Civil Air Patrol Joins NCEM

The NC wing of the Civil Air Patrol joined NCEM as part of the consolidation and creation of the Department of Public Safety. Founded as the auxiliary wing of the U.S. Air Force, the CAP helps to locate downed aircraft, find missing persons, assess storm damage and help with disaster response. CAP is comprised of two staff, Lucy Davis and Andy Wiggs who coordinate 1500+ volunteer youth and adults. ~ January 1
January Tornadoes

Severe storms and tornadoes rolled across the state injuring 15 people and destroying dozens of homes in Burke & Rutherford counties. Storm survivors were able to seek SBA loans to help recover. ~ January 11

Photos courtesy News 14
Nearly 300 county emergency managers and SERT partners participated in the biennial forum and toured the new SEOC. It was the first official event held at the division’s new facility.

~ January 18
Pensacola VFD Mitigation Project

A $510,000 grant from FEMA/NCEM was used to acquire and demolish the Pensacola Volunteer Fire Department in Yancey County. The VFD had been plagued for years by flash floods from Cat Tail Creek. The new one-story facility in a nearby location also will be designated as a shelter for the Pensacola community during disasters. ~ January 2012
More than 100 first responders, law enforcement and emergency management folks from the local and state level participated in a mass casualty/hazmat exercise in Vance County. ~ February 4
Nearly 300 people gathered to dedicate the new 43,000 square foot joint force headquarters and state emergency operations center. The four-story facility houses nearly 530 civilian and military employees and serves as the state’s operations center for emergencies and disasters.~ February 18
CAP Training

Civil Air Patrol members participated in a variety of exercises and training sessions throughout the year to expand & sharpen their skills, including:

• Mock search & rescue ~ Feb. 25
• Missing persons search ~ March
• Fire training ~ June
• Commodities distribution ~ Aug. 11
Tornadoes swept through Cherokee, Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties damaging more than 200 homes and businesses. Cherokee residents received help via SBA loans.

~ March 2-3
Severe Weather Awareness Week

Businesses, school children and communities practiced tornado safety during severe weather awareness week. The deadly 2011 tornadoes and early storms of 2012 emphasized the importance of being prepared.

~ March 4-10
Planning & Training to Keep Schools Safe

More than 400 academic and EM officials participated in a two-day class to identify potential hazards and develop plans to protect school children and staff. The multi-hazard emergency planning course helps schools develop better plans to respond to active shooters or any other type of emergency. The class is funded via NCEM exercise grants. Several counties also held functional exercises to test what they had learned: Alamance County ~ Guilford County ~ Gates County
DAWG Exercise

Thirteen northeastern counties pulled together to respond to a mock plane crash in Bertie County that left a trail of casualties, fire, jet fuel and debris. For members of the Disaster Assistance Work Group, the training is valuable preparation for disaster response to everything from hurricanes to plane crashes.

~ March 25
Dozens of Community Emergency Response Team members participated in numerous training exercises throughout the year to practice their disaster response skills. Exercises included mock tornadoes, plane crashes, hurricane response, search and rescues and more.

Perquimans Co. ~ May 22
Albemarle ~ multiple
Moore Co. ~ April 19
More than 450 emergency responders spent five days testing search & rescue, response and communications skills as part of this multi-county earthquake exercise. EM crews from four counties spent more than two years preparing for the exercise, which was paid for by a Homeland Security grant.

~ April 27- May 1
A $2.4 million grant from FEMA/NCEM was used to purchase 16 Pamlico County homes in the floodplain. The project marked the earliest award of a FEMA mitigation grant; acquisitions are scheduled to take place in early 2013. NCEM’s Hazard Mitigation section is conducting detailed benefit-cost analysis on 900 properties impacted by Irene. ~ May 2012
Burke County Dirty Bomb Exercise

More than 130 first responders and medical staff participated in a four-part exercise to test their response skills to an active fire, radioactive contamination and mass injury. County health and law enforcement officials helped plan and coordinate the exercise which was paid for through a NCEM grant.

~ May
Hurricane Workshop

As the remnants of Hurricane Alberto passed NC, more than 120 EM officials, meteorologists and academics met to discuss trends and developments in weather forecasting and emergency management. ~ May 23
Tropical Storm Beryl

Tropical Depression Beryl struck southeast North Carolina spawning tornadoes in Carteret County and damaging several homes. ~ May 30
Civil Air Patrol’s annual week-long encampment offers cadets, youth ages 12 -21, the opportunity to expand their expertise in aerospace education and hone their leadership, first aid, radio communication and weaponry skills. ~ June
Exercise: Active Shooter in Prison

More than 40 first responders, corrections staff and EM officials participated in a mock shooting at the Brown Creek Correctional Institution in Polkton. The one-day exercise tested their incident command structure, communications and coordination and pre-hospital triage skills. ~ June 3
Members from all five branches of the armed forces and NC National Guard met at the state emergency operations center for the 5th Department of Defense summit. The annual meeting provides an opportunity for military and local/state EM staff to discuss operational changes and developments that may impact each agency’s ability to respond to hurricanes or other disasters. ~ June 13
Duplin Hazmat Exercise

Nearly 100 emergency managers, law enforcement, medical staff and hazmat techs, participated in a mock ammonia leak at the local turkey processing plant. The drill gave staff a chance to demonstrate unified command of an incident, effective communication/coordination and decontamination procedures.

