



MEMO



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

North Carolina Continues to Recover and Rebuild from Irene

One month after North Carolina’s largest natural disaster in more than a decade, thousands of families are still recovering from Hurricane Irene. The cleanup, rebuilding and repair work on homes, businesses and lives will continue for months to come.



Doug Hoell (left) and Gov. Bev Perdue meet with residents days after Hurricane Irene struck the state.

Below: NCEM and FEMA staff help residents get one-on-one assistance at the disaster recovery centers.



provide one-on-one assistance to help hurricane survivors apply for disaster aid and explain various state and federal programs that can help survivors. People have made more than 9,500 visits to the DRCs seeking additional information.

State agencies and local governments in 37 counties have requested approximately \$96 million in federal Public Assistance to pay for emergency measures and work to repair and replace storm-damaged infrastructure, buildings and equipment. Of that figure, nearly \$53 million is for debris removal. Public Assistance is a cost-share program in which FEMA pays 75 percent of the cost and the state pays the remaining nonfederal share.

More than \$18 million in federal and state disaster assistance grants and more than \$3.5 million in Small Business Administration loans are helping North Carolina homeowners, renters and businesses recover from Hurricane Irene. More than 17,000 homes have been inspected and nearly 9,000 payments have been dispersed to help survivors recover.

More than a third of the state was severely impacted by the storm which wreaked havoc from North Carolina to Maine. Strong winds toppled trees, telephone poles and blew off some rooftops. More than two to four feet of storm surge swept through the Outer Banks, while the Pamlico Sound saw eight to ten feet of storm surge. Rainfall amounts ranged from 10 to 20 inches of rain in three days along much of the area east of U.S. 258.

Forty counties declared local states of emergency in advance of the storm, while emergency operations centers were activated in 43 counties. Gov. Perdue requested and received a pre-landfall Emergency Declaration August 24.

In the month since Hurricane Irene made landfall near Cape Lookout, 35 counties have received a federal declaration for the Individual Assistance program that provides low-interest loans or grants to help families repair or rebuild damaged homes and replace some personal belongings. Already, more than 26,500 people have registered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency seeking additional information and/or financial assistance to recover from the storm. Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) have opened in 26 locations to

Inside This Edition	
Public Safety Leadership Team	2
NCEMA Fall Conference	3
Charlotte Responds to Flooding	3
Sprayberry in NCNG Hall of Fame	4
September Spotlight: Ron Wall	6
October Spotlight: Angie Ledford	8
Cary CERT Gets Residents Ready	5
NCEM to Move to New Building	5
Remembering Thad Bryson	9

Gov. Perdue and Sec. Young Name Public Safety Leadership Team

Gov. Perdue on August 11 appointed Secretary Reuben Young as the new head for the restructured Department of Public Safety. The new department consolidates the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, which Young has led since early 2009, with the departments of Correction and Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The consolidation is expected to save several million dollars, in part by eliminating duplicative “back office” functions such as human resources, purchasing, training and administration.



Secretary Young named part of his leadership team September 9; all appointments are effective Jan. 1, 2012.

Chief Deputy Secretary Gerald A. “Rudy” Rudisill will oversee the Division of Law Enforcement which includes Alcohol Law Enforcement, Butner Public Safety, State Capitol Police and State Highway Patrol.

Chief Deputy Secretary Jennie Lancaster will head the Division of Adult Correction which includes the Clemency Office, Correction Enterprises, Extradition, Offender Records Management Center, and the divisions of Prisons and Community Corrections. Lancaster currently serves as Correction’s chief operating officer.

Chief Deputy Secretary Linda Hayes will head the Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention overseeing Community Programs, Court Services, Detention, Education and Treatment, and Youth Development Centers. Hayes currently serves as

Secretary of DJJDP.

Deputy Secretary Bennie Aiken was named the lead for Administration overseeing Budget and Purchasing, Central Engineering, Human Resources and Equal Employment Opportunities, Safety, Occupational and Environmental Health, Staff Development and Training, Research and Planning. Aiken also leads the Grants Management function which includes the Division of the Governor’s Crime Commission. He currently serves as the CCPS assistant secretary overseeing administrative and information technology functions.

Aiken also will oversee Information Technology, the Controller and Budget and Analysis sections. Rob Brinson will be the chief information officer; he currently serves in that role at the Corrections department. Marvin Mervin, controller for CCPS, will continue in that role. Cassandra Watford, controller for DJJDP, will become the director of budget and analysis.

