and our congressional delegation. It is my goal to continue dedicating a large portion of the funding to the local EMAs, which will help them in their preparedness and response to all hazards and disasters.

I'm looking forward to what 2012 has in store for us, as always my door is open. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Happy New Year.



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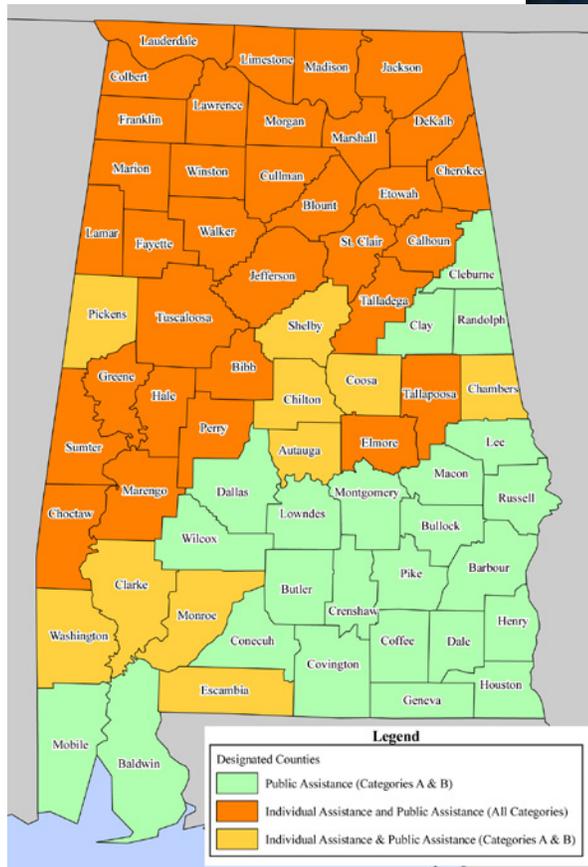


DR-1971

This disaster began on April 15



There was damage in several counties due to severe weather and tornadoes. The top two photos are in Washington County. Lower photos are in Sumter County. Governor Bentley visited damaged areas with Congresswoman Terry Sewell. Counties declared a disaster due to April 15 tornadoes were Marengo and Sumter.

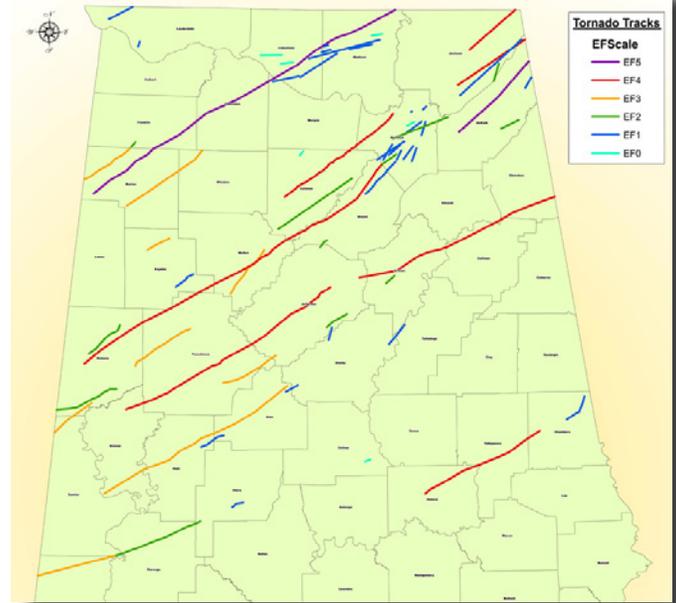


Counties declared for Individual Assistance for tornado survivors are Autauga, Bibb, Blount, Calhoun, Chambers, Cherokee, Chilton, Choctaw, Clarke, Colbert, Coosa, Cullman, DeKalb, Elmore, Escambia, Etowah, Fayette, Franklin, Greene, Hale, Jackson, Jefferson, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marengo, Marion, Marshall, Monroe, Morgan, Perry, Pickens, Shelby, Sumter, St. Clair, Talladega, Tallapoosa, Tuscaloosa, Washington, Walker and Winston.

