



THE mEMO



Gov. Perdue Requests Help for Flood Victims *Issues Disaster Declaration for Halifax and Northampton*

Gov. Bev Perdue requested financial assistance for residents and business owners in Halifax and Northampton counties who suffered damages from the severe thunderstorms and flooding that struck Aug 25.

“The storms popped up so quickly and dumped nearly a foot of rain in just a few hours. We are working with state and federal officials to ensure that any possible aid is provided to those who suffered damages,” Perdue said. “It is critical that we help get our fellow North Carolinians back in their homes as soon as possible.”

Perdue sent a letter to the U.S. Small Business Administration Aug. 30 requesting a disaster declaration for Halifax County. If approved, homeowners, renters and business owners could qualify for low-interest loans or grants to help them recover from last weekend’s floods.

While visiting the storm-damaged areas a week later, Gov. Perdue signed a state disaster declaration. The declaration will enable storm survivors who do not qualify for SBA loans to seek state funds to help them recover.

Local and state emergency management teams began damage surveys Monday and met with SBA staff Wednesday for more detailed damage assessment. Teams looked at approximately 75 homes and businesses in Halifax County, as well as additional damaged properties in Northampton County. They also surveyed damaged roads, bridges and other community infrastructure.

The formal survey is the first step in determining what areas may qualify for state and/or federal funding assistance.



(above) Gov. Perdue meets with one of the flood survivors in Halifax County Aug. 31 while NCEM area coordinator Tim Byers, looks on. Perdue thanks volunteers with the Baptist Men for helping flood survivors recover from the devastation.



If the federal government approves the governor's request, it clears the way for SBA to provide low-interest loans to storm victims. The SBA is the agency that can provide low interest loans for homeowners, renters and businesses that suffered damage from the storms.

The storms that rolled through the area Aug. 25 flooded dozens of roads and homes in Roanoke Rapids, Gaston, Weldon and other areas in the two counties. The flooding closed a portion of Interstate 95 for several hours, sent more than 50 residents to one of two local shelters and seeped into Halifax Regional Hospital's basement. Halifax County and the Town of Gaston declared local states of emergency Saturday.

In Earthquakes: Drop, Cover and Hold On *Southeast Schedules First-Ever Earthquake Drill*

One year after a 5.8 magnitude earthquake near Mineral, Va. sent shockwaves across the Tar Heel state, North Carolina Emergency Management officials encouraged residents to participate in the first-ever earthquake exercise for the southeast region. The Southeast Shakeout is scheduled for Oct. 18 at 10:18 a.m.

"While earthquakes in North Carolina are rare, they do happen," explained NCEM Director Doug Hoell. "Even earthquakes in other areas can send shockwaves across our state as we experienced last year. We want to be sure people know what to do to protect themselves."

Hoell said everyone should be prepared to drop, cover and hold on if they are ever in a situation where they feel the ground moving and shaking. Although ground shaking from earthquakes typically lasts only a minute or two, aftershocks can continue for several days or even weeks.

Emergency officials from North Carolina, Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina and Georgia have joined together to host the first-ever earthquake drill in the southeast. Residents, businesses and schools are encouraged to take part in the quick earthquake drill.

Similar to the annual tornado drill held each spring, people will be asked to take a few minutes of their day to rehearse what they would do in such an emergency. Since earthquakes

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www.shakeout.org/southeast

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Earthquake Safety Tips

Federal, state and local emergency management experts and rescue teams agree that the best actions to keep you safe in an earthquake are:

- **Drop to the ground** (before the earthquake makes you fall)
- **Take cover** under a sturdy desk or table
- **Hold on** to the desk until the shaking stops.
- If there is no table or desk nearby, crouch in an inside corner of a building and cover your head and neck with your hands and arms.
- Stay away from bookshelves, lamps, TVs, cabinets and other objects as much as possible. Such items may fall and cause injuries.

There are several actions that people **should not do**.

- **DO NOT get in a doorway.** They are not safe and do not protect you from falling or flying objects.
- **DO NOT run outside.** Running in an earthquake is dangerous. The ground is moving making it easy to fall or be injured by falling structures, trees, debris or glass.

happen with no warning, there will be no Emergency Alert System test to announce the drill. Instead, each school, business, agency and family is asked to practice recommended safety techniques on their own.

