



MEMO



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

Situational Intelligence Maps Add Value During Emergencies

While the N.C. Emergency Management - Geospatial and Technology Management Office has made numerous improvements to its NC State Preparedness And Response Tracking Application (NC SPARTA) during the past year, one of the most helpful has been the establishment of a situational intelligence map viewer. Accessible in several locations within NC SPARTA, the map viewer communicates and displays real-time event information in a powerful, spatial map format.

“With the click of the mouse, a user can look at tons of useful information that can help decision makers make better decisions and have greater awareness about the event,” said GTM - GIS Manager Hope Morgan.

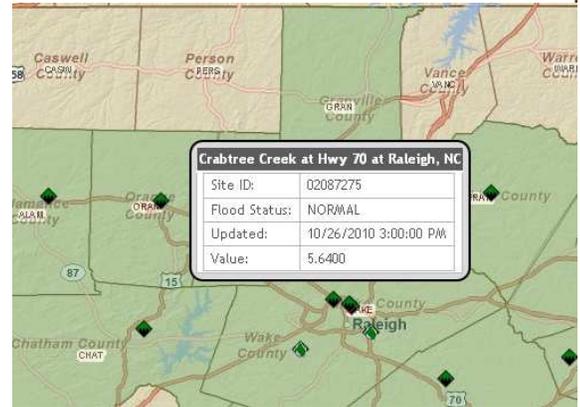
Information can range from the progress of logistics resource missions to routine weather conditions, including inundation levels.

“All of the spatial information used during emergency events is displayed in real-time on these maps,” said Morgan.

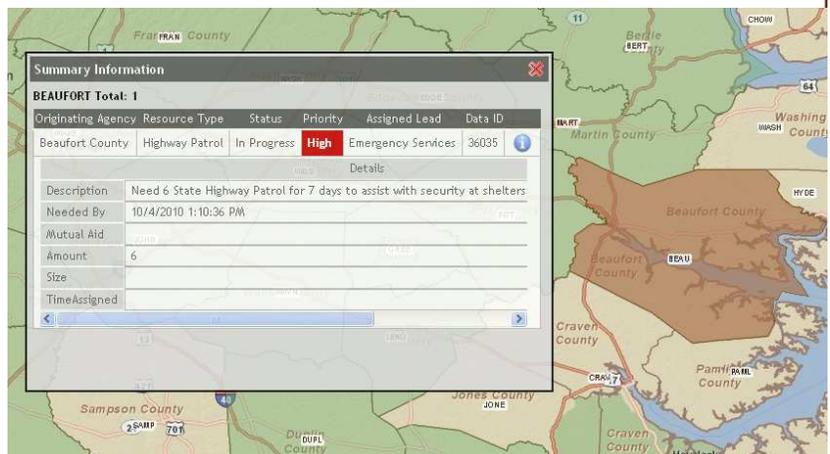
Information is logged in by the various emergency support functions during activations. By linking all information to maps and layering them in the situation intelligence map viewer, a county manager or emergency response official can see everything pertaining to their county without having to go through different boards.

The intelligence map viewer was of great value during the flooding caused by Tropical Storm Nicole in late September. The viewer and maps were used to display real-time NOAA weather alerts feeds pertaining to the weather conditions including rain fall totals and flooding numbers.

GTM has partnered with U.S. Geological Survey to access information from 63 gauges that record water levels in streams, rivers and basins located throughout the state as well as some precipitation levels. A NC SPARTA or WebEOC user can scroll over a gauge to find out the flood status and flood levels for that body of water.



Gauge showing status of a Raleigh creek in October.



Resource request from Beaufort Co. during TS Nicole Response on Oct. 4.

“The information stored on the board is an accumulation of information shared in NC SPARTA, but in different boards and folders. This interactive map viewer gives the decision maker all the information they need to make a good quick decision and stay aware of the response effort,” said Morgan.

The intelligence map viewer has information grouped by major functional areas important to any emergency response such as human services, infrastructure, logistic recovery, emergency services and EM43.