~ June 16
Dad Day Fire

What started as a controlled burn in the Croatan National Forest quickly became a raging forest fire that scorched 21,000+ acres near New Bern. ~ June 17- July 6
The Geodetic Survey group joined NCEM as part of a legislative directive to consolidate the geospatial mapping functions. The 20-member section establishes and maintains the official survey base for the state to support mapping, boundary determination, infrastructure development and more. Half of the employees are stationed in Raleigh, while the remainder are co-located with other state agencies in Asheville, Morehead City, Mooresville and Washington. ~ July 1

Shown from left: Scott Lokken, Curt Johnson, Luretta Jones, Bart Alligood, Steve Kaufman, Dennis Lee and Ron Hall. Other staff include: Michael Arnold, Mark Boothe, Rick Carraway, Ben Davis, James Gay, Ron Harding, Bill King, Joe Scott, Ronnie Spivey and Gary Thompson.
Swift Water Training

More than 30 first responders participated in a four-day swift water rescue training course in Swain and Burke counties to learn critical skills to safely respond to flood emergencies.

~ July 16-20
For the past 12 years, the Disaster Housing Section has worked with communities after storms to ensure that residents have permanent, safe and secure housing. The office was created in the wake of Hurricane Floyd and was later combined with NCEM. Thank you Yolanda Abram, Lisa Burke, Britne Gleason, Donna Miller, Diana Olivieri and Sue Preston for your service to North Carolinians.
Brunswick Nuclear Drill

NCEM, Brunswick and New Hanover counties, Progress Energy and various SERT partners tested their coordinated response to a nuclear event as part of the required biennial fixed nuclear facility exercise. ~ August 8
Halifax/ Northampton Flooding

Severe thunderstorms dumped nearly a foot of rain in just a few hours flooding dozens of roads – including Interstate 95 – and homes in Halifax & Northampton counties. More than 100 families received SBA or state assistance.

~ August 25
HART Training

NC HART teams held more than two dozen classes in every region of the state practicing with SHP & NCNG aviators. Currently, there are 50+ active HART technicians in N.C.
Emergency Preparedness Month

NCEM partnered with Target, the Wolfpack & Tarheels to encourage residents to prepare for emergencies by gathering supplies and making plans. The campaign coincided with National Preparedness Month. ~September
Democratic National Convention

With an expected attendance of 125,000, planning for the 2012 DNC began more than a year in advance. NCEM helped to register and track thousands of first responders, law enforcement and emergency managers that worked in support of the event. A five-section hub in Mecklenburg County coordinated security, emergency response and infrastructure protection activities for the national security event. The SEOC activated to provide resources as needed. ~ September 1-7
North Carolinians joined 1.8 million people from Maryland to Georgia as they participated in the region’s first earthquake drill. More than 124,000 people in NC practiced “Drop, Cover and Hold On!”

~ October 18
Dynamite Truck Overturns on Interstate

A truck overturned with 22,000 lbs of dynamite on Interstate-85. RRT-5 provided technical support, while local officials secured the scene and closed the interstate for several hours as a safety precaution. Nearby homes and businesses were evacuated. ~ October 22
Hurricane Sandy

Hurricane Sandy meandered along the NC coast before making landfall in NJ. For NC, Sandy’s impacts were largely confined to Dare County. Three people died in NC, 30,000 were left without power and 40 people sought refuge in shelters.

~ October 27-31
Catawba Nuclear Drill

NCEM, SCEMD, York (SC), Mecklenburg and Gaston counties, Duke Energy and various SERT partners tested their coordinated response to a nuclear event as part of the required biennial fixed nuclear facility exercise. NCEM demonstrated response to a nuclear event while also responding to Hurricane Sandy. ~ October 30
Using $225,000 in hazard mitigation funds, NCEM installed flood gauges in 8 locations along streams and sounds. The gauges help emergency managers monitor stream and riverine flood levels.
Regional Hazardous Materials Study

NCEM continued analyzing and mapping potential impacts along hazardous materials transportation routes. In 2012, planning staff analyzed domestic preparedness regions 8 and 9 and completed the fourth year of the study. Analysis for seven of the nine regions has now been completed.
Audit of Homeland Security Grant Program

Auditors from the DHS Office of Inspector General spent five months conducting a detailed audit of expenditures, processes, procedures, plans, investment justifications, risk assessments and more related to the Homeland Security Grant program. The OIG is conducting detailed audits of DHS grant programs for each state.
The 18-member SERC met quarterly to review, assess, plan and implement projects and procedures to protect the state’s citizens and environment through effective emergency planning. The commission discussed cyber security, health issues, DNC preparations, local capabilities and needs, legislative changes and requirements, storm recovery progress, and local/state preparedness.
NCEM staff worked with county emergency managers to expand local capabilities. Using Homeland Security grants, staff secured light towers, generators, message boards and equipment to support the VIPER system.
THIRA

Submitted the first newly-required FEMA Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Analysis document. The multi-disciplined team from several local and state agencies analyzed North Carolina’s leading threats and hazards.
Joining the NCEM Community

Alex Auten  Raheem Batts  George Bernard  Aaron Brown  Bob Boyd  Neil Coles

Cooper Hancock  Brenda Morris  Cherelle James  Ronnie Spivey  Philip Triplett  Charles Tripp

Marci Williams
Saying Goodbye

Raham Batts  Christine Brennan  Rick Boettinger

Mike Cline  Larry Dale  Frank Davis

Bill Dowling  Vickie Durham  Chris Gwin

Meaghan Honnold  Carole Ingram  Tim Johnson

Ed Koch  Donna Latimer  Deborah Miller

Don Moye  Yaitza Pabellon  Bettye Poole

Jennifer Robinson  David Skordinski  Steve Sloan

Rachel Tovey  Nicole Wickenhofer

Eddie Williams  John Yarboro  Emily Young