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# Palmetto Review



A Publication of the South Carolina Emergency Management Division

**21 Number 2**



# Volume 21 Number 2

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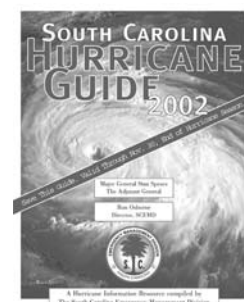
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# “Meeting the Challenges”: 2002 Hurricane/Emergency Management Conference

**Joe Farmer**  
SCEMD

The 2002 South Carolina Hurricane/Emergency Management Conference attracted more than 400 professionals from state, federal and local governments, volunteer organizations, private industry and other groups with an interest in or responsibilities related to emergency management. It was the largest conference ever sponsored by the Emergency Management Division.

The conference was held March 18-20 at Kiawah Island at the Kiawah Island Resort. The event marked the first time the Division combined its hurricane and all-hazard emergency management conferences.

"It was quite a success," said Division Director Ron Osborne, who praised contributions of EMD staff members and noted the many favorable comments he received from participants.

The theme of this year's event was "Meeting The Challenges." It emphasized hurricane preparedness and the preventive planning essential to safeguarding lives and property in South Carolina, but also focused on two other tracks: terrorism and multi-hazard planning, to include dam safety and earthquake vulnerability. Sessions ranged from "Hurricane Hunter Operations" to "Cyber Terrorism" to "Earthquake Assessment Overview."

"Emergency management is more important now in this country than ever before," Adjutant General Stan Spears said in a speech to the conference in reference to "the terrible events of Sept. 11." It is noteworthy that the National Guard is at work both on the home front and overseas. Hundreds of members of both the Air and Army Guard are on Federal duty, including combat operations overseas. On the home front, Guard members are helping to provide security at airports in South Carolina and they are providing security at mission-essential facilities."

Another highlight of the conference was a presentation by Assistant New York Fire Chief Frank Cruthers, incident commander at the World Trade Center from shortly after the collapse of the buildings on Sept. 11 through Oct. 16. In another presentation also related to Sep. 11, two South Carolina residents who helped in recovery efforts in New York discussed their experiences: Cotton Howell, director of the York County Office of Emergency Management, and Diane Green, disaster specialist with the American Red Cross.



*Major General Siegfried and Major General Spears at the 2002 Hurricane/Emergency Management Conference.*

Kenneth O. Burris Jr., recently appointed director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Region IV, updated the conference on FEMA issues.

Other presenters included:

- ◆ Major General (Retired) R.S. "Steve" Siegfried, S.C. Director of Homeland Security;
- ◆ William G. Massey, Hurricane Program Manager, FEMA Region IV;
- ◆ Dean P. Gulezian, Director, National Weather Service, Eastern Region;
- ◆ Frank Calcagno, Senior Engineering Geologist for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; and
- ◆ Ivan Wong, Senior Consulting Seismologist with URS Corp., which recently completed a study of South Carolina earthquake vulnerability.

The conference also included 23 exhibitors and four sponsors who displayed a wide range of products and services, from safety equipment to debris removal services to GIS equipment and software.



*Deputy Adjutant General State Operations John Shuler addresses the conference during one of the lunches.*



*A view of just a couple of the twenty-seven exhibitors and sponsors at the conference.*



*Major General Siegfried, Scott Singer, and Diane Green sit after General Siegfried presented the Governor's Proclamation to the American Red Cross.*

# South Carolina Drought



## S.C. Drought Emergency Response Committee

South Carolina is seeing no relief from drought.

Precipitation reports indicate that 2001 was the second driest year on record in South Carolina since 1895, bringing the statewide rainfall deficit since June 1998 to more than 30 inches. Little or no relief is in sight as the drought pattern continues in 2002.

Winter precipitation intermittently improved moisture levels in the upper level of the soil, but had minimal impact on the long-term hydrological deficit.

As of March 27, streamflows across the Palmetto State were very low, running at or less than 10 percent of their normal flow for this time of year. In early 2002, 63 percent of all monitored streams reached record low flows. Some groundwater levels are continuing to decline. There are numerous reports of private ponds and wells going dry, many of which are used for private drinking water supplies and irrigation. The hydrologic-drought has wreaked havoc on the tourism industry with devastating losses to many lake-related businesses and golf courses.

According to the S.C. Forestry Commission, the drought has significantly contributed to the southern pine beetle epidemic. Trees weakened by drought are more susceptible to the tree-killing beetles. Timber losses due to beetles totaled \$9.5 million in 1999, \$40.7 million in 2000, \$76 million in 2001, and \$12 million from January to March 2002. Millions also have been lost due to pine tree root disease.

The drought caused a significant reduction in forest growth. The Forestry Commission reported that for trees planted during 2000, the survival rate was 25 percent less than expected.

The drought has significantly increased wildfire activity. Wildfire occurrence from July 1, 2001, through March 31, 2002, has already exceeded the average number of fires expected in a normal fiscal year. Drought and a reduction in the number of available fire fighters due to budget cuts significantly contributed to a 30 percent increase in fire size. The prolonged drought has increased the burning of large fuels. Residual smoke from these burning, heavy fuels caused 12 highway accidents and six fatalities from January to March 2002.

