

## **Governor's Council on Emergency Management for Elderly & Persons with Disabilities During a Disaster.**

During Hurricane Katrina, over 70% of the individuals that died were over the age of 60. In North Carolina, Governor Easley has ordered an advisory council on the elderly and persons with disabilities be created. This council is composed of representatives from the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, Department of Health and Human Services and various other departments as well as a contracted planning specialist from Triangle J Council of Governments.

The advisory council will ensure the readiness of persons with disabilities and the elderly by conducting regional community forums to identify best practices as well as vulnerabilities, analyzing information to create recommendations for the council's consideration and preparing a plan for implementation once recommendations are approved. Three key issues that the council will focus on are:

1. Plan and conduct a summit for the elderly and persons with disabilities.
2. Write, distribute and train appropriate personnel to the strategic plan for care of elderly and persons with disability populations during disaster.
3. Identify and purchase deployable equipment used to support the elderly and persons with disabilities.

These three key issues along with the local government's implementation of voluntary registries and education programs for the elderly and persons with disabilities are projected to lead to increased preparedness and mass care capabilities.

For more information, contact: Robert Mann at (919) 715-4077 or [Rmann@ncem.org](mailto:Rmann@ncem.org).

## **NCEM's Individual Assistance Disburses \$247,123 to Victims of Riegelwood Tornadoes.**



Representatives from NCEM - Individual Assistance Section (IA) traveled to Columbus County to participate in "Project Dedication for the Love of Christ" in the Riegelwood Community. On November 16, 2006 at approximately 6:50 a.m., severe tornadoes destroyed homes in Columbus County, resulting in eight fatalities and multiple injuries with 12 individuals being hospitalized. The



Individual Assistance Section disbursed \$247,123 to 38 applicants for funeral expenses, home repairs and personal property losses. The North Carolina Baptist Men presented ownership keys to four of the five families whose homes were destroyed. In efforts to meet continued housing needs, IA organized and facilitated a "Housing Fair" which gave the community an extended opportunity to meet with other agencies that may be able to provide further housing assistance. As a result, to date, 20 homes have been repaired and five new stick built homes were created.



All houses have the same floor plan and were built on the applicant's property where their mobile homes once stood.

For More Information, Contact Carole Ingram at (919) 715-8000 ext. 321 or [Cingram@ncem.org](mailto:Cingram@ncem.org)

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## Upcoming Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) releases for May and June:

**May:** Anson & Rowan Counties (Yadkin Basin)  
Henderson County (French Broad Basin)

**June:** Graham (Little Tennessee Basin)  
Avery (French Broad and Watauga Basins)  
Watauga (Watauga Basin portion, only)  
Clay (Hiwassee Basin)  
Union (Yadin Basin)

For More Information, Contact Randy Mundt at (919) 715-5711, ext.119.

## North Carolina Emergency Management Host a Successful Spring Exercise

A statewide terrorist-response drill was held March 12th-17th at various locations throughout Western North Carolina. Local and State fire department personnel, emergency managers, law enforcement officers and emergency medical staff participated in the drill. On March 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, the exercise scenario involved law enforcement agencies working together to take down a terrorist cell. A mixture of police and sheriff officers from the following counties: Buncombe, Cabarrus, Gaston, Henderson, Macon, Stanly, Transylvania, and Watauga worked operations within their own district. On the 14<sup>th</sup>, a simulated terrorist bomb attack resulted in a collapsed college building with a mass casualty situation. The North Carolina State Emergency Medical Team's I, II & III participated by setting up and used their mobile field hospital and decontamination units. The drill also included Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams responding by mutual-aid agreement from Greensboro, Raleigh, and Greenville, NC. The scenario included people playing the role of victims trapped inside rubble and USAR teams shoring up sections of the unstable building in order to rescue them. A small access hole into the concrete walls allowed a camera to be inserted to search for victims. The USAR teams worked a 12-hour operational period with goals being met through the objectives set forth by the Incident Management Teams. The North Carolina Baptist Men's Ministries participated by using their mobile field kitchen. They prepared 1,500 hot meals in support for the agencies' participants, serving all meals from sunrise breakfasts to overnight shift meals.

