



MEMO



A joint publication between N.C. Emergency Management and the N.C. Emergency Management Association

Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 4-10 *Statewide Tornado Drill on March 7*

Following one of the most active and deadly years in recent weather history, state officials are urging North Carolinians to make safety plans now for home, work or school so they can respond quickly when tornadoes or severe storms threaten.

March 4-10 is Severe Weather Awareness Week in North Carolina.

“Already this year, we have seen tornadoes sweep through several of our western counties,” said Doug Hoell, state Emergency Management director. “That type of weather is almost unheard of for January in our state. And we all saw in 2011 just how quickly these storms can strike and how dangerous they can become. That is why it is so critical to have emergency plans in place.”

Hoell urged North Carolinians to take time now to discuss and rehearse family emergency plans so that when the National Weather Service issues a storm warning in their area, everyone can act quickly and take shelter calmly.

Schools and government buildings statewide will conduct tornado drills at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 7 to rehearse their emergency plans.

In 2011, the National Weather Service issued more than 200 tornado warnings for North Carolina and recorded 63 tornadoes, more than twice the state average. Twenty-six people were killed and hundreds injured. Combined, the tornadoes caused approximately \$400 million in damages. In addition, the NWS issued more than 1,200 severe thunderstorm warnings, and recorded



In 2011, North Carolina experienced more than twice the average number of tornadoes.

more than 1,500 incidents of severe thunderstorms with damaging winds and/or large hail.

March, May and November are the deadliest months for tornadoes in the state. However, residents should be equally prepared for other forms of severe weather, such as lightning, floods and hail.

On April 16, 2011, 30 confirmed tornadoes raged across one third of North Carolina; the greatest one-day total in state history. Twenty four people died and hundreds were injured as a result of the storms that day. But that was not the only outbreak. Earlier that month, twisters damaged homes in Davidson and Surry counties. In May, severe weather struck Rutherford County and in August, tornadoes hit Wilson County. Tornadoes struck Davidson County again in November, along with Rowan.

When severe weather is likely, people should listen to local radio, television, a weather channel or a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration radio for information. If a tornado watch is issued, the conditions are favorable and a tornado is possible. However, if a warning is issued, a tornado has actually been spotted or appeared on radar. This is the time when people should go to a safe shelter immediately.

The safest place during a tornado is underground in a basement. If there is no basement, people who are at home should go to the lowest floor of the house and to an interior room such as a hallway, pantry or closet. Children in school should go to inner hallways, but stay out of gymnasiums, auditoriums or cafeterias where there is a large roof span. Office workers should take shelter under something sturdy like a desk or a table to protect from flying debris or a collapsed roof. Everyone should stay away from windows.

Mobile home residents are especially vulnerable to damage from high winds and should go to a prearranged shelter when severe weather is predicted.

Every family's emergency plan should include information on what to do if severe weather happens while traveling to work or school. Drivers who see a tornado forming or approaching should leave the car immediately and take shelter in a low-lying area. A tornado can easily blow a car off a road and many people have been killed while trying to outrun a tornado. Those who are on foot or a bicycle could encounter falling trees, downed power lines or lightning, and they should go to a safe place immediately. The basement of a sturdy building is best. Lying flat in a ditch or low area may also offer protection, but beware of possible flash flooding and flying debris.

Preparation for any type of severe weather also means having a family disaster plan and an emergency supply kit assembled and in a location that is easy to access during an emergency. More information on tornadoes and overall emergency preparedness is available at www.ReadyNC.org and www.ncem.org.

A Preview of the Spring Conference Presentations

By Gary Jones, NCEMA

Emergency Management professionals from state, local and private agencies will converge in Sunset Beach for the North Carolina Emergency Management Association's annual Spring All-Hazards Conference March 11 – 16.

Nearly 40 sessions are planned for the first three days, covering a variety of topics. General session topics and presenters include:

Brock Long, former director of Alabama Emergency Management Agency (and Alabama Incident Commander for the oil spill), will discuss the operations behind the **2010 Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill** as the largest multi-area command structure in the nation's history. He will explain what worked and what did not.

Rocco Forte, former Minneapolis Emergency Management director, will provide a case study on the **I-35 Mississippi River bridge collapse** that killed 13 people and injured 145.