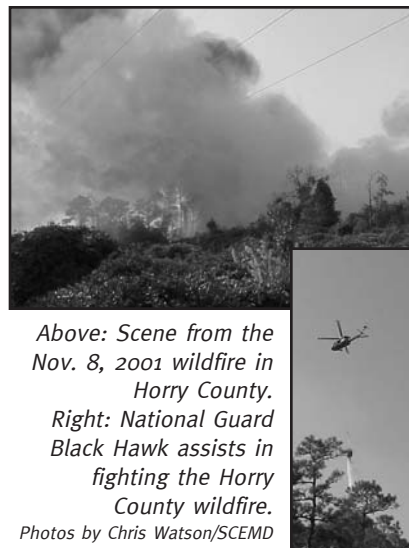
The largest fire since July 2001 was a 1,911-acre blaze in Horry County in November. South Carolina received a Federal Emergency Management Agency Fire Management Assistance Grant for the fire.

Drought has adversely impacted agriculture throughout the state over the past four years. These impacts range from limited water for livestock, reduced feed crops, and lowered crop quality, to total loss of crops in some areas. Since 1998, a natural disaster has been declared for most of South Carolina's 46 counties by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture each year due to drought. Dillon and Horry counties were excluded from the declaration in 2000 and 2001. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) crop disaster program payments totaled \$25 million in 1998, \$35 million in 1999, and \$30 million in 2000. The FSA payments and loans don't account for all agricultural losses. According to Hal Harris, professor of agriculture and applied economics at Clemson University, farm losses over the past three years will probably approach \$1 billion.

Despite the persistence of the drought, most major water systems have averted public supply shortages through long-range planning and implementation of local drought ordinances. Those water systems requesting voluntary water conservation by their customers experienced a 15 to 20 percent demand reduction, which in most cases prevented the need for stricter mandatory restrictions. Some systems, dependent on limited groundwater

wells or small reservoirs, had to enforce stricter mandatory water use restrictions. Many water systems have seen the need to secure alternative sources to ensure an adequate water supply for customers. The South Carolina State Water Plan encourages regionalized water systems to adequately manage the water supply, especially during periods of drought.

*South Carolina State Climate Office  
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources*



*Above: Scene from the Nov. 8, 2001 wildfire in Horry County.  
Right: National Guard Black Hawk assists in fighting the Horry County wildfire.*

*Photos by Chris Watson/SCEMD*

# HAZMAT Matters



Chapel Leadingham  
SCEMD

## State Emergency Response Commission

An Executive Order was issued on Nov. 16, continuing the existence of the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC). The SERC has been actively meeting and developing strategies to foster proactive planning to protect South Carolinians from the consequences of hazardous materials incidents. Minutes from SERC meetings are available on the SCEMD website, [www.scemd.org](http://www.scemd.org), at "What's New."

## SCEMD Website Links

The SCEMD website links to a copy of Executive Order 2001-41, the South Carolina EPCRA Reporting- Superfund Amendments & Reauthorization Act (SARA), Title III, Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act Handbook, and the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Handbook. The publications can be found at [www.scemd.org](http://www.scemd.org) under "Library." The EPCRA handbook is currently being updated and the new version will be placed on the website as soon as it is complete.

## Local Governments Reimbursement Program

The Local Governments Reimbursement Program (LGR) is available through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for local governments to recover costs for emergency response to hazardous substances releases. The USEPA can reimburse local governments up to \$25,000 per incident. Only costs incurred as a direct result of the response are allowable, and the local govern-

ment must certify that it did not have funds in its budget for the costs incurred. For more information on this program, call the LGR Helpline at 1-800-431-9209 or contact Chapel Leadingham, HAZMAT Program/Response Coordinator.

## Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Information

The LEPC Information Exchange Newsletter is a volunteer resource that helps promote the exchange of information to, from and among LEPCs nationwide. The goals are to:

- ◆ Allow LEPCs to learn what other LEPCs are doing nationwide;
- ◆ Provide LEPCs with outreach ideas and contact information; and
- ◆ Provide LEPCs with information about recent regulatory updates, conferences and training opportunities.

For more information on the LEPC exchange and to begin receiving copies of the newsletter via email, go to [www.lepcinfoexchange.com](http://www.lepcinfoexchange.com) on the web.

## SCEMD Contact Information

The HAZMAT Program/Response Coordinator for the SCEMD is Chapel Leadingham, and she can be reached at (803) 737-8500 or at [cleadin@emd.state.sc.us](mailto:cleadin@emd.state.sc.us), if you have any questions about any of the above programs or publications.



# Planning Should Include Insurance Check



Allison Dean Wright

The South Carolina Insurance News Service

Most people don't think about their insurance until after a disaster. It's vitally important the public consider insurance needs when planning for disasters.

The South Carolina Insurance News Service is a non-profit organization, funded by insurance companies and other organizations doing business in South Carolina, which provides insurance information to consumers and the media. Since insurance can be a difficult topic to understand, the South Carolina Insurance News Service is focused on educating consumers about a variety of property and casualty issues.

The South Carolina Insurance News Service recommends at least four major items be on a homeowner's disaster planning list:

1. Review your insurance coverage with your agent or company and make sure you know what your policy covers. Write down basic insurance information, such as the name and phone number of your agent, your policy number and insurance claims phone number and keep it with you if you evacuate.
2. Ask your agent or company what you can do to reduce the severity of a loss, such as installing hurricane shutters, in order to protect your home and valuable personal belongings.
3. Update your household inventory. Would you be able to remember all the possessions you've accumulated over the years if they were destroyed by a fire? Having an up-to-date home inventory will help you get your insurance claim settled faster, verify losses for your income tax return and help you purchase the correct amount of insurance. Make a list, take pictures, videotape or you're a personal computer to log your personal belongings and store the inventory in a safe place outside your home.
4. Check to see how your insurance will handle damaged, stolen or destroyed items. Does your policy provide replacement cost coverage or actual cash value? Full replacement coverage is preferable.