This disaster by the numbers

The Tornadoes

- 62 tornadoes
- 70 tracks: 1,177 miles long, 20 miles wide



The People

- 7 fatalities on April 15
- 248 fatalities April 28
- 52,630 volunteers deployed by Volunteer Reception Centers worked a total of 326,323 hours
- Volunteers continue to work in Alabama
- Homes damaged or destroyed: 23,553

The Recovery

- Debris removed as of November 15: 9,711,760 cubic yards (this includes right of way debris and private property debris removal eligible under Operation Clean Sweep)
- Number of survivors who registered with FEMA: 88,216
- Home inspections completed: 50,293
- Number of survivors approved for rental assistance: 8,209. Families still certified: 2,215*
- Temporary Housing Units occupied in Alabama: highest number, 301; still 225 licensed*

* as of November 30

Volunteers made a huge difference

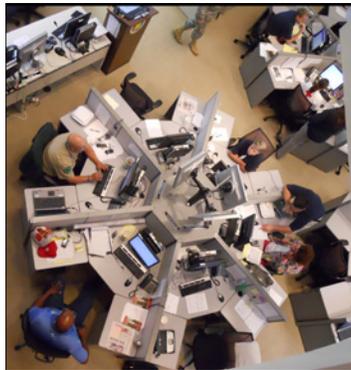


Alabama Emergency Management Agency

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

DR-1971 in pictures

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Alabama Emergency Management Agency

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

DR-1971 in pictures

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Mitigation

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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

Rebuilding Alabama Safer and Stronger

Almost immediately following the disaster on April 27th, one phrase was repeated often “we will be back” and for the Alabama Emergency Management Agency we wanted to take it one step further we need to come back “safer and stronger”. The Mitigation staff has worked tirelessly to make sure the 255 lives lost as a result of the spring storms are not forgotten and they are not in vain. From the very beginning a commitment to executing the mitigation program was a priority of the State and Federal administrations. In June the mitigation staff hit the road with applicant briefings and workshops. These meetings would normally take place much later in the process, but this time a new precedence was set.

With a disaster of this magnitude and the near immediate interest in mitigation, Alabama EMA expected a few more applications than normal. When the last application was submitted the state received more than 1,100 applications representing more than 4,000 individual applicants. The increased workload resulted in additional staff in the mitigation section. State Mitigation Officer Debbie Peery is pleased to see it and she says, “I hope this makes our citizens more prepared, because mitigation saves lives.”

Peery also says, “We have a long road ahead of us, and I can’t think of a worthier cause than the one we are doing every day.”

The level of dedication is evident at every level from the local, state and federal staff. Any one working DR-1971 would agree the unity has been unlike anything anyone has seen before.

Note: The 255 fatalities represent 7 individuals who lost their lives on April 15 and 248 on April 27th.



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

Around the State of Alabama



More about 2011 in Alabama

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January winter weather event



Be Ready and Preparedness Days



There were many preparedness events around the state during the year. To the left is the picture from the Family Preparedness Day in Montgomery in February. To the right is a photo from the Elmore County Be Ready Day. Photos above are from the Alabama Be Ready Day which was held at Troy University.



Around the State of Alabama



CSEPP is complete in Alabama

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Directors of CSEPP county EMAs with
AEMA Director Art Faulkner
(L to R) Mike Bryant (Etowah), Steve Swafford (Cleburne),
Deborah Gaither (Talladega), Director Faulkner, Ellen Haynes
(St. Clair), Theresa Daugherty (Clay), Jerry Jackson (Calhoun)

Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) and Static Detonation Chamber (SDC) employees safely demilitarized the final chemical weapon stored there on September 22nd.

By the numbers

299,727 mustard agent munitions
181,856 gallons of mustard agent
219,374 VX nerve agent munitions
196,925 gallons of VX nerve agent
142,428 GB nerve agent munitions
96,078 gallons of GB nerve agent

Job well done!