Norma Houston, lecturer in Public Law and Government at UNC-CH, will address the **extent and limitations of local authorities under a declared state of emergency**. In addition, Ms. Houston will provide a separate presentation for new emergency management coordinators concerning **North Carolina emergency management laws** and authorities; and, she will also conduct a **“Liabilities Issues in Emergency Management Class.”**

Regina Moran, of FEMA's Individual and Community Preparedness Division, will outline best practices for **implementing a youth program as a separate component** of a jurisdiction's overall preparedness strategy.

Senior officials from the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** and the **National Weather Service**.

Finally, the **ICS 402 workshop for Executives and Senior Officials** will be held Wednesday morning. All attendees will be able to receive training credit for this program. This session,

along with the “extent and limitations of local authorities” presentation comprises a special track designed to attract senior local elected officials to the conference. The North Carolina League of Municipalities has advertised the program on its website.

Other sessions will examine:

- What to do during the response phase when technological systems fail;
- What every emergency manager should know about crisis communications and dealing with the news media
- Smart phone applications for emergency management
- North Carolina climate change strategy
- The effect the “Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990” has on response and recovery operations
- The North Carolina Mass Feeding Task Force
- Evacuation area re-entry procedures to ensure the availability of emergency supplies and utility services
- Ongoing efforts to facilitate individuals with developmental disabilities to prepare for and recover from emergency situations
- Day-to-day budgeting issues and cost concerns with declared events (including budget “traps” and cost exposures)
- What to expect when cemeteries are damaged or flooded
- Lessons learned on VIPER use from Hurricane Irene and the April 2011 tornadoes
- The Importance of detailed record keeping in disaster response and recovery
- Planning for vulnerable populations
- Response and sheltering issues; and
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission policy changes following Japan’s tsunami disaster.

Additional classes and workshops are scheduled Thursday and Friday after the conference ends.

For more information or to register, visit <https://ncema.renci.org>.

Guidance for FY 2012 Preparedness Grants

By Christine Brennan, NCEM

On February 17, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security released guidance for seven Fiscal Year 2012 preparedness (non-disaster) grant programs. The preparedness grants suite supports the core capabilities from the National Preparedness Goal, consolidates several grant programs, and reduces the grant period of performance to two years.

North Carolina will receive more than \$8.7 million through the Emergency Management Performance Grant, which is used to fund various emergency management programs throughout the state.

Under the FY 2012 Port Security Grant Program, the Wilmington and Morehead City ports can apply for a portion of the \$29.25 million that will be allocated competitively amongst all Tier II state/territory port areas.

Under the Homeland Security Grant Program, North Carolina will receive more than \$3.9 million for the State Homeland Security Grant Program, while the Charlotte Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) will receive more than \$1.4 million. Non-profit organizations located in the designated Charlotte UASI area that are at high risk of terrorist attack may apply through the N.C. Department of Public Safety for a Non-Profit Security Grant Program award up to \$75,000 for physical security activities and enhancements.

North Carolina also can apply for the FY 2012 Operation Stonegarden Grant Program intended to secure international borders. More than \$46 million will be allocated nationally through a competitive process.

The N.C. Department of Public Safety, which acts as the state authorizing agency, must submit final grant applications for these programs to the DHS by May 4, 2012.

For more information, visit www.fema.gov/government/grant/nondisaster.shm.

Wake County Hosts Record-Setting BEST Conference

By Amy Ikerd, Wake County EM

After the 1984 chemical disaster in Bhopal, India, the United States passed legislation to create Local Emergency Planning Committees that would collect data and train community responders on potential chemical disasters.

These community-based organizations, known as LEPCs, have implemented various programs nationwide to increase awareness and provide direction to emergency workers and public on what to do in a disaster. The goal of most LEPCs is to provide awareness of, training to prepare for, and safety classes on chemical use and storage.

Wake County does just that and more through its Business Environmental Safety Training conference. The annual conference gathers local government, emergency responders, private industry professionals and the general public so all parties can learn what to expect from the other during emergencies.

