



MEMO



N O R T H C A R O L I N A D I V I S I O N O F
E M E R G E N C Y M A N A G E M E N T

Baptist Men: Ready To Serve

For a quarter of a century, the North Carolina Baptist Men Disaster Relief ministry has helped people recover from major disasters in North Carolina, other states and around the world. Ten thousand volunteers with the organization have served more than 4.2 million hot meals and repaired more than 15,000 homes to help individuals and families get back on their feet after tornados, hurricanes, floods or other events.

The Texas Baptist Conference started the disaster relief ministry in 1979 to relieve human suffering after disasters by providing hot meals, helping remove debris, and providing child care and other types of family assistance. Soon, the Southern Baptist Convention made it a priority for all of its members to develop a disaster relief ministry. As a member, North Carolina Baptist Men took the Texas model, expanded it and created its own version. In 1984, the ministry responded to its first disaster, the Red Springs tornado.

If a Hurricane Katrina-type disaster struck North Carolina, Baptist Men has enough equipment, stock and manpower to prepare about 70,000 meals per day.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Search at Biltmore	Pg 3
TERMS overview	Pg 4
Hazmat Exercise	Pg 4
Earthquake Seminar	Pg 4
CERT training	Pg 5
SERT meeting	Pg 5
NCEMA Conference	Pg 5

“Long term response and recovery has always been good with us,” says Lin Honeycutt, Baptist Men’s Region 4 Coordinator.

Providing meals and rebuilding homes is only a small part of what this ministry provides. They also provide damage assessments, communications, search and rescue, logistics, laundry services, child care and chaplaincy support. The disaster relief ministry is one of 14 ministries within the organization that is dedicated to helping people in need. Since its first response, the disaster relief program has responded to more than 1,160 different disasters.

In 2009, the ministry responded to the tornadoes that affected residents in Johnston and Wilson counties. Baptist Men had 83 volunteers that completed 12 tasks for residents that ranged from installing tarps to protect homeowner’s property to using chainsaws to remove tree debris. In addition, volunteer chaplains were available to provide emotional and spiritual support.



Volunteers feed participants during a search and rescue training exercise in Aug. 2009.

But North Carolina Baptist Men doesn’t just help those in North Carolina. They also provide assistance to people in other states, as well as overseas.

Volunteers spent a month last year in Stanford, Smithland and Salem, Kentucky helping victims from the ice storms. In one community, Baptist Men provided hot showers to 400 people without water due to frozen and burst pipes. The group also traveled last year to the Philippines to help residents recover from floods and to Indonesia to help recover from the earthquake. The ministry sent a medical team that assisted 748 patients during six days in the Manila area. And a search and rescue team was sent to offer support in Padang, Indonesia.

Baptist Men continued

To provide such quality support, volunteers participate in regular training and are recertified in the area they plan to work when volunteering during a disaster. If a volunteer helps victims by repairing roofs on homes, then the volunteer undergoes recertification on reroofing techniques.

Recently, a refresher training course was held in Harnett County. Volunteers reviewed policies and procedures and refreshed on response techniques in the areas they would serve after a disaster. The recertification class was also used to bring volunteers up to speed with expired NCBM identification badges.

Nearly 400 volunteers participated in the March training. On average, the ministry hosts five trainings per year to prepare new volunteers for ministry work and to ensure skill sets are maintained by existing volunteers.

“The state is divided into 10 regions. We train even number regions in the even years and odd number regions in the odd years,” says Honeycutt.

The ministry works closely with American Red Cross, The Salvation Army and North Carolina Emergency Management in training, exercise and actual disaster response.

Honeycutt adds that Baptist Men wants the relationship with its partners to continue to grow and improve because when disasters happen, this very relationship goes a long way in helping people.

In fact, Baptist Men has partnered with N.C. Emergency Management in the Point of Distribution program by training volunteers to staff POD sites that will distribute commodities such as food, water, blankets, ice and tarps following a disaster.

“The Baptist Men stood up and said they wanted to help more during disasters requiring state response,” said Glenn Wisbey, the lead contact for the state’s POD program. “The division is thankful to have Baptist Men’s willingness and support.”