Coastal residents need to remember that you can't buy homeowner/renter's insurance after a hurricane watch or warning has been issued. In addition, they may need as many as four separate insurance policies to protect their home and property:

## 1. **Standard homeowner insurance policy** (or renter's insurance policy)

A standard homeowner's insurance policy includes four essential types of coverage. They include:

- ◆ Coverage for the structure of your home.
- ◆ Coverage for your personal belongings.
- ◆ Liability protection.
- ◆ Additional living expenses in the event you are temporarily unable to live in your home because of a fire or other insured disaster.

## 2. **Flood insurance**

Flood insurance is NOT part of most homeowner, mobile home or rental insurance policies. You must buy separate flood coverage and there is a waiting period of 30 days.

## 3. **Wind/Hail insurance**

If your homeowner's insurance does not have wind/hail coverage, you will need to purchase separate coverage which has a waiting period of 15 days.

## 4. **Earthquake insurance**

◆ Most homeowner and rental insurance policies DO NOT cover damage caused by an earthquake, but coverage can be added to most policies as an "endorsement," for an additional cost.

◆ Even in earthquake prone areas, only 25-28% of homeowners have earthquake insurance.

◆ Earthquake deductibles are set as percentages, i.e. 5% or 10% of the coverage amount rather than fixed dollar amounts. The earthquake deductibles apply separately from your basic homeowner's (and business) policy deductible.

◆ Most people don't buy earthquake insurance because they think it's too expensive and an earthquake will never happen to them, but in South Carolina, the entire state is considered to have a moderate to high risk for earthquakes.

◆ Without earthquake insurance, all of the losses to your home and possessions would have to be financed by yourself or by relying on the federal government for assistance.

For more information, call the South Carolina Insurance News Service at 803-252-3455, e-mail [awright@scinsnews.com](mailto:awright@scinsnews.com), or visit their web site at <http://www.scinsnews.com>

# SERT Participates in Hurricane Tabletop Exercise



**Chris Watson**  
SCEMD

The South Carolina State Emergency Response Team (SERT) participated in a hurricane tabletop exercise hosted by the Emergency Management Division in the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) at the Pine Ridge Armory on March 14, 2002. The primary purpose of the exercise was for the SERT members to discuss the Evacuation Decision-Making Timeline and factors leading to voluntary and mandatory evacuation orders. They also discussed the process of deciding whether to implement lane-reversal procedures on Interstate 26 and counter-flow operations on U.S. 17 in Georgetown County and Highway 278 in Beaufort County. Evacuation counter-flow operations include reversing one inbound lane of a four-lane road, leaving one inbound flowing lane for emergency traffic.

Participants reviewed the differences in voluntary and mandatory evacuations, as outlined in the SC Hurricane Plan. A voluntary evacuation is issued by the Governor, recommending that persons feeling uncomfortable about an approaching storm leave the area. During a voluntary evacuation, voluntary evacuation shelters are opened. A mandatory evacuation requires that all persons must leave the affected area. The Governor is the only person legally authorized to order and compel a hurri-



*Ron Osborne, SCEMD Director, addresses the State Emergency Response Team during the Hurricane Tabletop Exercise on March 14, 2002 at the State Emergency Operations Center in Pine Ridge, SC.*

cane evacuation in South Carolina. This order is usually made upon recommendation of the local officials and the Director of SCEMD. When a mandatory evacuation order is issued, mandatory evacuation shelters are opened.

Finally, participants discussed potential problems and procedural differences expected as a result of a short-notice hurricane threat. A short-notice hurricane is defined as a storm that develops within 24 to 48 hours of landfall on the state's coast. The current evacuation timeline assumes at least 96 hours of warning prior to storm landfall. Several storms have impacted the South Carolina coast with less than 96 hours of warning, some of which developed from smaller storms in the Atlantic Ocean in areas nearer to the South Carolina, Georgia, or Florida coasts, or in the Gulf of Mexico.

This Hurricane Tabletop Exercise was designed to prepare the SERT for the hurricane portion of the State Exercise scheduled for June 5, 2002. Prior to the hurricane tabletop, several smaller tabletop exercises were conducted for ESF participation, primarily to allow participants to review plans and procedures and to assist in training new team members.



## SCEMD Publishes New Hurricane Brochures

SCEMD has published a new hurricane brochure offering basic information about hurricanes to South Carolinians. This publication includes:

- ◆ Storm Stages
- ◆ Storm Surge Effects
- ◆ What to do Before, During, and After
- ◆ Mitigation Information
- ◆ Useful Item Checklist

The brochure is currently available on the SCEMD website: [www.scmd.org](http://www.scmd.org)



# 2002 Statewide Exercise



John Berzins  
SCEMD

On June 5, people driving on Interstate 26 between Charleston and Columbia or on US-278 in Beaufort County saw a flurry of activity as Highway Patrol troopers manned traffic control points at every intersection and South Carolina Department of Transportation personnel deployed traffic cones and barriers along the shoulders of both highways. Twelve aircraft flew overhead monitoring the activity. This was just part of the 2002 Statewide Exercise and was intended to simulate a Governor-directed reversal of the eastbound lanes of I-26 and counter-flow operations on one eastbound lane of US-278. The scenario used for this part of the exercise was an approaching hurricane that prompted the Governor to order a mandatory evacuation of the coast. More than 125 Highway Patrol personnel from all parts of the State participated in the simulated lane reversal operations. Georgetown County also conducted an exercise to determine time required to deploy traffic cones over a two-mile stretch of highway, if counter-flow operations are ever ordered for US-17. The hurricane scenario ended that afternoon as Hurricane Vicki turned out to sea and no longer posed a threat to the South Carolina coast.