The county held its 23rd BEST conference February 9 at N.C. State University's McKimmon Center. This year's keynote speaker was Tim Gablehouse, an internationally known Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know law subject matter expert from Denver, Co. Other speakers included EPA representatives from Atlanta, an EPlan instructor from Cape Coral, Fl., and speakers from state and local government and private industry across North Carolina. Session topics included environmental awareness, workplace safety, hazardous waste disposal, confined space entry and OSHA updates.

"The BEST conference provides an excellent place for emergency management professionals to build their knowledge of current and future hazards that could potentially affect their communities," said Wake County Emergency Management Director Josh Creighton.

Attendance at this year's BEST conference was more than 500 people, a 20 percent increase from last year. The BEST conference is the largest event of its kind in North Carolina.

North Carolina Participates in Consortium to Develop Universal Logistics Standard

North Carolina Emergency Management has been working with a regional logistics consortium comprised of state and Federal Emergency Management Agency representatives from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Connecticut, to develop a universal logistics standard.

The consortium received significant funding from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to develop such a regional logistics program that could easily be adapted for any area in the nation.

For the past few months, Paul Latham has worked primarily with the New York City Office of Emergency Management (NYC OEM), which is the lead for New York state's participation in the group. He attended a three day conference with the consortium last year and will participate on a logistics panel, along with representatives from NYC OEM and FEMA Region II, at the National Hurricane Conference in March.

While working together to develop the outline for what they believe a Universal Logistics Standard should contain, the consortium found that North Carolina already had developed many of their model's necessary features. The group was particularly interested in North Carolina's Logistics SOP and the resource database that integrates inventory, purchasing and transportation management. In addition, the consortium expressed interest in the state's Joint Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration plan and standard operating procedures; warehouse and staging area organization; emergency purchasing procedures; and NC SPARTA's Point of Distribution board that automates much of the disaster commodity distribution process.

NCEM hopes to benefit from the procedures that the consortium develops. Latham said he hopes their initiative might lead to standard curriculum in FEMA courses at the Emergency Management Institute, so that different states and FEMA use similar organizations and procedures to facilitate logistics mutual aid in catastrophic disasters.



Officials Dedicate New NCNG Headquarters and State Emergency Operations Center

Nearly 300 people joined N.C. Emergency Management and the N.C. National Guard to dedicate the new Joint Force Headquarters and State Emergency Operations Center in February.

Located on the 18-acre NCNG campus off Reedy Creek Road in Raleigh, the new building is a partnership between the N.C. Guard, N.C. Emergency Management, N.C. Department of Transportation and State Highway Patrol.

“Having several of our key State Emergency Response Team partners under one roof just makes sense,” said Doug Hoell, NCEM director. “With the 24-hour communications centers for Emergency Management, the Highway Patrol and DOT in one location, we already have seen a synergy and efficiency that we’ve not had before.”

The facility is designed primarily to be an operations center for the state in the event of natural disasters or other emergencies. The new building is composed of some of the most modern technologies and energy-efficient "green" engineering. Some of the features include a 400-person auditorium and a 150-person dining facility. The new SEOC occupies about 43,000 square feet, which includes a large situation briefing room, breakout rooms for each

emergency function, a Joint Information Center, media briefing facility and Governor’s Hotline.

The four-story facility houses nearly 520 civilian and military employees. Construction was made possible by legislation supported by U.S. Rep. David Price and other congressional leaders through the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), a stimulus package created to generate job growth, target infrastructure development and spur economic activity for long-term growth investments. The 237,000-square-foot facility cost approximately \$53 million to build. Nearly \$39 million was supported by ARRA, with an additional \$14 million provided through state funds for the construction of critical state infrastructure in the building. Construction began on the building in July 2009 and took nearly two years to complete.

The new building further solidifies the relationship amongst critical state agencies. The partnership ensures that the citizens of North Carolina receive responsive and effective support during such emergencies by exercising the full capabilities of the National Guard, Emergency Management, Highway Patrol and NCDOT.



Gov. Perdue (center) is joined by (from left) David Joyner, MG Greg Lusk, Jon Nance, Secretary Reuben Young, Sandra Richardson, U.S. Rep. David Price, Secretary Gene Conti, LTG Bill Ingram, Doug Hoell and Colonel Michael Gilchrist at the dedication of the new building.