"North Carolina has one of the best USAR training opportunities in the eastern part of our country," said Charlotte-Mecklenburg Fire Chief Luther L. Fincher. "After this successful extended operational readiness exercise, North Carolina is better prepared to respond to the next disaster within our State."

For More Information, Contact the Western Branch Office at (828) 466-5555 or Jeff Cardwell at (828) 754 1263 or Jcardwell@ncem.org.

## United States issues HSPD-20: Continuity of Operations/Continuity of Government – UPDATE

President Bush issued Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) - 20 on May 9, 2007. HSPD-20 addresses Continuity of Operations/Continuity of Government at the Federal level. HSPD-20 establishes a comprehensive national policy on the continuity of Federal Government structures and operations and a single National Continuity Coordinator responsible for coordinating the development and implementation of Federal continuity policies. This policy establishes "National Essential Functions," prescribed continuity requirements for all executive departments and agencies, and provides guidance for State, local, territorial, and tribal governments, and private sector organizations in order to ensure a comprehensive and integrated national continuity program. HPSD also establishes NIMS Tier II requirements. At the recent DHS Training and Exercise Conference, Al,

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Fluman, Director of the IMSD stated that all NIMS II requirements will become Tier I “mandatory requirements within the next two to three years after being added to Federal, State, Tribal and Local Government matrixes. For More Information, Contact Glenn Wisbey at (919) 715-8577 or [Gwisbey@ncem.org](mailto:Gwisbey@ncem.org). For More Information, visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/05/20070509-12.html>

### [Summer National Flood Insurance Program Training Information](#)

The North Carolina Emergency Management Office of Geospatial and Technology Management will bring FEMA’s *Managing Floodplain Development through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)(E-273)* course to Pinehurst, North Carolina from July 30 – August 3, 2007. This course is designed to provide an organized training opportunity for local officials responsible for administering their local floodplain management ordinance. The course will focus on the NFIP and concepts of floodplain management, flood maps and studies, ordinance administration and the relationship between floodplain management and flood insurance. The course will be held at Sandhills Community College located at 3395 Airport Road, Pinehurst, NC 28374 in the Van Dusen Hall, Room 103. **There is no registration fee, but class size is limited to 35 registrants.** Attendees must provide their own transportation and make their own room reservations. Please contact Ed Curtis at (919) 715-8000 ext. 369 or [ecurtis@ncem.org](mailto:ecurtis@ncem.org) to obtain a copy of the **Course Registration Form** and the **FEMA EMI Application Form**. **Return both forms to Ed Curtis no later than July 2, 2007.**

### [NOAA’s Hurricane Hunter Aircraft Tour Visits North Carolina](#)



On May 3, 2007, the Lockheed P3 aircraft known as “Kermit the Frog” visited Elizabeth City, NC. “Kermit the Frog” is one of the Hurricane Hunters operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The visit to North Carolina was sponsored by Newport National Weather Service for the benefit of the public and the emergency management community. The event’s

primary theme of hurricane awareness and preparedness was expanded to include preparedness for other hazards, including hazardous materials and homeland security. The Hurricane Hunter Aircraft was part of NOAA’s 2007 Hurricane Awareness five day, five city tour, which included stops in Rhode Island, New Jersey, Maryland and Florida. North Carolina’s visit was hosted by the U.S. Coast Guard Support Center and Air Station in Elizabeth City. This facility was identified as a suitable airfield with proximity to the North Carolina Outer Banks communities. Bill Proenza, the new National Hurricane Center Director was on hand to meet and greet the audience. Proenza replaced the retired Max Mayfield. For More Information, Contact David Humphrey at (252) 344-2351 or [Dhumphrey@ncem.org](mailto:Dhumphrey@ncem.org).