On June 6, a simulated 7.3 magnitude earthquake centered in the vicinity of Hanahan disrupted all landline communications in counties east and south of Columbia. When the SEOC became operational at 8:30 a.m., the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) found the only communications they had with the affected counties were HF radio being operated by RACES operators, the Local Government radio, 800 MHz radios operated in the direct mode (without repeaters), and satellite radio/phones. The State Assessment Team was dispatched to Richland County (simulated to be near the epicenter) riding in National Guard Humvees. As soon as they were able to gather information, they transmitted their reports to the SEOC using satellite radios. Shortly before 9:30 a.m., the lights in the SEOC went out as commercial power was simulated lost to the building. The "power outage" was caused by a simulated 6.3 magnitude earthquake centered a few miles west of Union that also knocked out simulated landline communications with the rest of the counties in the State. Needless to say, reports from the counties were infrequent and sketchy. At approximately 11:30 a.m., Emergency Communications Network phones to all participating counties were declared operational. At 12:30 p.m., the exercise scenario had a 72-hour time jump and the exercise play shifted to more long-term issues and requests for assistance from Federal Emergency Management Agency and other states. The

exercise finished up with a return to the days of paper messages when the IRIS server was brought down and the SEOC staff was forced to revert to manually processing messages and requests.

Fourteen counties participated in the hurricane portion of the exercise and 15 counties participated during the second day. The exercise marked a number of "firsts".

- ◆ This was the first time the Highway Patrol simultaneously manned I-26 lane reversal and US-278 counter-flow operations.

- ◆ The 19 aircraft missions (12 Civil Air Patrol, 3 Forestry, 2 SLED, and 2 Anderson Sheriff's Department) were the most ever flown during an exercise.

- ◆ This was the first test of the Earthquake Appendix to the Emergency Operations Plan.

- ◆ HF radios operated by RACES operators had never been used this extensively for an exercise.

- ◆ This was the first time a statewide exercise had been conducted with extensive communications outages.

- ◆ Two simulated Search and Rescue missions (one in Calhoun County and one in Pickens County) were flown by Anderson Sheriff's Department personnel.

- ◆ The entire ESF-14, Donated Goods and Volunteer Services system was exercised for the first time. This included the call-in center, two Welcome Centers, an ESF-14 cell at the SEOC, use of the new Donated Goods module in IRIS, and simulated opening of warehouses by the Seventh Day Adventists.

Overall, the exercise was deemed a success by participants. It validated the various plans and procedures that were listed in the exercise objectives. It provided an opportunity for SERT members to re-familiarize themselves with the SEOC and the SEOC Standard Operating Procedures and an opportunity to train new SERT members. And although, the SERT "won the battle," the exercise uncovered many areas that need additional planning and coordination. But that is one of the major outcomes of any successful exercise.



# Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Shawn Putnam  
SCEMD

Disasters continue to cause millions of dollars in damage across the county. In an effort to reduce the cycle of repetitive disaster damage, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides funding to state and local governments and private non-profits for mitigation projects after a federal disaster declaration. The key purpose of the HMGP is to ensure that the opportunity to implement mitigation measures is not lost during the recovery and reconstruction process following a disaster.

Funding for the HMGP is based on 15 percent of the total federal disaster assistance. For example, South Carolina received \$6.5 million in HMGP funds for Hurricane Floyd and \$1.3 million for the 2000 Winter Storm. All of those funds have been obligated and are not available. Individual projects under the HMGP are funded on a 75 percent federal, 25 percent non-federal cost-share basis. The non-federal share can be met with cash or in-kind services.

The HMGP can fund a wide variety of mitigation projects to help protect your community. Here is a brief list of some of the examples of mitigation projects funded in South Carolina.

- ◆ Acquisition projects involve purchasing and removing a structure from a hazard-prone area. The land is cleared and returned to open space, thereby eliminating the risk of future damage. One-hundred homes that flooded during Hurricane Floyd were acquired using HMGP funds.

- ◆ Retrofit projects involve modifying existing buildings to make them more disaster resistant. Buildings can be retrofitted to protect against high winds, floodwaters, wildfires, earthquakes and other natural hazards. In South Carolina many communities

were approved to install hurricane shutters or protective window film to protect public facilities.

- ◆ Minor flood control projects reduce the chance of flooding in a community. Examples of these types of projects include floodwalls, culvert enlargements, and retention ponds. Several communities have projects underway to increase stormwater system capacity in residential neighborhoods to reduce future risks of flooding.

- ◆ Mitigation plans and studies are also eligible. The recently completed Seismic Risk And Vulnerability Study was funded through the HMGP, as well as the Hurricane Evacuation Restudy. Funds can also be used for mitigation plans to meet the new planning requirements.

- ◆ Funds can be used to improve warning systems. SCEMD is using HMGP funds to expand coverage of the NOAA weather network and to provide each county emergency management office with an EMWIN station.