Mapping Hazardous Materials Across North Carolina

By Brian Barnes, NCEM

Hazardous materials travel through our communities every day, but many people are unaware of the potential hazards they pose to our communities. Hazmat facilities are not always as obvious as some would hope. For instance, many of the highest risk facilities are chicken processing or waste-water treatment facilities.

That is why NCEM launched the N.C. Regional Hazardous Materials Study to capture in one comprehensive study these and other chemical hazards such as trucks and rail cars that routinely carry hazardous materials across the state.

Coordinated by the N.C. Hazardous Materials Taskforce with contract support by IEM, the study is in its fourth phase now examining Domestic Preparedness Regions 8 and 9 in the western part of the state. Over the last month, the taskforce and IEM have pulled together data on the chemical hazards in that region. Next, it will begin the chemical selection process that will identify priority chemicals to investigate further in this study. As the taskforce moves forward, it will work to revise the study process and improve the final results. Once the initial studies are finished next year, the taskforce will re-evaluate each of the regions to incorporate any changes that occurred during the past five years, as well as improve the depth and scope of the information.

The most important aspect of the entire process is input from all the stakeholders. The information and requests passed to the taskforce by the counties and responders are what drive the process. The end goal of this study is to continuously provide Local Emergency Planning Committees with the information they need to plan for chemical emergencies. The study team cannot stress enough how important it is for feedback on this study. While the study is completed on a regional level to maximize funding, the study remains a project that is driven by local input.

For more information, contact Brian Barnes at brian.barnes@ncdps.gov 919-825-2255.

Currituck County is Storm Ready

By Rebecca Christenbury, Currituck County
Emergency Management

Currituck County was recently recognized by the National Weather Service as a StormReady community for having outstanding emergency preparation for severe weather. Bill Sammler, NWS Wakefield Warning Coordination Meteorologist, presented Currituck officials with a certificate proclaiming Currituck County as a StormReady community on February 6.

The NWS StormReady program is designed to encourage emergency planning on the local level. This includes preparing for severe weather events such as thunderstorms, flooding and hurricanes.



From left: Rebecca Christenbury, EM Program Assistant; Bill Sammler, NWS Wakefield Warning Coordination Meteorologist; and Mary Beth Newns, EM Director.

To achieve StormReady status, Currituck Emergency Management worked to meet several criteria including emergency operations planning, local safety training, community education, visiting NWS facilities and an assessment by NWS staff.

Currituck County has become one of 923 counties nationwide to achieve the StormReady designation and joins 46 other counties in North Carolina with StormReady status. Overall, NWS has recognized 1,871 StormReady sites, including counties, cities, universities, commercial sites and military installations.

For more information on the StormReady program, visit www.stormready.noaa.gov.

Alamance County Tests Its Response With Active Shooter Series

In light of numerous recent violent acts in educational and business institutions, Alamance County officials decided they needed to test their collective response capabilities to an active shooter situation.

The goal was to hold discussions and exercises that incorporated the industry, educational, government, private non-profits and emergency response communities.

The Alamance Emergency Management Office last fall convened an exercise planning team, comprised of emergency responders, local government representatives and community stakeholders. The team worked with local officials and determined that Alamance Community College would provide the perfect venue for the training and exercise. The group then contracted with EnviroSafe to plan and implement the three-part exercise series which includes a seminar, table top discussion and full scale exercise. EnviroSafe recently developed active shooter exercises for several campuses in the University of North Carolina system in 2010.

More than 150 representatives from industry, education, medical care, local government, private non-profits, state emergency management and local public safety agencies attended the seminar January 31 at Lambs Chapel. Cliff Parker, State Bureau of Investigations special agent in charge gave an active shooter presentation. Tim Luper, SBI Bomb Team commander, provided information on bombing prevention and suspicious package protocols for citizens and responders. And, Brian Neil of North Carolina's Information Sharing and Analysis Center, talked about his agency's role in identifying and preventing terrorist acts.

Forty-five people participated in the table top exercise in early February at the Alamance Community College campus. The discussion targeted emergency responders and other community partners that would answer the call for an active shooter on campus. Participants were broken down into two groups: response operations and response coordination. Each group had a facilitator to conduct the flow of questions and relative discussions.

The full scale exercise will take place March 8 and will include "boots-on-the-ground" response. This exercise will enable Alamance County to further test improvements of plans and response gained from earlier segments of this series.