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## Living in Flood Hazard Zones and Hurricane Evacuation Behavior: Results of a Pre-Hurricane Assessment in Carteret County

The Carteret County Health Department, North Carolina Public Health Regional Surveillance Team 5 and the North Carolina Center for Public Health Preparedness conducted a pre-hurricane assessment of 251 residents in Carteret County from April 12-14, 2007. The Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) were recently updated and Carteret County received updated flood maps in November, 2002 which became effective June 16, 2003. Of Carteret County's 2,727 census blocks:

- **128** are in the flood zone categorized at VE (*the flood insurance rate zone that corresponds to the 1% annual chance coastal floodplains that have additional hazards associated with storm waves*)
- **999** are categorized as AE (*the flood insurance rate zone that corresponds to the 1% annual chance floodplains*)
- **349** are categorized as Shaded X (*the zone that corresponds to the 0.2% annual chance flood, including areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depths of less than one foot or with drainage areas less than one square mile*)
- **1,244** are categorized as not in a flood zone.

251 interviews were completed in 36 census blocks. Thirty-three percent of the interviews were conducted with households located in the highest risk flood zone (VE), which included low-lying property in the 100-year flood plain that was also vulnerable to waves. 22% of the interviews were conducted in each of the other flood zone designations.

Some of the high points of the study:

- **82%** People living in a flood plain who said they were responsible for their own food, water, and shelter for three days following a hurricane landfall.
- **43%** Had a disaster supply kit.
- **39%** Those living in the worst flood zone who had a disaster supply kit.
- **30%** Those living in mobile homes who had a disaster supply kit.
- **51%** Had an evacuation plan for their household.
- **45%** Those living in mobile homes who were less likely to have an evacuation plan.
- **57%** Those living in the highest flood zones who had an evacuation plan for their household.
- **83%** Those living in Carteret County for more than 10 years who would not evacuate under a mandatory evacuation.

From the study results, some areas for intervention by the local health department and emergency management officials needed to be addressed.

- Those with vacation homes and renters should be provided with information about the importance of a disaster supply kit by rental agencies in case evacuation is not possible. (*Cost may be a barrier to having a disaster supply kit. Plans to build a disaster supply kit over a period of weeks, such as those suggested by the American Red Cross, and partnerships with local merchants to offer disaster supply kit supplies at reduced prices, could increase the percentage of residents who have kits.*)
- Providing for pets during an evacuation is clearly a high-priority for Carteret County residents.
- The majority of respondents feel that they are responsible for their food, water, and shelter following a storm. This includes a majority of those who would refuse to evacuate under either a voluntary or mandatory evacuation order.
- Increased awareness of personal vulnerability to storm surge and flooding is needed.

For More Information, Contact:

Jennifer Horney with NC Center for Public Health Preparedness at (919) 843-5566 or [jen.horney@unc.edu](mailto:jen.horney@unc.edu).

Steve Ramsey with Public Health Regional Surveillance Team 5 at (336) 337-4693 or

[sramsey@co.guilford.nc.us](mailto:sramsey@co.guilford.nc.us).

Laura Gammons with Carteret County Health Department at (252) 222-7762 or [laurag@carteretcountygov.org](mailto:laurag@carteretcountygov.org).

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## Summer Floodplain Management Training 2-Day Workshops for Community Floodplain Administrators.

The workshops are recommended for new and experienced floodplain managers to review important floodplain management issues and to learn about modifications to the National Flood Insurance Program. Attendance at one of the workshops by at least one representative from each community is advised. Planners, building inspectors, zoning officials, elected officials, or other interested parties are encouraged to attend. The fee is \$40 for all workshops. Breaks and lunches will be provided. **BRING REGISTRATION FEE WITH YOU TO THE WORKSHOP.**

Training dates & locations are as follows:

Winterville, NC	Pitt Community College	July 16 – 17
Yadkinville, NC	Surry Community College	July 24 – 25
Cullowhee, NC	Western Carolina University	August 7 - 8

Make Fee payable to the NC Association of Floodplain Managers [NCAFPM, Federal ID #56-1802736].