Since we generally have little or no warning before a disaster strikes, planning mitigation projects ahead of time is important to reducing the effects of hazards. Completing a hazard mitigation plan can help identify community hazards and vulnerability, and can help determine what can be done to reduce or eliminate the effects of those hazards. It is important to note that pursuant to 44 CFR 201, a mitigation plan approved by FEMA will be needed in order to remain eligible for HMGP funding after Nov. 1, 2003. Completing applications for projects before the disaster can help speed up the approval process. To receive an application, contact the State Hazard Mitigation Officer at SCEMD.

# Legal Issues Surrounding Terrorism Preparedness



Will Moorhead  
SCEMD

In today's litigious society, nothing is safe from the scrutiny of the legal system. Some issues may get scrutinized to the point of being taken to court, where others may get scrutinized enough to effectuate a change before there is cause for litigation. In the realm of terrorism preparedness and response, there are many issues that fall into the second category. It is important to remember that after something tragic happens, people want to be "made whole" again -- people want to be repaid for their losses. In a terrorism event, it may not always be possible to find the terrorist, let alone recover damages from him. Given the inability to be made whole by the person or entity that caused the injury (physical, financial, or emotional), the injured person will turn to the next possible "pocket" to obtain money. That "pocket" may very well belong to the planning or response entity dealing with terrorism in a given jurisdiction.

The subject of avoiding litigation often creates much grumbling about lawyers. Remember that litigation and the steps taken to avoid litigation have provided a safer society for us. Drugs that are unsafe have been taken off the shelves, machinery that maims has been given safety devices or taken out of production, and businesses that wreck lives have been limited or controlled. All of this has been brought about through litigation. Terrorism preparedness programs that are cognizant of the law and potential liability issues will be more effective, more efficient, and meet the ultimate goal of serving the citizens better.

Legal issues that the terrorism preparedness community should be aware of and give proper attention to include quarantine of people and animals, curfew, individual privacy rights during the investigative and response phases, public health control, who the proper authority is during an event and how the various authorities integrate, how responders incur liability during planning and response phases, and implementation and proper execution of mutual aid agreements. This is just a smattering of topics that should be considered when an entity plans its response to an act of terrorism.

Liability based on improper planning or preparedness is also a growing concern to emergency response entities. Some states offer immunity for governmental entities that incur liability through planning, with the caveat that the planning must be reasonable. However, not all planners are governmental entities and

receive the immunity -- volunteer feeding units, for example, or utility companies that respond to disasters.

Planning liabilities commonly arise, whether actually litigated or just scrutinized in depth, from many of the same topics, one of which is the question of who's in charge at an emergency scene. The authority over certain types of events (ones that can reasonably be predicted) must be worked out before the incident and specified in the plans. This is important, not because the entity that wrote the plan may get sued, but because lawsuits may arise from the injury that occurs when an agency with no expertise or training in an area is allowed to be in control of the operations. For example, a fire agency with no experience in handling explosive devices should not be in charge of an event where an explosive device must be contained. Similarly, a police agency with no training or experience in hazardous materials response should not be in charge of an accident scene where a tanker truck hauling hazardous materials has overturned.

Planning liabilities also arise when plans are put in place but not reviewed and exercised properly. Plans must include the input of more than just one person or entity. All the entities potentially involved must be included in the plan and at a minimum they must be informed of what their role is when the plan is activated. Every entity must be aware of any changes to the plan. Of course, no one can be informed of changes if none are ever made. It is imperative that plans be evaluated regularly and updated to include new hazards or concerns. Oklahoma City and September 11th illustrate to all of us how new hazards and concerns can arise rapidly. Terrorism is a real concern that did not consume much of an emergency planner's time just a few years ago.

Other legal issues may arise or be avoided by implementing mutual aid agreements into the planning process. If an entity writes operational plans and guidelines for dealing with a large-scale incident (like a terrorism incident) it has only performed part of the preparedness process. The planning must include mutual aid agreements that specify who will pay, how much will be paid, whose workers' compensation coverage will pay in the event a responder is injured, and which entity will pay the expenses associated with making a citizen whole again in the event a citizen is injured as a result of the response effort. Mutual aid agreements are rapidly becoming the "standard of care" across the country and

receiving attention from the federal government and President Bush. Practically, states should be looking at some type of statewide mutual aid agreement and local governments should be putting into writing the agreements that have for so long been a "handshake."

South Carolina, through the South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD), continues to work toward full implementation of a statewide mutual aid agreement. The model of South Carolina's agreement came from Florida, which, like many other states, began a statewide mutual aid agreement initiative years ago. The agreements require a commitment on the part of the lead agency in order to achieve full participation. There are other initiatives that can help complete the process; SCEMD has partnered with the Firefighter Mobilization Plan and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Plan to further the implementation of a statewide agreement. The Fire Plan and the Law Enforcement Plan both adopted the statewide agreement as part of their individual plans for moving police and fire throughout the state during an emergency. The support and participation of both plans has helped SCEMD publicize and educate the necessary entities throughout the state about the statewide mutual aid initiative. There have been other entities, like the South Carolina Municipal Association, that have been valuable players in getting the agreement out to the necessary entities and raising awareness about it.

Mutual aid agreements are simple to achieve -- especially on the local level -- and offer two wonderful benefits. One benefit is simply that they serve as an aversion to liability. The more steps that can be taken to avoid liability then the better life is for us all.

The other benefit of mutual aid agreements is so practical it often gets overlooked. Mutual aid agreements allow responders, from any level, to shake hands and meet face to face. Granted, this sounds like a "happy, feel-good" concept but those that have been involved in large-scale incidents say this is imperative.