Rhonda Raney will become the director of external affairs, overseeing the legislative and communications efforts. She currently serves as a deputy secretary for CCPS.

Mikael Gross will serve as the Chief Operating Officer. Gross is senior legislative counsel for the N.C. General Assembly and an adjunct law lecturer.

Additional members of the leadership team will be named soon.

International Flood Tactician Conference to be Held in Charlotte

About two dozen firefighters, first responders and emergency management staff from central and western North Carolina and the United Kingdom will meet to share best practices and programs in swift-water and flood rescues. The group will spend several days together training at the U.S. National Whitewater Center in Charlotte.

"This annual training has proved tremendously useful," said Jeff Cardwell, N.C. Emergency Management area coordinator. "Already, the teams have applied the techniques and practices they've learned here to rescue flood victims during Tropical Storm Nicole, Hurricane Irene and the Spring 2009 floods in the United Kingdom."

This is the fifth consecutive year the group has met.

Planning is Underway for the Fall NCEMA Conference

By Gary Jones

The Program Committee of the North Carolina Emergency Management Association remains deeply involved with the planning efforts for the upcoming Fall Conference to be held in Hickory the week of October 23rd.

Program Committee members have met several times to discuss general parameters of the conference and to identify potential topics and speakers that will be of interest to members of the response community. Committee members are now contacting potential presenters and, in those situations where particular speakers have not been identified, contacting government and volunteer agencies to search for the best possible presenter for the specific issue.

Suggestions for conference topics have been gathered from across the emergency response community for the past several months. A wide variety of program suggestions were provided through a survey at the spring conference, while others were gathered through information from association members, N.C. Emergency Management staff and our response and recovery partners from across the state.

While definitive information concerning session topics depends on speaker availability, the conference will include some breakout sessions specifically for new emergency managers. A second track will focus entirely upon higher education activities and issues across the state. Also, representatives of the radiological emergency preparedness community will meet Tuesday morning, while the N.C. Association of Hazardous Materials Responders will meet Tuesday afternoon.

Seven classes or workshops will occur in conjunction with the upcoming conference. A number of these training sessions will be 2-3 hour programs on Monday and Tuesday afternoon (during the breakout sessions). The remainder of the classes begins Wednesday and continues for the rest of the week. Specific information on most of these programs has been entered into the “TERMS.”

Updated conference program information can be found on the NCEMA website: <https://ncema.renci.org>.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Agencies Respond to Urban Flooding

By Michael Tobin, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Emergency Management

On Friday, Aug. 5 more than 6.5 inches of rain fell across the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area causing flash flooding throughout the city. The amount of rain that fell within a four-hour period caused numerous creeks and streams to overflow their banks, resulting in multiple significant flooding incidents throughout Charlotte. The rain started about 11 a.m. and lasted until 3 p.m. During that time the Charlotte Fire Department responded to 476 incidents; the majority of which were storm related. The majority of the responses involved flooded vehicles with people trapped inside and residential neighborhoods that were cut off by flood waters. In some cases, almost five feet of water entered the structures. Two people died after being swept away by flood waters in Irvins Creek in southeast Charlotte.

The worst flooding in Charlotte-Mecklenburg since Tropical Storm Fay in 2008 damaged 110 single-family homes, 45 apartment units, eight commercial buildings and an unknown number of vehicles. During this time, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Emergency Management responded to numerous incidents across the city to assess the extent of flooding and to coordinate further resources that would be needed. After assessing the situation, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Emergency Management along with the American Red Cross and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools coordinated the opening of an area shelter for residents affected by the flooding. The shelter located at the Northwest School of Arts was open for two nights and housed 19 families. The majority of residents affected by the flooding stayed with friends and families in the area until they could return home.



A number of homes were flooded in Mecklenburg County when 6.5 inches of rain fell in just a few hours August 5th.

Representatives from the U.S. Small Business Administration, N.C. Emergency Management Individual Assistance program and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Emergency Management surveyed the damage to determine the potential need for financial assistance for those affected by the floods. The SBA and NCEM opened a Disaster Recovery Center at the Mecklenburg County Hal Marshall Service Center in Charlotte August 23 – September 1 to help those impacted by the floods.

More than 100 high-risk properties that flooded in August previously had structures on them and are now vacant lots. The Mecklenburg County Storm Water Services Floodplain Buyout Program purchased these structures and returned the area to open space greatly reducing the number of structures that would have been flooded during this storm. The program has previously purchased 230 flood-prone properties in the past 11 years throughout Charlotte-Mecklenburg to reduce the threat of urban flooding.