Emergency Alert Radio Distribution

Emergency Management Agencies (EMAs) in Calhoun, Clay, Cleburne, Etowah, St. Clair and Talladega counties conducted extensive public outreach at local events through the Emergency Alert Radio (EAR) Distribution Program. Since September 2010, the EAR Program participated in Oxfordfest, Pell City's Paws in the Park and Hollis Crossroads' Community Safety Day and other local events throughout the six-county region.

During the events, free emergency alert radios were distributed to local residents along with information about emergency preparedness. People who have questions about their radios were encouraged to bring them to the events for personal assistance.

The EAR Distribution Program was funded by the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP). Since January 2009, more than 155,000 radios have been distributed to homes, schools, churches and other locations in Alabama's CSEPP region.



Gadsden-Etowah County EMA and the EAR Program partnered with Birmingham-based NBC13 to distribute more than 1,000 radios at the Gadsden Mall in March, 2011. NBC13 and Fox6 supported events in Calhoun, Etowah and St. Clair counties. Cleburne and Talladega counties partnered with NBC13 for events.



Alabama Association of Emergency Managers

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AAEM Certifications for 2011

This includes certifications announced at the AAEM Winter Conference and the Summer Conference and those granted in November.

Advanced Level

Jason Block, Redford Township, MI
Johnny Cantrell, Morgan County EMA
Paige Colburn, Huntsville/Madison County EMA
Randolph Crowder, American Red Cross
Sherry Crush, Mobile Fire & Rescue
Jeff Edwards, Shelby County EMA
William Newman, Jr., Arlington Heights PD, IL
Kent Lattimer, Calhoun county EMA
Carl Spano, Decatur, AL
Marvin Stringfellow, Baldwin County
Bill Atchison, AEMA
James Burnett, Winston County EMA
Don DeSchaine, Huntsville Fire and Rescue
Janice Doucet, AEMA
John Fill, FEMA
Patrick Hardy, American Red Cross
Thomas Harrison, Montpelier, VA
Robert Heintzelman, Jacksonville, AL
Joseph Lynch, Alabama Fire College
Kimberly Mitchell, Mobile County EMA
Michael Stoudenmier, Montgomery County EMA
Claudia David, Jacksonville, AL
Robert Franklin, Russell County EMA
Carol A. McCormick, Jacksonville, AL
James M. Missildine, Tallassee Fire Department
Joshua J. Nebelsick, Waldorf, MD
Jon C. Soemake, North Richland Hills, TX
Monique Smith, Autauga County EMA
Jonathan Warner, Hartselle Fire Department
Gary R. Wilson, San Antonio, TX
Jeremy Beck, Benton County EMA, WA
Richard Brannon, Mobile Fire & Rescue
Michael Charter, Spokane Valley Fire Dept., WA
Dan Foy, Lee County EMA
Karen Kirkpatrick, Jacksonville, AL
Michael Posey, Jacksonville, AL
Michael D. Smith, Colbert County EMA

Intermediate Level

Mike Gentle, Madison Public Works
Joseph Lynch, Alabama Fire College
Alison Steiner, Baldwin County EMA
Michael Stoudenmier, Montgomery County EMA
Scott Wallace, Baldwin County EMA
Michael Charter, Spokane Valley Fire Dept, WA
Jonathan Greenstein, Woodbridge, VA
Beau Bevan, Fish River/Marlow Fire Department
Allen Marks, Huntsville Fire and Rescue
Nicholas Watson, Henry County EMA

Basic Level

Richard Brannon, Mobile Fire & Rescue
Shannon Potter, Mobile, AL
Lee Steiner, Foley, AL
Christopher Pizzano, Huntsville, AL
Kevin Bennett, University of Alabama, Huntsville
Beau Bevan, Fish River/Marlow Fire Department
Randall Bocock, Oakton, VA
Stacey Green, Tannehill State Park
Douglas T. Hubbard, Jr., Lee County EMA
Allen W. Marks, Huntsville Fire and Rescue
Candy Sumlin, Huntsville/Madison EMA

left:

AEMA Director Art Faulkner spoke at the Winter Conference in January, 2011

below:

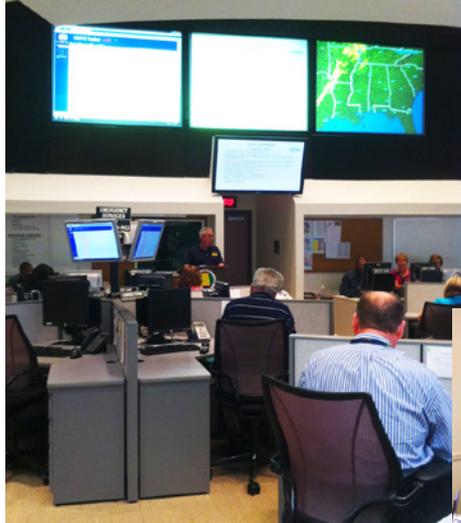
AAEM Board members traveled to Washington, DC, to meet with Alabama's Congressional delegation



Around the State of Alabama



Training and Exercises



Emergency Operations Center training was offered this year both specifically for the AEMA SEOC and EOC Operations and Planning All Hazards.



A G290 Public Information Officer class was offered in Abbeville.

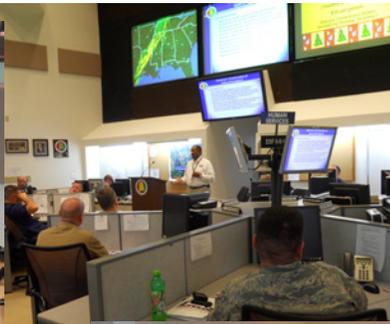


Operation Scarlett ICE was the annual Alabama Department of Homeland Security exercise for responders. It was held jointly with a communications interoperability exercise at Lakepoint State Park in Eufaula.



Here at home in Clanton

Visitors to the AEMA offices in Clanton



We have had many visitors this year. Pictures to the left are of Commander's Summit participants, a class from Air War College and below is the Alabama Department of Homeland Staff.



Staff Changes

Donna Baker – Retired
Norma Driver – Retired
Jimmy Lee - Retired
Perry Martin - Retired
Carol Nobles – Retired
Fred Springall – Retired
Bill Atchison - Retired
Lauren Levins - Resigned
Craig Blakely - Resigned



New Employees:

Randy Branson
Michelle Canterbury
Tamara Giles
Truman Hornsby
Ashley Kelley
Jimmy Plier
Greg Robinson
Robert Thomas
Valerie Wallace



For the second time the IT development staff has won!

Innovative Alabama Government Awards

February, 2011
EMITS Mapper Decision Support
Alabama EMA
Digital Government Innovation:
State/Regional



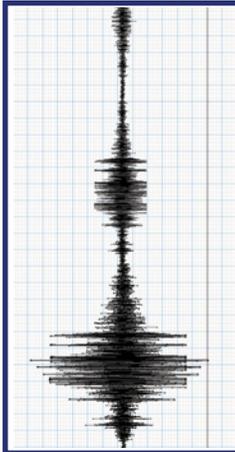
Communications Officer Westly Mallery passed away suddenly on Saturday, June 11, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Pam, as well as a son and daughter and his mother. He was our friend and colleague and is missed.



Mark Your Calendar

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North Alabama Winter Weather Workshop January 25, 2012, in Cullman



The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut 2012

February 7, 10:15 a.m.

Spread the word that

everyone can participate.

For more information go to

<http://www.shakeout.org/centralus/>

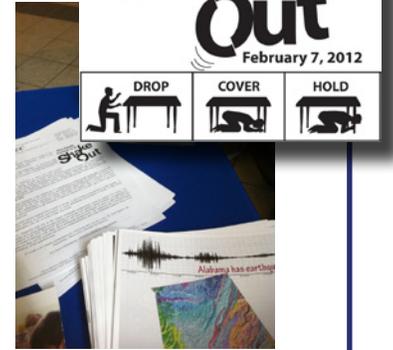
For more any information about this event contact

Charlisa Ussery

Natural Hazards Program Manager

Alabama Emergency Management Agency.

The Great
Central U.S.
**shake
Out**
February 7, 2012



Response and Recovery Workshop February 28-March 2 Prattville



Gulf States Hurricane Conference

June 6-8, 2012

Biloxi, Mississippi

Be Prepared!

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