Contact Milton Carpenter at (919) 715-8000 ext. 281 or [Mcarpenter@ncem.org](mailto:Mcarpenter@ncem.org) for more details or to register.

## NC DHHS' Public Health's plan for distributing large amounts of prophylaxis (protective treatments).

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health is refining their plan to respond to a widespread public exposure to a terrorist agent. A terrorist agent could be a weapon of mass destruction involving chemical, biological, nuclear, radiological and/or explosive agents. If an event was to happen, prophylaxis (*protective treatment for or prevention of disease*) would have to be distributed to the effected public and in some cases in as little as 48 hours after agent contact. Naturally, a terrorist attack of this magnitude would trigger fear and panic amongst the general population resulting in a sudden and long lasting overload of the public health and health-care systems. Providing prophylaxis to an entire county or community will require participation, cooperation and significant resources from many local and state agencies from across North Carolina as well as from the Federal Government. Health Departments are charged with setting up and operating Points of Dispensing (PODs) to provide prophylaxis. Emergency Management will be asked to provide resources such as security, transportation of goods and food/supplies for staff and volunteers. Emergency Management officials will also be involved to assist Health Department Preparedness Coordinators (PCs) in finding possible POD locations and identifying other resources. Emergency Management has years of experience operating local County Receiving & Distribution Points (CRDP). The lessons learned in CRDP management is useful to Public Health in locating, setting up and operating a Local Receiving Site (LRS). A LRS is the site in a county to which Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) assets will be delivered from the State SNS Receipt, Stage and Storage (RSS) site. In an event requiring mass prophylaxis, the medications would be requested from SNS by the State Public Health Director and the Director of Emergency Management. Each local health department would then be charged to set up PODs and dispense the prophylactic medications to residents. These same considerations would apply to situations that required mass vaccination. For example, during a pandemic influenza event, mass vaccination would follow the same distribution plan and process. For more information about mass prophylaxis and vaccination planning in your county, contact your local Health Department Preparedness Coordinator. For more information about planning at the State level, contact Amanda Fuller at [amanda.fuller@ncmail.net](mailto:amanda.fuller@ncmail.net).

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## Attention All HURREVAC Users.

The 2007 Season Version of HURREVAC (version 5.0.7) is now ready for download. New items in this version are: National Hurricane Center (NHC) Wind Probability display capability and New National Hurricane Center Error Swath numbers. NCEM is also working with NOAA Coastal Services Center (CSC) on a SLOSH enhancement for our Tides Module. It is in testing phase and we will let you know when it is activated.

IMPORTANT NOTE – NHC has changed to a new way of calculating the Error Swath. This year it will be based on the 2/3rds probability circles (ellipse) for the previous 5 years of forecasts (was 10 years). The result is little change in the 12 through 72 hour error numbers but a slight enlargement of the 96 and 120 hour error swath.

If you need to download the 5.0.7 version, please log on to <http://hurrevac.com/newvers.htm>.

For More Information, Contact Ron Wall at (919) 733-3427 or [Rwall@ncem.org](mailto:Rwall@ncem.org).

## NCEM-HM's Elevation Project of Residential Structures in North Carolina.

North Carolina Emergency Management's Hazard Mitigation Section has recently completed hazard mitigation projects in Belhaven, North Carolina, situated adjacent to the Pamlico Sound. More than often, tidal surges combined with heavy rains from hurricanes swells creeks and streams creating heavy flooding problems. Residential structures are flooded depending on the location of their homes relative to sea level referred to as Base Flood Elevation (BFE). Houses that are at risk of being flooded to a depth of more than 2 feet may prove to be cost-effective candidates for inclusion in a mitigation project. FEMA's Mitigation Grant Programs administered by the Hazard Mitigation Section of NCEM have been the basic funding source to assist homeowners in mitigating future damages from flooding.