Sprayberry Inducted into NCNG Hall of Fame

In August, Mike Sprayberry, N.C. Emergency Management's deputy director and operations section chief, was inducted into North Carolina National Guard's Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame.

The honor is usually reserved for Army National Guard Soldiers who are graduates of the NC Military Academy Officer Candidate School and have achieved the rank of Colonel or above. But Sprayberry became one of three (out of 70) who have been inducted at the rank of major. Mike had a distinguished military career and has been recognized for his outstanding performance at NCEM guiding projects such as the Coastal Region Evacuation and Sheltering Plan, the Licensed Care Facility Automated Disaster Plan and the development of and transition to the new Emergency Operations Center.

Mike began his military career as an enlisted Marine, reporting for duty at Parris Island, South Carolina in 1973. He completed his four year tour with the Marine Corps and served as an enlisted Field Artilleryman rising to Sergeant First Class before deciding to enter Officer Candidate School. He graduated from OCS in 1986.

Sprayberry entered the NCNG in 1977 as part of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 113th Field Artillery. He retired in 1998, achieving the rank of Major.

Sprayberry recalled his proudest moment as a N.C. National Guard member was when Battery A was designated the best Battery in the Battalion. "It truly was the result of all the Soldiers, both enlisted and officer, working hard as a team. Everyone from the cannoners to the cooks pushed hard to make it happen!" said Sprayberry.

More than 200 people attended the induction ceremony held August 20 at Fort Bragg. Sprayberry was one of two inductees; the other was COL Randy Powell, the current commander of the 30th Brigade Combat Team who also serves as a Charlotte police officer.

COL John Byrd, commandant of the NCMA, asked Sprayberry to address the officer candidates prior to graduation.

Sprayberry shared with them this advice: "Use the experience and skill sets you picked up as enlisted Soldiers and in OCS and take it to the next level as Second Lieutenants. Work with your Non-Commissioned Officers to build a solid team and lead the way – your Soldiers deserve the best you can give."



Major General Gregory Lusk (left) head of NC National Guard, and COL Byrd together presented Sprayberry his Hall of Fame certificate.



Cary CERT Helps Residents Get Disaster Ready

By Patty Moore, NCEM

As part of National Preparedness Month, Cary's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) gave away more than 200 disaster supply "starter kits" September 24. That morning, more than 30 committed CERT volunteers ranging in age from 17 to well past 70 gathered at a local fire station to assemble the kits. Each kit consisted of a back pack filled with a small medical kit, gloves, poncho, solar blanket, flashlight, batteries, and safety literature both in English and Spanish. The kits were paid for with a grant from the N.C. Citizen Corps.

That afternoon, the kits were distributed to residents at two multi-family apartment complexes that included non-English speaking residents, and one senior citizens apartment facility. The Cary Fire and Police departments also took part in the event, distributing toy fire helmets, stickers and safety literature for children and adults. The event was planned to run from 2 to 4 p.m., but the giveaway was so well-received that by 3:30 all the kits were distributed, the tents packed away and the fire trucks and police cars had returned to their stations.



NCEM Wins TAG Invitational

For the second consecutive year, sharpshooters from N.C. Emergency Management took home the team trophy from The Adjutant General's invitational pistol and shotgun match.

This was the 21st year for the pistol competition and the first year for the shotgun match held at the North Carolina National Guard training facility in Butner.

The winning team, comprised of Chris Crew, Patrick Lake, Tim Byers and Dennis Hancock, beat out 21 other teams with an overall score of 848.

NCEM had two pistol teams and one shotgun team compete against teams from NCNG, the department, Civil Air Patrol and the Highway Patrol. This is the fifth year in the past decade that NCEM has won the team trophy. The Adjutant General annually invites teams from across the department to compete and participate in the team building activity. If you are interested in participating in next year's match, please contact Glenn Wisbey.

North Carolina Emergency Management Moves to New Complex

During the next two months, North Carolina Emergency Management staff will be moving to their new offices at the N.C. National Guard Joint Force Headquarters and Emergency Management Office at 1636 Gold Star Drive, Raleigh.

Half of the NCEM staff will occupy the ground floor of the new headquarters. The division's senior, administrative, planning, operations and logistics staff will be located in the new building, while recovery and geospatial technology management staff will occupy the former Guard offices at the current Claude T. Bowers Military Center.