There are few terrorism training courses that don't include some material from the lessons learned in Oklahoma City. Time and again we hear how important it was that the Chief of Police and the Fire Chief knew each other before this event. Each knew the other's name, face, and personality. Both men attest to how important that familiarity was. As simple as it sounds, personal interaction often gets overlooked in our busy schedules. A mutual aid agreement could be the tool to help an agency "kill two birds with one stone" by helping to avoid liability and offering an opportunity for leaders to meet and talk. Ultimately, the agreements are another tool to help responders do great things for their community.

Legal issues will not go away. Regardless of how frustrating legal issues can be, it is important to deal with them. If you cannot answer all the questions, don't be discouraged, for they are difficult. It is vital that when you recognize an issue, you contact someone in the legal community to discuss your agency's stance on or action toward the issue.

Knowledge about what the legal issues are and knowledge about how to avoid liability from those issues incorporated into the planning process will, without question, result in more effective plans. Most importantly, that knowledge will result in a better response for the citizens who are our ultimate focus.

## 2002 Hurricane Guide



**John Legare**  
SCEMD

The 2002 South Carolina Hurricane Guide was distributed to more than 500,000 people from Columbia to the entire coastal area as an insert in 27 newspapers in June.

The South Carolina Emergency Management Division produces the only officially sanctioned citizens Hurricane Guide. For the past three years, SCEMD has been refining the Guide, to offer the citizens of South Carolina the information needed to save lives, and reduce property damage. The Guide gives the public easy access to information that is nowhere else so conveniently available. In addition to standard advice about what people should do before, during and after hurricanes, it provides state-specific information, including shelter locations, evacuation routes, information hotline telephone numbers, key worldwide web addresses, important radio station emergency information

frequencies -- and even a graphic showing areas of greatest vulnerability along the South Carolina coast.

Several important actions were taken to encourage people to save it for reference during the entire six-month hurricane season from June 1 to November 30. First, the Guide was printed on durable paper in a foldable format that could conveniently fit into an automobile glove box. Second, the Guide was intensively marketed to the public at town meetings, community and building-supplies fairs, and through broadcast and print news media. Third, the Guide was printed in a Spanish version for the benefit of South Carolina's growing Hispanic community. Finally, the Guide in its entirety will be posted on the Division's web site, [www.scmd.org](http://www.scmd.org), which gets hundreds of thousands of "hits" during hurricane activity.

# QUICK VIEW

## State Assessment Team (SAT) Update

by Chapel Leadingham

When a catastrophic disaster strikes, it is imperative that disaster impact assessments be made quickly to determine the necessary State response or the necessary Federal assistance that will be needed. To accomplish this mission, one or more State Assessment Teams may be deployed to evaluate the immediate victim needs (food, water, medical, shelter, etc.) and the impact to critical infrastructure (utilities, communications, transportation, etc.) and report those findings to the State Emergency Operations Center. Each SAT is a 10-12 member team, with the leaders being employees of the State Emergency Management Division and Team members being from the following state agencies:

Department of Transportation, Department of Health and Environmental Control, Department of Social Services, Public Service Commission, Department of Natural Resources, State

Law Enforcement Division, and the Chief Information Office of the Budget and Control Board.

Annual training was conducted on April 30 and the SAT was deployed during the second day of the annual state exercise, which took place on June 6. The deployment of the SAT involved an earthquake scenario. The first day of the state exercise involved a hurricane scenario with concentration on evacuation of coastal areas. All counties were encouraged to participate in the annual exercise.



*Above left and Top: SAT Team members discuss proper loading procedure. Right: Black Hawk landing for the SAT Team briefing.*

*Photos by: Chapel Leadingham/SCEMD*

were requested by the SAT. An after-action brief was conducted at the conclusion of the deployment and lessons learned were noted for revision of the SAT Standard Operating Procedures.

## Employee Appreciation

Under a state employee awards and recognition policy established by Adjutant General Stan Spears, SCEMD Director Ron Osborne presented Division employees with service-recognition ribbons on May 6 during "Public Service Recognition Week."

Carol Reavis was presented State Senior Service Awards for 25 years of contributions.

Darlene Erskine was presented State Senior Service Awards for 20 years of contributions.

Receiving State Senior Service Awards for 15 years of service were Kathie Brooks, Tammie Dreher, Darryl Gordon, Katherine Jackson, and Francis Tubolino.

Honored for 10 years of service were Brenda Boone, Bob Duggleby, Jim Mitchener, Steve Overcash, and Harriett Rhoten.

Five-year recipients were John Berzins, Joe Farmer, Bill Huckins, Dexter Miles, Tim Murphy and Ron Osborne.

One-year State Service Award recipients were Jon Boettcher, John Brown, Jeanne Brummitt, Patrice Burns, Jim Davis, Heather Hart, John Knight, Valerie McCuiston, John Myers, John Paolucci, Shawn Putnam, John Smigelski, Kim Stenson, Todd Whitaker, Kenton Towner, Chris Watson, David Whisenant, Todd Whitaker, Bill Willis, and Pat Yeary.

Safe Driver Awards were also presented to Dexter Miles for five years of safe driving. Joe Farmer, Steve Overcash, and Ron Osborne were awarded for 10 years for safe driving.

# Area 5 County News

## **Berkeley County**

As of July 1, 2002, Berkeley County Emergency Management has formed a partnership with cable companies to provide citizens with hurricane preparedness and homeland security information on a public access channel. The partnership involves Berkeley Cable, which serves Monks Corner and the surrounding area, and Comcast, which serves the lower and western portions of the county. Two Power-Point presentations prepared by County Emergency Manager Wes Blanchard run continuously. Wes believes this is a great opportunity to get the word to the public on preparing for hurricanes and information needed to know about homeland security. After hurricane season, Wes will prepare Power-Point presentations on both hazmat and earthquake preparedness and in the spring, he will prepare a Power-Point presentation for severe weather that also will be broadcast on the public access channel.