Additional information and resource guides are available on www.shakeout.org/southeast to help various groups prepare for the exercise. Individuals and agencies can register their participation on the website.

“We encourage everyone to take a couple of minutes out of their day to rehearse the potential life-saving actions,” said Hoell.

Homeland Security Grant Program Begins New Funding Cycle

A new funding cycle has begun for the Homeland Security Grant Program. Materials for fiscal year 2013 HSGP projects are posted to the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN): <https://government.hsin.gov/sites/nc/default.aspx> .

Project application materials will not be emailed to the emergency management community. Any interested applicants should visit the website for more information. The application deadline for Phase 1 – which will coordinate the development, consideration and submission of FY 2013 HSGP investments to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security – is October 12, 2012.

Regional projects (local agency sub-grantees) must be submitted to the Domestic Preparedness Region Committee associated with your jurisdiction. State agency and statewide projects should be emailed to NCEM in care of Christine.Brennan@ncdps.gov.

The 2011 - 2013 State Homeland Security Strategy also is posted on the HSIN. Included is an appendix on the Homeland Security Advisor's priorities. The new State Homeland Security Strategy also reflects the re-alignment of existing strategic goals and objectives with the core capabilities list, which will streamline the strategic planning and assessment process.

Recent Earthquakes Impacting North Carolina

- 8- 21-2012 Small 2.2 magnitude quake in Madison County
- 6-19-2012 Small 2.0 earthquake in Macon County; some residents reported feeling ground shake
- 5-31-2012 Small 1.7 earthquake in Macon County
- 3-31-2012 Small 2.2 earthquake in Union County; some residents reported feeling ground shake
- 8-23-2011 A 5.8 magnitude quake near Mineral, Va. was the largest earthquake in the eastern U.S. since 1944. The earthquake was felt from Canada to Georgia. Two nearby schools had structural damage. Even the National Cathedral and Washington Monument sustained some damages.

Other Earthquake Facts

- ✓ Largest earthquake centered in North Carolina struck Feb. 21, 1916 as a 5.5 magnitude quake in the western part of the state that caused cracks in buildings in Asheville and Waynesville.
- ✓ Since 1735, 22 earthquakes have caused damage in North Carolina; only seven were located in the state. Four of those quakes were strong enough to cause structural damage: a 5.1 quake in Wilkesboro in 1861; a 7.3 quake in Charleston in 1886; a 5.5 quake in Asheville in 1916; and a 5.2 quake in Mitchell County in 1926.
- ✓ Four earthquake zones could generate ground shaking strong enough to cause damage in North Carolina: 1) Eastern Tennessee Seismic Zone, 2) Southern Appalachian Seismic Zone; 3) Charleston, S.C. Seismic Zone; and 4) Giles County, Va. Seismic Zone.

CAP Promoting No-Fly Zone During DNC

By **Maj. Don Penven**, NC Wing PAO

The North Carolina Wing of the Civil Air Patrol is reminding pilots that a temporary flight restriction will be in place during the Democratic National Convention. The Federal Aviation Administration will issue the temporary flight restriction, referred to as a TFR, for the Charlotte area Sept. 3 through 6.

Volunteers with CAP have been helping the Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command Region by delivering posters that alert pilots about the upcoming TFR to all public airports within a 75-mile radius of Charlotte.

"This outreach is a great way to inform the general aviation community about the FAA's upcoming flight restrictions in place for the Democratic National Convention," said Maj. John May, N.C. Wing mission incident commander. "The Civil Air Patrol is able to greatly enhance the effectiveness of the outreach program at a relatively minimal cost. With a greater awareness of the TFR, we hope to see fewer violations."

