

2014

In case you missed it ...

N.C. Emergency Management

NCEM Responds to Winter Storms, Tornadoes, Other Threats to Public Safety

The State Emergency Response Team (SERT) activated to respond to winter storms that swept through the state January 21, January 28 and February 11. The multiple back-to-back snow and ice storms downed trees, caused power outages and prompted hundreds of vehicle accidents around the state.

Winter storms struck again March 6-7 when 3 – 9 inches of snow, combined with up to a half inch of ice knocked out power to nearly 500,000 customers statewide. The biggest impacts were felt in the Triad where two people died and power was knocked out to the vast majority of several counties for a few days. Federal financial

assistance helped counties and electric co-ops recoup some of their costs to restore power, remove debris and repair damaged facilities.

Tornadoes raged through eastern North Carolina April 25 killing one person, injuring 24 others and damaging more than 300 homes in Beaufort, Perquimans, Pasquotank and Chowan counties. State and federal aid helped 110 residents recover from the EF2 and EF3 tornadoes. Hurricane Arthur surprised many holiday goers as the earliest named hurricane in more than a century brushed ashore July 3 near Morehead City. The SERT activated to respond to the storm which knocked out power to more than 44,000+ people. Fortunately, there were no casualties and minimal damage.

Continued ▶



Storm damage assessments were reported from on the scene to ensure expedited responses.



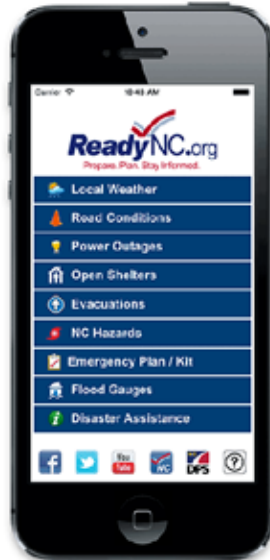
Emergency Management personnel receive extensive training. Those who may be called on for news media interviews and other TV appearances get to practice being in front of a live camera.

The division partnered with other local, state and federal agencies to coordinate response to the influx of unaccompanied immigrant children from central America, as well as prepare the state for a potential outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus. Additionally, NCEM worked with local, state and federal environmental and emergency management agencies to respond to a coal ash spill into the Dan River from a retired steam station in Eden.

NCEM Uses Technology to Better Prepare State for Emergencies

▲ Launched the ReadyNC mobile application to help residents and visitors prepare daily for everything from minor traffic emergencies to severe storms. The all-in-one emergency preparedness tool provides the latest weather, traffic, shelter and evacuation information and provides safety tips for typical North Carolina hazards. More than 40,000 users have downloaded the free app which is available for iPhones and Android devices.

▲ Created a web-based planning application and template to help dam owners create and update a federally compliant safety plan. The Emergency Action Plans will be posted in a secure statewide repository so that local and state emergency management staff and dam safety engineers



can easily access the in the event of a dam leak or failure.

▲ Updated the ReadyNC.org website to enhance accessibility for individuals with developmental disabilities by improving readability and simplifying the structure and language. A new Spanish version of the website was created to reach the state's growing Latino population.

NCEM Leads Emergency Preparedness Plans and Disaster Training

NCEM began a four-year program to identify and prioritize action items needed to better prepare people with intellectual and developmental disabilities for emergencies. More than 100 emergency management planners, first responders, state agencies and advocacy organizations partnered to develop a technical plan that outlined strategies to improve policies and plans, expand partnerships, enhance community awareness, develop specific tools or products and implement training for responders and support professional.

Effective training gives first responders, emergency managers and law enforcement officers the opportunity to develop, sharpen and practice those essential skills that are needed during disaster response and recovery. North Carolina Emergency Management sponsored 338 classes that trained more than 7,378 fire, rescue, law enforcement and emergency management personnel and community leaders during 2014 on how to respond to various types of crises. Courses included: disaster response and recovery; managing debris after disasters; handling mass fatalities; assessing damages from disasters; mass shootings and response and many others. ▲

Gov. Pat McCrory, right, joined DPS Secretary Frank L. Perry and Emergency Management Director Mike Sprayberry on a tour of widespread tornado damage in north-eastern North Carolina in April.