One of the most popular mitigation techniques in North Carolina is elevating the structure. Wood blocking used for supporting and stabilizing the structure once it is elevated is known as "cribbing." The next step in the process is creation of a new foundation referred to as "retrofitting" (employing one or more of several different techniques depending on ground conditions and the foundation treatment necessary.) Upon completion, the structure is lowered back onto the new foundation and inspected by a certified engineer and the local building inspector prior to the homeowner receiving a Certificate of Occupancy. It is important to note that many of these homes are greater than 49 years old and therefore must be evaluated prior to project approval to see if they qualify as historic properties. Homes that are identified as contributing structures in a historic district may receive historic treatment during the elevation and retrofitting process based on guidelines of the State Historic Preservation Office. For More Information, Contact Leonard Holden at (919) 715-8000 ext 260 or [Lholden@ncem.org](mailto:Lholden@ncem.org).

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## The Emergency Management Institute Experience.

The Emergency Management Institute (EMI), located in Emmitsburg, Maryland offers students advanced Federal



education and training in many areas associated with Emergency Management. The instructors or subject matter experts are brought in from around the country to teach that particular course or particular sections. EMI's courses focus on the four phases of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. EMI develops courses and administers programs in natural hazards (earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, dam safety), technological hazards (hazardous materials, terrorism, radiological incidents, chemical stockpile emergency preparedness), professional development, leadership, instructional methodology, exercise design and evaluation, information

technology, public information, integrated emergency management and train-the-trainers.

EMI course schedules can be viewed at <http://training.fema.gov/EMICourses/>. Occasionally, NCEM Training and Exercise Section will send "Special Announcements" or "EMI Grams" via email to NCEM field staff and local emergency management officials. This email will provide information on upcoming classes and the number of seats still available. When filling out an application, <http://training.fema.gov/Apply/>, please fill out the entire form. Your Application must be reviewed and approved by the head of your agency or organization. Once approved, fax or mail your signed application to the address below. The NCEM Training Office will then review, sign and send the application to the National Education & Training Center (NETC) Admissions Office. Failure to follow this procedure will result in an applicant's application being denied by EMI Admissions. EMI will alert you of your acceptance/denial into the course. All instruction, course materials, and housing (for most participants) are provided at no cost. However, all participants are required to purchase a meal card for the length of their stay and have monies ready for personal and incidental expenses. Your acceptance letter will outline the specific course amounts, methods of payment, etc. If traveling by air, the stipend reimbursement is limited to three trips for each participant per fiscal year. You must purchase a 21-day pre-purchased, nonrefundable ticket for round-trip transportation by common carrier (economy, coach class, or less). If you choose to drive, you will be reimbursed the current Privately Owned Vehicle Federal mileage allowance or the state ceiling, whichever is less. Your acceptance package will outline all of this and/or you can visit <http://training.fema.gov/> to find further information. In addition to providing a quality educational experience, NETC is also the home of the National Fire Academy and the National Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial, and offers an idyllic backdrop where responders from across the nation, and sometimes from around the world, can take advantage of a quality learning experience presented by the most qualified subject matter experts. Networking and socializing with their peers in a variety of "extra-curricular venues" tops the EMI experience. The Gettysburg battleground is just a short drive away, and makes for an historical diversion from the classroom at the end of the day. Questions regarding EMI should be directed to Scott Galbraith at (919) 715-7437 or [sgalbraith@ncem.org](mailto:sgalbraith@ncem.org).

Applications can be sent to the following address:

N.C. Division of Emergency Management  
Training Office c/o Scott Galbraith  
4713 Mail Service Center

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Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4713  
(919) 733-6327 fax

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