If a user wanted to view all resource requests in a county, the information board that is linked to resource request is available. During TS Nicole, Beaufort County requested six State Highway Patrol personnel to assist with shelter security and secure flood areas. The request summary was displayed on the intelligence map viewer just by clicking on the highlighted Beaufort County on the intelligence map viewer. The summary included priority level, need by time, the assigned ESF section and the status of the request.

“As the state determines emergency response measures, the map viewer will give decision makers a better perspective when putting those measures in action,” said John Dorman, GTM director.

Dorman concluded that the situation intelligence map viewer added value beyond measure and the capability is only beginning as to how it will help officials make key decisions or users who want to know exactly what all is going on in a particular part of the county.

New Plan Helps Licensed Care Facilities Prepare for Disaster

The N.C. Division of Emergency Management and N.C. Division of Health Service Regulation have spent the past several months working together to develop an automated disaster plan template that can be used by licensed care facilities to prepare for emergencies.

The template allows nursing homes, mental health homes and assisted living homes to create a standardized, comprehensive disaster plan for annual submission to the county emergency manager as required. Available on CD, the disaster plan also includes references, best practices and training modules. Disks are available from NCEM, DHSR, local county emergency managers, licensed care facility associations and others.

“We are very excited as we all take a major step in increasing the safety of some of our state’s most vulnerable citizens,” said Mike Sprayberry, deputy director of NCEM.

To obtain a disk, contact Mike Sprayberry at 919-733-2931 or msprayberry@ncem.org.

Local CERT Feeds Public Officials **By Billy Winn, Gates County Emergency Management**

Days before a big meeting on Sept. 10, Gates County Emergency Management Coordinator Billy Winn discovered he had one major problem - how to feed a large group of public officials.

State Emergency Management Director Doug Hoell was coming to meet with county and city officials for the Gates Public Officials Conference that was being held simultaneously with the County Board of Commissioner’s meeting. Winn wanted to provide dinner for the conference attendees, but restaurants in Gates County are closed on Mondays.

“Restaurants in this county take Mondays off and there are no commercial fast food places either,” said Winn.

To overcome this problem, Winn got creative and used one county asset that is prepared to respond to any emergency event, or in this case an emergency problem!



Gates County Emergency Management’s Support Services Trailer used to store CERT equipment.

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Winn turned to his Community Emergency Response Team. The Gates County CERT, sponsored under the Gates County Emergency Support Services, was established this year.

With the help of a FY 2010 grant, CERT purchased an eight by 20 foot trailer and supplies to be outfitted as a mass feeding unit. Other equipment such as portable grills, coolers, tents, folding tables, chairs, cleaning supplies, bottled water and tarps were donated by team members.

Winn decided to use CERT to feed people at the public official's conference.

"We had an eight by 20 foot solution to the problem sitting in our very backyard. The conference was actually a great opportunity to put the CERT team in action and use the trailer," said Winn. "It gave the county a chance to show elected officials how we can provide aid to citizens following a major disaster."

Fifteen of the team's 22 members came out to prepare a field deployable hot meal for 42 people.

"The evening went off without a hitch. While the trailer will primarily be utilized for assisting responders during emergencies, the conference provided an excellent training and exercise opportunity. This truly is the community supporting the community," said Winn.

"The food was great and CERT showed they can really help Gates County when called upon," said Doug Hoell, State Emergency Management director.

For more information about Gates County Emergency Support Services and/or the mass feeding trailer, contact Billy Winn at 252-357-5569 or bwinn@gatescountync.gov.

Are you Ready?

By Johnny Bowles, Rockingham County Emergency Management

The Storm Ready/Tsunami Ready program is sponsored by NOAA's National Weather Service. The federal program focuses on improving communications and severe weather preparedness in communities by outlining certain criteria that a jurisdiction must meet. These criteria include: having 24 hour warning point and Emergency Operations Center capabilities; conducting annual weather safety talks; using specific area messages; including weather radios in high traffic public facilities; and having Storm Spotter training available.