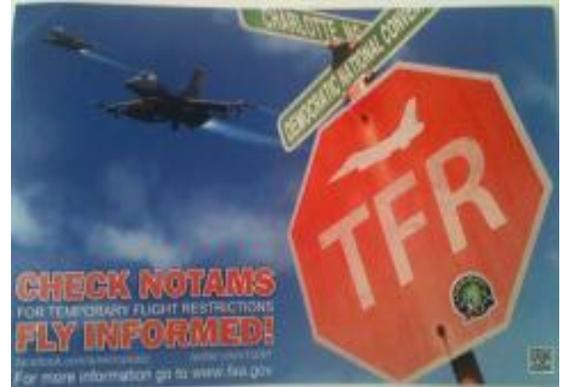
The posters are a reminder that a TFR is a 'No-Fly Zone' and when it goes into effect, there will be serious consequences for violators, May explained.

Approximately 55 North Carolina and South Carolina airports exist inside the 75-mile circle, and the North Carolina Wing is delivering the posters to each location as part of regularly scheduled training exercises.

"CAP adds tremendous credibility when we show up at an airport in a CAP uniform to deliver the posters and to explain TFR procedures to airport personnel and pilots," May said.

Deliveries began Aug 3. Among the first airports visited was Gastonia Municipal Airport near the South Carolina border, where May was greeted by a contingent of CAP cadets on hand for orientation flights. The cadets presented the posters to airport flight instructor Jill Cagle.

"This assignment is a departure from our usual Air Force missions of searching for missing aircraft or people and our emergency response activities during natural disasters," North Carolina Wing Commander Col. David Crawford said. "The Wing is glad to assist with this very important mission. We want to ensure all pilots in the area are aware the TFR is being established."



The NC Wing of the Civil Air Patrol is helping distribute a FAA-produced poster that reminds pilots of the temporary flight restrictions during the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte.

CAP has performed similar tasks before, which is why the Air Force requested its support promoting the TFRs for both the Democratic and Republican National Conventions.

Recovering From Irene: One Year Later

By Julia Jarema, NCDPS Communications

Though Irene was considered a Category 1 hurricane by the time she made landfall Aug. 27 near Cape Lookout, the storm caused more destruction in some eastern counties than many had seen in more than a decade. For several inner banks counties, not even Floyd in 1999 caused the five to 15 feet of storm surge that Hurricane Irene brought.

“As emergency managers, part of our challenge is trying to convince the public not to let their guard down when it’s ‘only a category 1 or 2 storm’” said N.C. Emergency Management Director Doug Hoell. “The truth is: the hurricane categories only refer to wind speed. And most of the destruction we’ve experienced from hurricanes is from storm surge and flooding.”

In the days and weeks after Irene struck, residents in over a third of the state worked to clean up debris, repair and rebuild their homes and businesses.

Staff from NCEM and the Federal Emergency Management Agency worked for months with the most heavily impacted communities to help residents find safe, sanitary temporary housing. Nearly 300 families initially stayed in nearby hotels or apartments for several weeks while they repaired their homes. For nearly 200 families in remote areas, FEMA brought in mobile homes so residents could remain near their jobs and home sites. Additionally, FEMA-NCEM community outreach teams canvassed eastern North Carolina to identify and work with 1,700 of the most challenging cases helping them to complete financial aid applications, secure food stamps, even match them with volunteer agencies that could provide labor to help with home repairs. In the end, more than 17,500 families received \$82 million in federal or state loans or grants to repair their homes, replace personal property and rebuild business.

One year later, most families have recovered from Irene and resumed their daily routines. But for some, the need continues.

“We still have about 350 families who need help,” said Hoell, “even after they received the maximum amounts of state and federal aid.”

Hoell said three faith-based groups have continued to work with residents in Beaufort, Craven, Dare, Hyde, Martin, Pamlico and Pitt counties and the city of Washington. The N.C.

Hurricane Irene: By the Numbers

Financial Help

\$82M	Amount of federal/state grants or loans distributed to help repair or rebuild homes and businesses, replace personal property and pay for other disaster-related needs not covered by insurance (\$35M in state/federal grants; \$47M in SBA loans)
17,500+	Number of households or businesses that received state/federal recovery financial assistance
35,000+	Number of requests via the FEMA hotline for information or assistance after Irene

Housing Assistance

27,800	Number of damaged homes and businesses that were inspected by FEMA and/or NCEM
284	Families that were housed in nearby hotels or apartments for several weeks while their homes were repaired.
196	Temporary Housing Units provided by FEMA as temporary shelter for 194 families as they rebuilt or repaired their homes. Most families had returned to their homes (or found other housing) by April. The last two families moved out of the THUs in mid-August.