March Spotlight: Richard Clayton

By Gary Jones, NCEMA

It has been years, almost twelve to be exact, since Richard "Dick" Clayton retired as the Halifax County Emergency Management Coordinator. But, that does not mean he has lost touch with the emergency management community. In fact, this lifetime member of the N.C. Emergency Management Association has since worked part time for North Carolina Emergency Management helping with numerous recovery activities.

Like many in the emergency management community, Dick started his career in the military, serving 26 years in the U. S. Air Force at various

stations throughout the U.S, Canada, Iceland and Italy. At his last duty station, he was in charge of 60 airmen assigned with identifying all aircraft coming into the country along the East and Southeast coasts. He retired from the Air Force in 1980 and moved to Roanoke Rapids where he worked for a couple of years in various positions within Northampton County's Social Services.

From there, he was hired as the Halifax County Emergency Management Coordinator and began a 16-year career focused on community preparedness, response and recovery programs for the county. During his tenure as Halifax County's EM Director, Clayton led the county through numerous emergencies and seven presidential disaster declarations including for a blizzard in 1996, several tornadoes, hurricanes Fran and Floyd.

After his retirement in 2000, Dick was hired by NCEM to determine the capabilities of the central and eastern branch counties to respond to a weapons-of-mass-destruction event. He then completed a similar assessment for the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians. As part of the assignment, he was tasked with determining what would be needed to overcome any existing deficiencies. In this capacity, he worked in 59 of the state's 100 counties.

As that project drew to a close, Dick joined a cadre of retired experts who were on-call to assist NCEM with public assistance disaster recovery activities as needed. His first project involved working with 98 homeowners in the Ahoskie area whose property was bought out after repeated flooding. He spent nearly three months working with town, county, state and federal officials to successfully finalize the project.

Other public assistance assignments included helping agencies recover from flooding in Madison County, tornadoes in Craven, Onslow and Pitt counties and ice storms in Wake County.

His most recent public assistance assignment was helping 14 electric membership co-ops from Brunswick to Halifax County recoup funds for time and materials spent returning power to their customers after Hurricane Irene.

Dick jokes that, "over the years I've put well over 80,000 miles on state vehicles...and on my body!"

In between his public assistance assignments, Dick Clayton spent two and half years working with NCEM's Homeland Security Branch providing oversight for federal homeland security grants to 18 northeastern counties.

Since his official retirement from Halifax County, Dick Clayton has worked in 73 of North Carolina's counties and in the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

When not working on disaster recovery projects, Dick has been actively involved in the Lake Gaston community where he and his wife, Cindy, live. In addition to various activities associated with lake-side living, Clayton serves on the boards of directors for the Lake Gaston Lions Club and the 300-plus member Lake Gaston Computer Club.

When asked what he liked most about his job, he commented, "I especially like to help people when they really need help. In emergency management, there's always someone who needs help. There's always some disaster or emergency in this county or somewhere in the state."

Undoubtedly, it is that passion for helping people that has kept Dick Clayton involved in emergency management long after retirement.

States/ Counties Test Capabilities to Respond to Nuclear Event

Both North Carolina and South Carolina State Emergency Response Team members will participate in the Catawba Nuclear Power plant drill on April 17. First responders and emergency management representatives from Cleveland, Gaston and Mecklenburg and Union counties in North Carolina and York County, South Carolina also will participate in the drill. The federally mandated and graded exercise is required every two years to test response procedures to protect life and property from radiation during an accidental release.

For more information, contact Steve Payne at 919-715-0170 or spayne@ncem.org.

N.C. Emergency Management Association 2012 Awards Program

Bill Gentry, chair of the NCEMA Awards Committee, wants those who attend the Spring All-Hazards Conference to use the conference as a networking opportunity to nominate and seek support for 2012 NCEMA Awards winners. He stresses that the spring conference offers the perfect setting to discuss award nominees and gather the required support documentation from peers and other supporters.

NCEMA awards list and nomination requirements are posted on the web <https://ncema.renci.org/default.aspx>. Nomination packages are due Sept. 30.