“Baptist Men is an important asset to our state’s preparedness and response for emergencies. We know we can count on them and they always provide high level support.” said Warren Moore, NCEM Human Service manager.

Motivation behind the group’s disaster relief ministry comes from the teachings of Jesus. Members site the Bible passage that reads, “For I was hunger and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Then the righteous will answer him, Lord when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in person and go to visit you? The King will reply, I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me,” (*Matthew 25:35-40 NIV*).

Their mission is best summarized on their website, “The Disaster Relief ministry is Christian love in action where as there is neither a hidden agenda nor ulterior motive.”



Volunteers recertify on reroofing techniques at a March 6 training in Carteret County.



The N.C. Baptist Men use fully-equipped response trailers, such as the one above, when responding to disasters. More than 250 trailers are equipped with chain saws, generators, tarps, roofing materials, shovels, wet/dry vacuum pumps and more.

Search and Rescue Teams Test Skills at Biltmore

Sitting in the woods overlooking the mountainous terrain, two buddies enjoyed a day of hiking and fishing. After a long day trekking from one fishing hole to the next, the two realized their location was not what they thought. The fishermen searched for hours for a familiar tree, trail or landmark in the dense forest, eventually admitting that they were lost. So, they decided to hunker down and wait in hope of being rescued.

The fishermen were not intentionally lost but were purposely misplaced as part of a large search and rescue exercise.



Two lost fishermen wait to found with exercise evaluator (right).

The exercise took place in a three square mile area of the Biltmore Estate forest in Asheville March 24 – 27. The men’s sole responsibility for the exercise was to be lost - and stay lost - until a member of the search and rescue team discovered them. More than 300 individuals from more than 50 state and local agencies participated in the training. Search teams from as far away as West Virginia and South Carolina also participated in the event.

“The Search at Biltmore 2010 exercise provided emergency personnel the opportunity to learn and practice life safety skills in a low-stress environment in preparation for a real event,” said Angela Ledford, Planner with Buncombe County Emergency Services.

While the primary goal of the exercise was to find the missing fishermen, it also provided participants an opportunity to practice using the incident management team concept for responding to emergencies.

“Since leadership teams rotated every 12 hours, entirely new participants had ample opportunities to practice different roles,” said Timm Denning, NCEM Search and Rescue Coordinator. “It allowed first responders to practice search and rescue tactics they don’t have a chance to use every day.”

Crews used various resources including search dogs, all-terrain vehicles and the State Highway Patrol’s helicopter fully equipped with infrared technology for night searches.

“We saw great cooperation and communication among and across multiple agencies throughout the exercise,” said Denning.

The Biltmore exercise is one of two large scale exercises conducted annually to strengthen the program’s response effectiveness and efficiency.



Steve Winn and Ella-Mae, of Rutherford’s K-9 team, prepare for a ground search.

TERMS Will Make Training Easier for Everyone

The N.C. Division of Emergency Management will soon launch a new web-based training portal for anyone who takes courses offered through the division. Known as TERMS, for Training and Exercise Registration Management System, the new portal will serve as the central housing and management system for all emergency management training courses. TERMS also will serve as the framework for the state's credentialing program, house course records online, and improve access to courses for potential students.

From the student's perspective, the new system offers several benefits. First, students will be able to register online for courses rather than filling out hand-written applications and faxing them to the division. Second, students will be able to check class schedules more easily because calendar listings can be sorted according to the student's interest. Since certificates of completion for courses also will be archived online, students can print certifications for current or past courses at their convenience. Finally, the web-based capability will allow students to submit course evaluations online, receive notifications of new training opportunities, and view a current transcript of all courses taken.

TERMS will offer benefits and efficiencies to others, as well. Agency management can track course completion/attendance status of their employees rather than calling the assigned training officers. And for the NCEM training staff, TERMS will provide tools to calculate the costs of a particular course, number of students trained and the discipline of students trained. In addition, the new system will organize training information for the three NCEM branches, nine domestic preparedness regions, as well as all counties and municipalities.