Hazard Mitigation

16	Properties in Pamlico County that will be acquired as part of the state’s Hazard Mitigation Program. Homeowners applied for acquisition program. Properties will be returned to open land permanently and families will be relocated out of floodplain.
900	Properties that have been analyzed for potential hazard mitigation funding to either elevate homes above flood levels or acquire property to return it to open space.

Baptist Men, Harvest Connection, and N.C. Conference United Methodist Church have provided volunteer labor to repair damaged homes, but are relying on much-needed donations to help cover materials costs.

More than 320 local and state agencies and non-profit organizations also applied for financial assistance to recoup costs incurred to respond to and recover from Hurricane Irene. Already, nearly \$110 million has been obligated to pay for debris cleanup, cover emergency response measures such as law enforcement and first responders, and repair public facilities. Through the federal cost-share Public Assistance program, FEMA will pay 75 percent of the expenses, while the state will incur the remaining share.

Though the official season is nearly halfway over, both Hoell and FEMA Region IV Administrator Phil May cautioned that September is historically when North Carolina experiences the most hurricane activity.

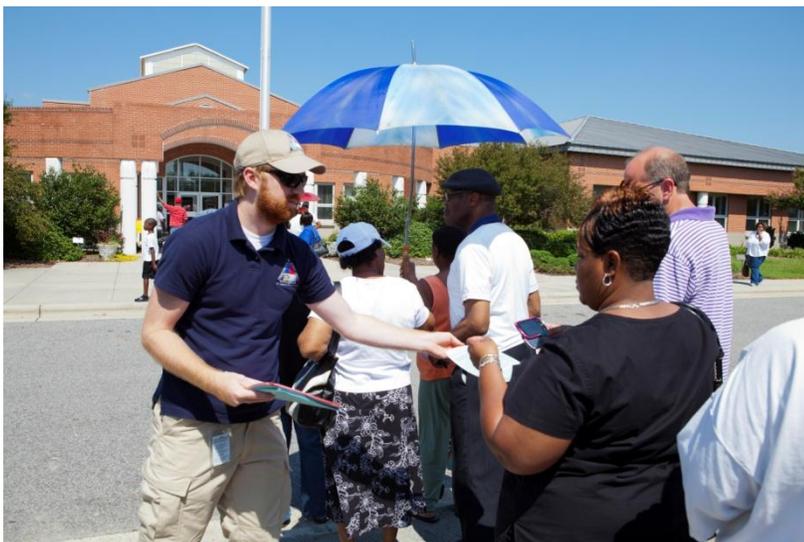
Hoell and May offered two bits of advice as the state readies for National Preparedness Month in September.

First, update emergency supplies kits and plans. Have enough non-perishable food, bottled water, medicines and other necessities to sustain your family for three to seven days. Discuss emergency contacts and meeting places in advance.

“Take these preparedness steps—be informed, make a plan, build a kit and get involved in your community,” echoed May. “Today could be the day before disaster strikes.”

Second, when severe weather threatens, heed instructions from local officials. If they tell you to evacuate, then evacuate.

“Emergency officials don’t take evacuations lightly,” explained Hoell. “If they issue an evacuation order, it’s best to heed their instructions to keep you and your family safe.”



Hurricane Irene: By the Numbers

Community Outreach Teams

- From November through May, teams worked with 1,674 families to find additional help and match them with available resources, such as correctly completing paperwork, securing food stamps, child care or find volunteer labor to help repair damaged homes
- Teams secured additional \$8 million including \$4.4M in FEMA grants, \$3.1M in SBA loans, and \$576,000 in kind/cash contributions from various long-term recovery groups
- Snapshot of some of the services:
 - 245 families got help with home repairs
 - Voluntary agencies helped 26 families purchase mobile homes
 - 17 families got help with medical needs
 - 279 were helped with furniture, clothing, etc.