In addition to housing the new state Emergency Operations Center, the ground floor will be home for the Highway Patrol's Troop C Communications staff, N.C. Department of Transportation's statewide transportation operations center and the N.C. Turnpike Authority's toll operations.

Construction on the new 237,000 square foot facility began in May 2009. The \$56 million facility was funded with \$41.5 million in stimulus money and \$14.5 million in state funds previously set aside for the project.

September Spotlight: Ron Wall

By *Patty McQuillan*

When hurricane season sets in, Ron Wall, a natural hazards program manager for the Division of Emergency Management, is called upon to forecast the weather for emergency planners.

“I’m like a Christmas tree,” he said. “They bring me out during storm season, then put me back in the closet.”

Wall’s dry sense of humor has kept his co-workers amused during his 13 years at EM. He tells the story of how in September 1998, just before he went into a briefing with then Gov. Jim Hunt on Hurricane Bonnie, he was handed a slip of paper saying he was being made a permanent employee. Bonnie was projected to take a similar track up I-95 as the destructive Hurricane Fran in 1996. After the briefing, Hunt and he faced a bank of microphones and the awaiting news media. Gov. Hunt started asking Wall whether this was his best forecast and was he sure the eye was going to turn.

Wall told the governor that he was sure, but there was always uncertainty with every forecast. According to the best calculations, the storm should bend to the right at 8 p.m.

Hunt told Wall that this was serious business, and some people’s jobs were at stake.

Wall said he blurted out, “For goodness sakes, governor, I just got my job today.” The room erupted in laughter.

Wall said Bonnie turned just as he predicted and the next morning, the governor found him and said he could keep his job and that he hoped he hadn’t been too hard on him.

A year later in 1999, the storm of the century hit North Carolina, Hurricane Floyd. Floyd was one of the largest Atlantic hurricanes of its intensity ever recorded.

“My take on Floyd is that every storm has its own particular personality,” Wall said. “We were worried about Floyd as a storm—a wind storm, but that never really came to pass. It turned out Floyd was really significant as a rain storm—it gave us flooding of Biblical proportions. We found out we had a good forecast on the river flooding that took place but we had no way of knowing the impact the river flooding would have on individual citizens and their homes. Our flood mapping program arose out of Floyd, and that was a good thing. I recall taking at least 10 minutes of ‘splaining to convince Gov. Hunt that the National Weather Service did river flood forecasts, and they did it well.”

In 2005, Wall was watching the radar on Hurricane Katrina as it approached and said he had a bad feeling about that one. His predication came long before the mainstream weather forecasters began reporting the storm’s intensity.

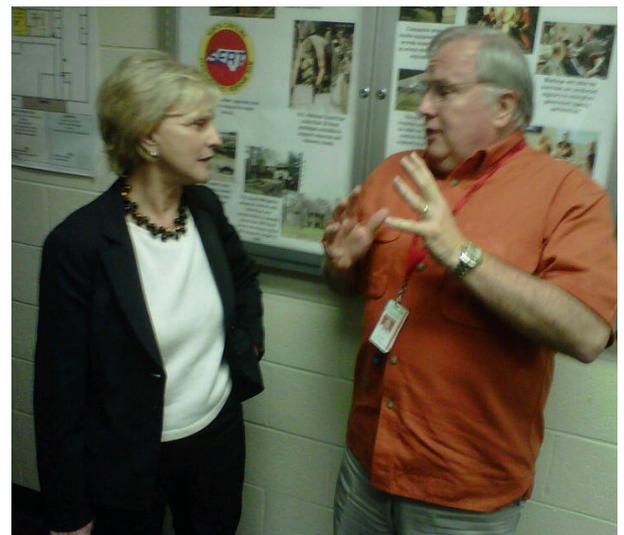
With the most recent hurricane, Irene, Wall briefed Gov. Bev Perdue and members of the Emergency Operations Center.

“Irene was bad enough, but not as bad as it could have been,” Wall said. He said the long days were no different from other hurricanes.

When Wall was promoted in 2007 to planner II, he became the manager of the Emergency Management Accreditation Program, and he took charge of the Continuity of Operations Plan for state agencies.

“I was amazed at how well people responded to COOP,” Wall said.

Ron Wall has done a great job keeping us informed of developing weather systems as well as his work on state plans,” said Elaine Wathen, assistant director of the Division of Emergency Management and plans chief. “He is super intelligent. When Ron brings out a point, you know he’s done his research and he knows what he’s talking about.”



Working at Emergency Management has been a second career for Wall, who retired from the U.S. Air Force after nearly 25 years of active duty.