The final testing phase is currently underway. NCEM officials expect to launch the new TERMS application in May.

For more information, contact Mike Cline at 919-715-9726 or mccline@ncem.org.

NCEM to Host Two-part Hazmat Exercise

N.C. Emergency Management will host and participate in two exercises to provide hands-on experience for emergency personnel responding to a hazardous material spill on the railroad.

A tabletop exercise will be held April 14 to discuss plans for dealing with either a train derailment or other similar unusual occurrence. This discussion-based exercise will be held at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College's Enka Campus from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A two-day full-scale exercise will be held May 12 – 13 on a portion of the Norfolk Southern Railroad near Asheville. This hands-on exercise will consist of classes that review critical train components such as the non pressure cargo tank, high pressure cargo tank, locomotive and other types of rail cars. Participants will learn how to respond to each type of car and will practice demonstrating lessons learned in the classroom.

The two-part class is offered through the TRANSCAER program which stands for transportation community awareness and emergency response. TRANSCAER is a voluntary national outreach effort that helps communities prepare for and respond to a possible hazardous material transportation incident. Members of TRANSCAER consist of volunteer representatives from the chemical manufacturing, transportation, distribution and emergency response industries, as well as government.

For more information, contact Chris Rose, NCEM's Regional Response Team coordinator at 919-715-0465 or crose@ncem.org.

Hazard Mitigation To Hold Earthquake Seminars

The division's Hazard Mitigation Section will host half-day seminars in April to explore the risks posed by earthquake hazards in North Carolina and provide simple, non-structural retrofitting techniques that can help protect life and property. The course also will involve a hands-on building walk through to identify risks that could potentially be mitigated.

The course will be offered April 13 in Sylva, April 14 in Boone, and April 15 in Charlotte. The seminars are designed for emergency managers, planners and staff of critical facilities such as schools and hospitals.

For more information, contact Joyce Holley at 919-715-9763 or jholley@ncem.org.

CERT Training Offered

The Community Emergency Response Team program will conduct two trainings April 26 – 30, in Shelby. The basic CERT class will be held April 26 – 28 and the CERT Train-the-Trainer class will be held April 28 - 30.

The basic CERT class includes 21 hours of instruction designed to teach community residents how to be self-sufficient in taking care of themselves and fellow neighbors until first responders arrive. The CERT Train-the-Trainer class will prepare those same students to be instructors to teach future basic CERT classes to groups wanting to form their own CERT team. Both classes will be held at Cleveland County Community College. Registration deadline is April 12.

For more information, contact Patty Moore, CERT Program Manager at 919-733-6327 or pmoore@ncem.org.

SERT Practices Response to Nuclear Incident

North Carolina State Emergency Response Team members participated in the Catawba Nuclear Power plant drill on March 9. The federally mandated and graded exercise is required every two years to test response procedures to protect life and property from radiation during an accidental release.

Although the Catawba station is located in South Carolina, North Carolina's Mecklenburg and Gaston counties fall within the ten mile emergency protection zone which requires SERT to support South Carolina by coordinating our response activities with our neighboring state. NCEM is currently waiting final reports from federal evaluators.

For more information, contact Steve Payne at 919-715-0170 or spayne@ncem.org.

NCEMA Spring Conference Review

The North Carolina Emergency Management Association held its spring 2010 All-Hazards Conference March 14-19 to provide emergency management personnel from across the state the ability to meet each other and discuss current issues, trends and concerns.

More than 300 individuals attended some of the 30 sessions. Meeting topics included the process for requesting state resources; tropical weather report given by National Weather Service; and regional responses in North Carolina given by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

SERC To Meet

The State Emergency Response Commission will meet April 16 from 9 a.m. to noon in downtown Raleigh to discuss the homeland security grant program, SARA Title III, Tier II reporting and many other topics. Anyone with an interest on emergency preparedness is invited to attend.

For more information, contact John Yarboro at 919-715-8000 ext 340 or jyarboro@ncem.org.



4713 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4713

Questions and Comments can be directed to:

Cory Grier, Public Affairs Section
919-733-3824 Email: cgrier@ncem.org

"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.