Community Assistance

- \$110M Public Assistance funds obligated. FEMA pays 75 percent of the eligible costs; the state picks up the remaining share. Projects include debris removal, emergency protective measures, facility repair, etc.
- 1,814 Number of Public Assistance projects for which funds have been obligated. 323 different agencies applied for funding assistance.
- \$63M Reimbursement to counties for costs to remove debris and pay local and state agencies for emergency protective measures such as first responders and law enforcement.
- \$47M Reimbursement to counties for permanent work such as rebuilding/repairing public facilities such as roads, bridges, water treatment plants, sewer systems, power generation facilities, etc.

Fall Emergency Management Conference

By Gary Jones, NCEMA

The N.C. Emergency Management Association program committee has been working to finalize the agenda for the annual fall conference. The event is Oct. 14-17 in Hickory.

The gathering will include one track of breakout sessions specifically targeted to those who have recently joined the emergency management community and another track geared toward higher education activities and statewide issues impacting the industry. Counties that participate in the radiological emergency preparedness program will meet Tuesday morning, while the N.C. Association of Hazardous Materials Responders will meet that afternoon. Other workshops, classes and sessions are being finalized in the next few weeks.

Details on most of the programs is being entered into the TERMS system as it becomes available, making it easy for participants to register. For more information, visit the NCEMA web site at <https://ncema.renci.org>.

September is Emergency Preparedness Month in North Carolina

Gov. Bev Perdue proclaimed September as Emergency Preparedness Month and encouraged families, businesses and schools to have emergency plans and kits.

“Hurricane Irene and the statewide tornadoes last year were sobering reminders just how important it is that all of us are prepared for any type of emergency at all times,” Perdue said.

It does not take a major hurricane or tornado to cause extensive damage to a home or to disrupt normal business operations, she said. The storms that struck Halifax and Northampton counties Aug. 25 produced extensive flooding in only a few short hours.

“Those people who are better prepared will fare better during the disaster and recover more quickly.” Perdue said.

The governor’s proclamation of Emergency Preparedness Month coincides with National Preparedness Month, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and held each September to encourage Americans to prepare for emergencies. The Web site for the national campaign is www.ready.gov.

Staffing Changes

Joining the Community

Paul Latham – was selected as NCEM’s Assistant Director for Logistics and Training. He has been with NCEM for 14 years.

Joe Stanton – was selected as NCEM’s Assistant Director for Recovery. He oversees the Individual and Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Housing programs. Stanton has worked in NCEM for 10 years.

Aaron Brown – joined NCEM as a tech support analyst. He previously worked for the Highway Patrol

Saying Goodbye

Vickie Durham – retired from NCEM August 31 after 28 years of state service.

Yaitza Pabellon – has accepted a position with the federal government after 3 years with NCEM. Her last day is Sept. 14

2011 Storm Statistics

- 63 Tornadoes touched down (Nearly half of those were on April 16).
- 1,400+ Severe thunderstorms
- 375+ Hail storms
- 2 Tropical Systems: Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee.

For more disaster information:

www.readync.org
www.listonc.org

September Spotlight: Terry Slaughter

By Gary Jones, NCEMA

Terry Slaughter may have retired as Graham County’s emergency services director and emergency management coordinator in 2009, but he has remained active in disaster response and recovery.

Ironically, this lifetime member of the N.C. Emergency Management Association began his career in the furniture manufacturing industry. After high school, he took carpentry classes at the local community college and began work at a furniture factory. One of Slaughter’s college instructors, who was a member of a local rescue squad, encouraged Terry to join the squad and take emergency medical technician classes.

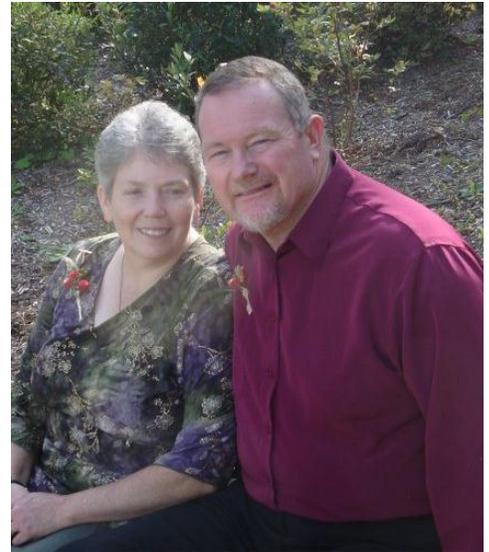
Terry followed his teacher’s advice and joined the rescue squad in 1977. Four years later he became the emergency management coordinator.