Wall's family dates back generations to Rolesville, where he currently lives, and to Wake Forest where his father, William Henry "Billy" Wall Jr. was reared on an 800-acre farm.

Ron was born, the first of three sons in 1947 in El Paso, Texas. His parents returned to Rolesville when he was six months old. He has fond memories of his early years playing baseball and spending summers at Camp Kanata in Wake Forest where he swam, canoed, hiked and did archery and crafts. He spent as much time as he could there to keep from having to spend time in the tobacco fields.

"I had to pick cotton once, and I didn't like it," Wall said. "It hurts your back having to stay bent over."

Wall's younger brother, Tony, had attended Carolina Military Academy and when he came home for weekends he wore his uniform to church. The girls at church swooned over him, so Wall figured he needed to get a uniform, too, and he decided to go to Virginia Military Institute. His father cautioned him that it would be hard if he attended VMI. Wall figured, "How hard?" He was making all A's in high school. His dad asked again if he was sure he wanted to go. He said he was sure.

Not long after his enrollment, Wall told his dad, "It wasn't as bad as you said it would be. It's worse." He said they made everything hard.

When he first started at the college, Ron was 185 pounds and able to do about four pull-ups. By Christmas time, his weight had dropped to 139 pounds, and he could do "as many pull-ups as you could count." He returned home, svelte, with his 44 brass buttons and tails on his uniform. The girls didn't pay him a bit of attention.

"I went to VMI for all the wrong reasons, but I did the right thing," Wall said. "My time at VMI was my defining experience. If you could find a way to prosper in that system, you could make it anywhere."

Wall graduated in economics in 1969 and was commissioned in the Air Force. He was sent to Laredo Air Force Base in Texas to be trained as a pilot, but he had bad knees. He had three choices and decided to be a weatherman because he had taken enough math and physics classes to qualify for the position. The Air Force sent Wall to the University of Texas at Austin to get the equivalent of a bachelor of science degree in atmospheric science.

A young civilian named Betsy had a student job of plotting weather maps. They met and were married in 1971. They moved quite a bit during his military career, first to Myrtle Beach, S.C. to an Air Force weather station. Next, he taught weather to student pilots at Columbus Air Force Base in Mississippi. His son Robbie was born during that time in 1974. Other duty stations included Illinois, Missouri, Texas and Korea. His last assignment was with the International Military Staff at North Atlantic Treaty Organization Headquarters in Brussels. He retired as a colonel and returned to Rolesville in 1994 and worked three years at Lowe's Home Improvement store.

"Everyone should have to work retail at some point in their lives," Wall said. "It's humbling, number one, it builds character and it's hard work."

While he was there, a co-worker told Wall about some Emergency Management jobs. He sent a letter to the then director, Eric Tolbert, and was hired in the summer of 1998.

He quickly found out that coming into state government with the military mindset does not work. "If you don't make personal relationships first, you can't get things done," he said. "In the Air Force, it didn't matter if people liked you, because there was no time. You were forced to do what you could do as fast as you could do it."

Ron's immediate supervisor, Ed Jenkins, said, "What many people don't know about Ron, he's tough on the outside, but a 'softie' underneath. If a friend came to him with a personal need, he'd help in any way he could."

Wall said everyone at Emergency Management has been nice to work with. "If you ask people to do something, they will either do it or tell you who can. I will miss my association with them."

Wall retired from Emergency Management August 31, but plans to keep busy. His brothers and he have five rental houses to manage, and Ron has built a new workshop for his woodworking. He built much of the furniture in his house, including an entertainment center, side board, beds, tables and an old ice box. He said he built a reproduction of Gen. Stonewall Jackson's field desk used during the Civil War. The original is at VMI.

"I'm happy that I've spent 13 years working with Emergency Management and Crime Control. I would do it again," Wall said. "It almost makes you believe in pre-destination."

October Spotlight: Angie Ledford

By Gary Jones

Angie Ledford joined Buncombe County Department of Emergency Services in 2000 and currently serves as their emergency management planner. Additionally, she currently serves as the second vice-president of the N.C. Emergency Management Association (NCEMA) and will become the vice president in October.

As the Buncombe County EM planner, Angie develops and maintains a wide variety of county, city, school, community college, business and private industry emergency plans. She also administers all grant programs from throughout the emergency services department and manages the homeland security project proposals for Domestic Preparedness Region 9.