## **Charleston County**

Charleston County EPD, in collaboration with other Charleston County emergency responders, held its large-scale mass casualty exercise on June 26. There were appropriately 200 responders participating to include observers, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), doctors, nurses, and hospital administrators. Some of the participants were AmeriCorp, City of North Charleston fire, police, and SWAT team, police cadets from North Charleston and Mt. Pleasant, US Air Force 437 Medical Squadron and 315 Medical Group, and building officials from the North Charleston Coliseum. The scenario was an explosion at the coliseum while the circus was there. Some of the functions the emergency responders demonstrated were the incident command system, mass casualties treatment and evacuation, communication, and securing the perimeter.

## **Clarendon County**

County Emergency Manager Colleen Gates held a briefing for dozens of Clarendon officials at the County's Emergency Services Complex in May to discuss plans for the upcoming hurricane season. The annual briefing is designed to get department heads together, take a look back at past storms and address any problems that may have occurred, as well as prepare for the approaching hurricane season. This will be Colleen's first full year as the emergency management director. Although Clarendon County is an inland county, it can experience the wind effects from a hurricane and has an important role in the evacuation from the coast. The county is in the middle of the evacuation chain. Colleen and other county officials have worked diligently to coordinate traffic evacuation and shelter procedures to prepare the county in the event of a hurricane.

## **Georgetown County**

County Emergency Manager Lewis Dugan and staff recently had IRIS training at their office. The staff will continue to practice on IRIS to enhance their skills to use it in the event of an actual emergency. Georgetown County is constructing a new municipal/law enforcement complex that will also include a new EOC for Lewis Dugan. Lewis is excited about the new facility and is looking forward to moving into the building soon.

## **Orangeburg County**

John Smith and Billy Staley are pleased to have two new Gateway computers. Both computers are Pentium with 1.8 Ghz with 256 Mb Ram and 60 Gb of hard drive. The computers are being used primarily for Geographic Information System (GIS) purposes on a daily basis in the county's planning and database operations. They will also be used when the EOC is activated to run either Hurrvac, HAZUS, or CAMERO applications with digital projectors to display information to EOC staff. John states that GIS has become a useful tool to their EOC operations and that part of their EOC standard operating procedures require a GIS department staff member to be present during full EOC activation to support the EOC's GIS needs. The computers were recently used to support the HAZUS application for the earthquake portion of the statewide exercise in June 2002.

## **Sumter County**

Sumter County held its annual full-scale mass casualty exercise in April. Approximately 600 people participated in the exercise to include Fort Jackson's WMD unit. Emergency Manager Marsha Boettcher stated the exercise was a success with the participants gaining new insights in preparing for and responding to a mass casualty situation. The county now has a Large Animal Rescue Team (LART). County Emergency Manager Vic Jones stated the LART will be a tremendously asset to the county.

## **Williamsburg County**

County Emergency Manager Vic Rowell held a HAZMAT exercise in April. CSX participated in the intense six hour exercise. The CSX railroad tracks run through the town of Kingstree, which is the county seat. If a hazmat incident were to occur in the middle of the town, many citizens and businesses would need to evacuate. The exercise educated many of the emergency responders to the ICS concept and provided the participants with the necessary tools to prepare and respond to a hazmat incident. Rowell encourages others to take advantage of the tools CSX has to offer.

## River Rescue

Volunteers and emergency professionals rescued a group of seven people who became stranded along the Chattooga River in Oconee County during a canoe trip on April 3.

The group of two adults and five children from Anderson and New York misjudged the length of time needed to make their trip and became stranded on the river overnight without food, proper cold-weather clothing, or tents.

They were located and rescued on April 4 as a result of the cooperative efforts of Oconee County Emergency Management, Seneca Rescue Squad, Salem Rescue Squad, Walhalla Rescue Squad, Westminster Rescue Squad, Mountain Rest Rescue Squad, Oconee County Special Rescue Team, Oconee County Sheriff's Department, Rabun County Rescue, Anderson County Sheriff's Department, Department of Natural Resources, the State Law Enforcement Division, and the U.S. Forest Service.

None were seriously injured.

## Train Wreck

On the morning of May 14, an Amtrak train collided with a logging truck at a crossing on a dirt road about eight miles north of Ridgeland near I-95 in Jasper County.

The crash derailed the 10 cars and engine of the train, which was headed from New York to Miami. The impact separated the truck's cab from the trailer, wrapped the trailer around the engine, and scattered logs. Although the truck driver was not

injured, two passengers and a crew member were treated for possible serious injuries and other passengers were evaluated at local hospitals.

Local and state responders included a liaison team from the S.C. Emergency Management Division.

Train passengers were sheltered at the Ridgeland National Guard Armory, while they awaited Amtrak's help with travel arrangements. The American Red Cross and the Salvation Army provided food.