2012 Purchase of Deployable Assets *By Warren Moore, NCEM Human Services*

N.C. Emergency Management continues to build capacity with deployable assets. Late last year, Bladen, Caldwell, Gates, Halifax and Warren counties were awarded Companion Animal Mobile Equipment Trailers (CAMETs). These five units are being built and will be given to the counties prior to hurricane season. With the new units, North Carolina will have a total of 34 CAMETS available to support our next disaster.

Work is under way to secure two additional CAMETs, one each for the central and eastern regions. Additionally NCEM has awarded two Mass Care Support Trailers that will be positioned in the east. These units strengthen our capacity to support individuals with functional needs within general population shelters.

Building deployable capacity like these units has tremendously strengthened our state's mass care program.

SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans Available in North Carolina

(From U.S. SBA news release)

The U.S. Small Business Administration recently announced that federal economic injury disaster loans are available to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private non-profit organizations of all sizes in North Carolina as a result of drought and excessive heat that occurred during 2011.

These loans are available in the counties of Alamance, Beaufort, Bertie, Brunswick, Bladen, Camden, Carteret, Caswell, Chatham, Chowan, Columbus, Craven, Cumberland, Duplin, Durham, Dare, Davidson, Forsyth, Franklin, Gates, Granville, Greene, Guilford, Halifax, Harnett, Hertford, Hoke, Hyde, Johnston, Jones, Lee, Lenoir, Martin, Montgomery, Moore, Nash, New Hanover, Northampton, Onslow, Orange, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pender, Person, Pitt, Randolph, Richmond, Robeson, Rockingham, Sampson, Scotland, Stokes, Tyrrell, Vance, Wake, Warren, Washington, Wayne and Wilson.

“When the Secretary of Agriculture issues a disaster declaration to help farmers recover from damages and losses to crops, the Small Business Administration issues a declaration to eligible entities affected by the same disaster,” said Frank Skaggs, director of SBA’s Field Operations Center East in Atlanta.

Under this declaration, the SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan program is available to eligible farm-related and nonfarm-related entities that suffered financial losses as a direct result of this disaster. With the exception of aquaculture enterprises and nurseries, which are eligible to apply for EIDLs for losses caused by drought conditions, SBA cannot provide disaster loans to agricultural producers, farmers, or ranchers.

The loan amount can be up to \$2 million with interest rates of 3 percent for private non-profit organizations of all sizes and 4 percent for small businesses, with terms up to 30 years. The SBA

determines eligibility based on the size of the applicant, type of activity and its financial resources. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition. These working capital loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that could have been paid had the disaster not occurred. The loans are not intended to replace lost sales or profits.

Disaster loan information and application forms may be obtained by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing) or by sending an email to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Loan applications can be downloaded from www.sba.gov. Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

Those affected by the disaster may also apply for disaster loans electronically from SBA's website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>.

Completed loan applications must be returned to SBA no later than Oct 9.

Staffing Changes

Mike Daniska – who has worked in the homeland security section, was named Deputy Plans Chief in February. He replaces Ed Jenkins who retired in November 2011.

Jeremy Jernigan – left Columbus County Emergency Management to become the Emergency Management Coordinator for Columbus Regional Healthcare System in Whiteville.

Jennifer Robinson – who has worked at the NCEM Operations Center since 2005, left the division to move to Maryland with her husband.

Nicole Wickenhofer – has left NCEM to work with the Apex Police Department

Counties Showcase Local Talent and Attractions

Eighteen counties have now submitted various art works featuring local attractions and glimpses into regional culture. The latest addition came from Davidson County by renowned artist Bob Timberlake.

Davidson Emergency Management Director Larry Morgan asked Mr. Timberlake to choose something that would best represent their area. Since Lexington is home of the North Carolina Barbecue Festival, the piece is especially fitting.

“We've had so many compliments and comments on the artwork that hangs in the State Emergency Operations Center,” said NCEM Director Doug Hoell. “The display has become an inspiration to all who work and visit here; it's a real conversation starter.”

The pieces line the corridors of the new Emergency Operations Center providing visitors and State Emergency Response Team partners with a virtual tour of the state

Hoell said they hope to eventually have pieces from all 100 counties, plus the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to help portray the rich diversity of the state.

If your county is interested in submitting art for the collection, contact Julia Jarema at 919-825-2270 or jjarema@ncem.org