One of the most significant events in the early years was the Rainbow Gathering in the Nantahala National Forest. Terry described the week-long gathering of thousands of people from around the country with roots in the bohemian and hippie cultures as “a major headache for both the Park Service officials and local authorities.” With over 14,000 individuals crammed into a small portion of the forest with limited facilities, various crowding-related problems developed.

Terry says the gathering opened his eyes to the unique demands of a career in emergency management. There were such a variety of issues, potential emergencies if you will, there was no way one could have imagined them all, he said.

Buncombe County Emergency Services Director Jerry VeHaun worked with Slaughter that week and described Terry as very easy to work with. “Graham County was extremely lucky to have had Terry, and his expertise, for over 30 years,” he noted.

Terry deserves much credit for modernizing and expanding the emergency response service in Graham County. In 1990, he led the charge to establish a county-wide emergency communications system and a 911 emergency dispatch program. Despite the limited communications capabilities at that time, few were interested in changing how emergency response was implemented. However, once the radio towers were installed, the community supported the program.



Terry and his wife, Sharon, enjoy traveling and spending time with their children and grandchildren.

Mike Cook, NCEM Western Branch manager, thanks Slaughter for his years of emergency management service to Graham County and to the state.



As Graham County's emergency services director, he established a county-wide paramedic program. Until 1989, there was such program west of Haywood County. Terry worked with local leaders to convince them that advanced medical response would benefit the area and be cost effective.

He also fought to build a separate facility designed just for emergency services. For years, when the county activated the emergency operations center, Terry would pull out his 'EOC in a box.' Slaughter recalls dragging phones, radios, computers and reference materials to the county courthouse or other facilities to set up his EOC since there was no designated space for emergency operations. After extensive efforts, a separate emergency services building was built. The multi-purpose facility was designed to meet the day-to-day needs, but could easily be transformed to meet disaster requirements, as well.

While Terry faced blizzards, floods, tropical storms and various other emergencies during his tenure, he also participated in numerous state and national disasters. He deployed to various counties and even the NCEM Eastern Branch after Hurricanes Hugo in 1989, Fran in 1996, Floyd in 1999, Isabel in 2003 and Frances and Ivan in 2004.

Slaughter has always been active in emergency response even outside of work. He has for many years served as a member of the N.C. Baptist Men Disaster Relief Team. In fact, he deployed to Cherokee County earlier this year to clear downed trees and rebuild homes after the tornadoes. After Hurricane Katrina, Terry went to New Orleans to help with damage assessments. He also took time from his job to join the church disaster relief team and help with recovery efforts in the Gulf.

These days, Terry teaches fire and EMS classes and works part-time as a bus driver for a Shelby-based charter tour company. As such, he has visited New York, Michigan, Florida, Texas, Colorado, Washington, D.C. and Canada.

Terry and Sharon, his wife of 35 years, are very involved with their children and grandchildren. They have one daughter nearby, another in Oklahoma and a son in Vermont. When he is not teaching or touring, Terry and Sharon are on the road to visit with one their distant children!

Terry said he has seen emergency management develop into an accepted and respected profession in the past few decades.

"I remember the early years when there was an emergency manager in every county because it is required," Slaughter

"Terry is not one to seek assistance prematurely. If he called for help, you knew that he was facing a really bad situation,"

- Jimmy Ramsey, NCEM area coordinator

"He would sit quietly and listen to others talk through their problems. He always was energized by any opportunity to serve others."

- Mike Cook, NCEM Western Branch manager, on Terry's services as chaplain

recalled. "But, they were seldom allowed to focus on those duties, because they also served as the animal control officer, county commissioner or a funeral home director. And all those other duties took precedence over emergency management responsibilities."

Terry said he may even return to emergency management full time given the right opportunity. But, his primary passion continues to be to work with his church and Baptist Men.