There are 57 Storm Ready designations in North Carolina. Of the 57 designations, 45 are counties and the remaining seven are municipalities, commercial sites, universities and a military site. Brunswick, New Hanover and Onslow counties have the designation of being both Tsunami Ready and Storm Ready.

Rockingham County received the most recent Storm Ready designation in August. Rockingham County residents received little warning and were caught off guard in March 1998 when a tornado touched down in the Madison-Mayodan area and continued to cause destruction as it went through Stoneville.

Rockingham County Emergency Services realized that we needed to have a system in place to better warn its citizens. After receiving both federal and state grants, we were able to purchase weather sirens which were distributed to fire departments throughout the county. We also purchased and placed NOAA weather radios in all county-owned buildings, schools and daycares throughout the county.

"After reviewing the application, we didn't want to just meet the minimum requirements we wanted to exceed them, which we did in every section. The most important thing about being Storm Ready for us is that we now have a system in place to receive the notification of severe weather and we have a way to get that same information out to our citizens in a timely manner," said Johnny Bowles, Rockingham County Emergency Management Coordinator.

For more information, visit www.stormready.noaa.gov.

New SAR Coordinator

Derrick Remer became the new search and rescue coordinator for N.C. Emergency Management in October. Remer replaces Timm Denning, who left earlier this summer. Remer is a familiar face in the emergency management community; he served previously as a training officer for the division. He was instrumental in implementing the TERMS program.

Remer can be reached at 919-733-2925, on cell at 919-368-2318 or dremer@ncem.org.

Johnston County Teen CERT

By Derrick Duggins, Johnston County Emergency Management



More than 15 students in Smithfield-Selma High School's Community Emergency Response Team class in Johnston County learned how to help themselves, their families and their community in the event of a disaster. At the school, CERT is offered as an advanced studies course in the medical science curriculum. Ms. Pat Deese, a certified CERT member, instructed the class.

Students of the Smithfield-Selma High School's Community Emergency Response Team class.

NCEMA 2010 Award Recipients

By Gary Jones, Association Executive Director

The North Carolina Emergency Management Association's Awards Committee Chairman Bill Gentry presented the group's annual awards to five individuals at the close of the 2010 Emergency Management Fall Conference held in Hickory.

James F. Buffalo Award - John Brooks

The James F. Buffalo award is given to a person outside of the emergency management community who has exhibited outstanding support and leadership to emergency management agencies. John Brooks holds a Chief Warrant Officer Three rank within the North Carolina National Guard is the State Partnership Coordinator.



John Brooks



Steve Langer

Vance E. Key Award - Steve Langer

The Vance E. Key award is given to a local emergency management staff member who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in promoting their county's emergency management program to county and state agencies and elected officials. Steve Langer is the Fire Marshal for Cabarrus County.

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Colonel William A. Thompson Award - Joe Wright

The Colonel William A. Thompson award is given to a North Carolina Division of Emergency Management employee who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in assisting local emergency management coordinators with programs, incidents and information. The award recipient also has demonstrated their willingness to not only assist local programs, but also be committed to the excellence of those programs. Joe Wright is the Central Branch Manager for N.C. Emergency Management.



Joe Wright



Gordon Deno

Colonel Phillip Nichlos Waters Award - Gordon Deno

The Colonel Phillip Nichlos Waters award is presented to a local emergency management coordinator or director that has demonstrated outstanding achievement in their local emergency management program and has contributed to the overall good and advancement of the emergency management community. Gordon Deno is the Emergency Management Director for Wilson County.

President's Award - Gerald Rudisill

The President's Award is special recognition given by the Association President to an individual he or she feels has provided continued support and dedication to Association activities and programs. This year's award went to N.C. Dept. Of Crime Control and Public Safety Chief Deputy Secretary Gerald Rudisill.



Gerald Rudisill



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Questions and Comments can be directed to:
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"In the Business of Saving Lives and Protecting Property"

The North Carolina Division of Emergency Management was formed in 1977 to coordinate the preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation activities of all agencies for emergency management within North Carolina. It performs this mission by planning, organizing, staffing, equipping, training, testing and activating emergency management programs during times of need.