“Angie has earned a reputation of being extremely knowledgeable in planning for emergencies and forming emergency plans and exercises for schools, nursing homes and other licensed facilities in Buncombe County,” said County Emergency Services Director Jerry VeHaun. “Her expertise is requested numerous times throughout the year.”

Ledford spent five years with the Buncombe County Community Based Correction Agency before joining Emergency Services. Her initial focus was “Project Impact” which was designed to increase community involvement and partnerships in the mitigation program. As the two-year mitigation grant initiative came to a close, she transitioned to the emergency planner position.

Mike Cook, western branch manager for NCEM, said Angie has been instrumental in developing project worksheets and other grant-writing activities, both for DPR-9 and DPR-8. “Angie is always willing to assist others so they can succeed at the local and state levels,” Cook said.

Angie grew up in Candler, just outside of Asheville, and now lives there with her husband, Mark, and nine year old daughter, Sidney. She earned her Bachelor degree from UNC-Asheville and Masters degree from Western Carolina University.

During the recovery from the back-to-back floods in 2004, Angie knew she was in the right career.

“Helping get the county facilities up and running again after the floods, and helping our citizens permanently move their homes to safety away from flood-prone areas, assured me I was doing the right thing,” she explained.

While a large part of her disaster experience involves recovery activities, Angie is no stranger to response operations. In 2004, she responded to flooding from Hurricanes Frances and Ivan, and in 2009 she helped with emergency operations during the winter storm. She also participates in daily response activities in the county usually focusing on incident management, field search responses and major exercises.

Outside of work, Angie is deeply involved with the county youth softball program. She helps her husband coach their daughter’s softball team, also serving as a score keeper and team Mom.

Jerry VeHaun proudly boasts of Angie’s passion for emergency management, noting that she has eagerly attended various training to earn the Type I certification.

Angie named the county’s Safe School’s Initiative as one of professional passions. She credited the close working relationship between the school system and emergency response personnel, saying that it is reassuring to school officials to have formed those working relationships with emergency responders prior to an incident. As a parent, she knows that this program can help some of the youngest members of her community avoid a tragedy.

One final look into how Angie can become deeply engaged into any project she involves herself. As second vice-president of NCEMA, she serves as an advisor to the association’s program committee. In this position, she regularly attends committee meetings, actively participates in member discussions, provides recommendations concerning future conference program topics and volunteers to contact potential conference presenters to coordinate their participation.

Angie is committed to her job, coworkers, peers, and the citizens of Buncombe County and North Carolina.

Tiawana Ramsey, area coordinator for NCEM, said she has worked with Angie on numerous projects over the years.



“We began working together on Project Impact and have worked closely since day one,” Ramsey recalled. “I consider Angie not only a colleague, but a close friend. There has never been a time that I have called upon her to assist with a project, or some other need, that she hasn’t given her all. She helps everybody. The emergency management community is very fortunate to have her on our team.”



Remembering Thad Bryson

North Carolina’s Emergency Management community lost a tremendous asset, resource, friend and supporter September 1 with the passing of Thad Bryson IV. Thad spent more than 20 years in emergency management, retiring in 2005 as the deputy director and logistics chief for North Carolina Emergency Management.

“Thad was a big man with a big heart, who had a strong sense of right and wrong,” recalled NCEM Plans Chief Elaine Wathen, who grew up with the Bryson family. Wathen’s father was one of Bryson’s school teachers.

He was most interested in being a supporting player; the one that helped make everyone else look good, Wathen said.

Thad began his career by serving in the Marine Corps, then later built an agribusiness from a produce distributorship. He used those business skills and lessons learned as a volunteer fireman when he became the emergency management coordinator for Sampson County in 1985. He later joined North Carolina Emergency Management as an area coordinator in the western part of the state, then ended his career as state’s logistics chief and deputy director based in Raleigh.

When Hurricane Floyd pummeled eastern North Carolina in 1999, Thad helped expedite aid to those whose homes were destroyed, working long hours to ensure that the needs of the storm survivors were met as quickly as possible.

Thad is survived by his wife Joellen VanGorder-Bryson, daughter Elizabeth, sons T.D. and Norman, three stepsons, four grandsons and 12 step grandchildren.

Bryson will be remembered for his leadership, strong personality and friendly nature.

National EAS Test

November 9 at 2 p.m. North Carolina will participate in the national test of the Emergency Alert System. The **three minute test** will be heard on radio and seen on local, cable and satellite TV.

The National EAS is a public alert system that enables the President to address the American public during extreme emergencies.

www.fema.gov/emergency/ipaws