## Transitions

**Stephen and Desiree Batson** are the proud parents of a baby girl, Sierra Grace, born April 10.

**Terry Sullivan**, Public Information Coordinator, left the Division on April 4.

**Heather Hart**, Administrative Specialist, left the Division on June 21 for Bank of America Mortgage Division.

**Kenton Towner**, Operations Support Manager, left the Division on July 24 to work as a private consultant.

**Lisa Rink** joined the Division on April 17 as a radiological emergency planner.

**John Legare** joined the Division on June 17 as Public Information Coordinator.

**Shawn and Julie Putnam** are the proud parents of a baby boy, Daniel, born July 6.

# Incident Report

01/01 Anderson	Appleton Mill (a closed Facility) fire.	02/08 Saluda	Accident Involving a tractor trailer.
01/01 Aiken	SRS courtesy notification.	02/08 Greenville	ELT mission, Greenville.
01/06 Sumter	ELT transmitting on Shaw AFB.	02/08 Charleston	Ship accident, the Lykes Liberator, damaged in storm.
01/07 Bamberg	Denmark water system failed.		
01/07 Jasper	ELT going off.	02/08 McCormick	Train lost 50 gallon drum of Ammonium nitrate.
01/08 Beaufort	Two deputies shot and killed.		
01/09 Kershaw	Traffic accident involving two trucks.	02/11 Lancaster	Insulation fire in back of 53 foot trailer.
01/11 Spartanburg	Pickup leaking from 600 gallon tank.	02/12 Richland	Truck containing liquid nitrogen overturned, Columbia.
01/12 Spartanburg	Twenty-two acre lake, drain valve stuck open.	02/13 Edgefield	Report of Tremors in the area, Edgefield.
		02/14 Lexington	Post office found whit powder in their equipment, Cayce.
01/13 Kershaw	Hydraulic spill on road.		
01/14 Berkeley	ParaXylene release due to shutdown of low PSI compressor.	02/14 Greenwood	Structure fire, Godfrey's Market, Hodges.
01/14 Spartanburg	Diesel fuel spill.	02/15 Florence	ELT, 02M0273, Olanta.
01/15 Lexington	Diesel spill with 19-car pile-up.	02/16 Charleston	Sewage overflow on James Island.
01/17 Richland	ELT mission, Hopkins.	02/16 Orangeburg	Chlorine cloud, Orangeburg.
01/17 Spartanburg	Acrylic acid spill, Spartanburg.	02/18 Charleston	Boat fire and diesel spill, Charleston harbor.
01/19 Greenville	300-400 gallon kerosene tank spill.		
01/21 York	ELT mission, McConnells.	02/18 Jasper	3000 gallons of sewage spilled.
01/21 York	Catawba courtesy notification of breaker fire.	02/19 Greenwood	Ruptured fuel tank on truck leaked 150 gallons of diesel.
		02/19 Charleston	Fire suppression problem, 911 system down.
01/23 Beaufort	ELT mission.		
01/23 Greenville	Diesel spill, 18 wheeler, 90 gallons from tank.	02/19 York	ELT.
		02/21 Marlboro	Storage tank releases chlorine dioxide.
01/24 Charleston	Sewage spill, due to contractor rupture of pipe.	02/22 Greenwood	Human remains found.
01/24 Anderson	About 70 gallons of diesel spilled on I-85.	02/24 Spartanburg	Norfolk Southern fuel line failure.
01/25 Charleston	ELT near old Navy Base.	02/24 Greenville	Raw sewage in apartment complex, Travelers Rest.
01/25 Anderson	Saddle tank on a truck leaking diesel.		
01/28 Newberry	ELT mission in Newberry.	02/27 Florence	ELT, Timmonsville.
01/30 Charleston	ELT mission.	03/01 York	Signal believed to be from boat beacon
01/30 Richland	Homeowner mixed chemicals, started smoking.	03/04 Beaufort	ELT going on and off, no missing aircraft.
		03/06 Spartanburg	Overturned tanker spilling diesel fuel.
01/31 Greenwood	Search and rescue for missing female.	03/08 Chester	Pre-treated wastewater, sewage spill, Chester.
02/01 Berkeley	Two bomb threats to Bayer Corp. in		
Goose	Creek.	03/09 Laurens	ELT.
		03/09 Laurens	Fatal Aircraft Accident, Gray Court.
02/02 Anderson	Biological sludge spill at Blair Textile Mill.	03/15 Laurens	Wal-Mart Dist. Center bomb threat.
		03/16 Colleton	Natural Gas leak at Serrell Gas Co., Walterboro.
02/03 Chester	Polyvinyl Alcohol spill at Eureka Plant, Chester.		
02/04 York	ELT mission in Rock Hill	03/16 Anderson	Search and rescue, one drowned from overturned boat into Lake Hartwell.
02/04 York	Wall collapsed at construction site, Rock Hill	03/22 Florence	Diesel spill from overturned tractor trailer, Florence.
02/05 York	A 5,400 gallon diesel and 4,000 gallon kerosene spill Culp Oil Co.	03/25 Dorchester	Smoke on I-95, motor vehicle accident, six dead on the arrival, two to the ER, St. George.
02/05 Richland	Fire at FN manufacturing, in munitions area.		
02/05 Newberry	Chemical reaction required hazmat team response.	03/26 Orangeburg	Report of storm damage near Elloree.
		03/26 Laurens	Tornado Reported.
02/08 Anderson	Motor vehicle accident on I-85, 18 mm, truck leaking 300 gallons of gasoline.	03/31 York/Catawba	Courtesy notification, plant and all safety systems working.

\* ELT, *Electronic Locator Transmitter*



# Hurricane Awareness Media Day

On May 31, 2002 S.C. Emergency Management Division held an open house for all of the news media in S.C. More than thirty reporters and editors representing news papers TV stations and radio news organizations attended. The event was designed to familiarize the media with the State Emergency Operations Center and to update reporters and editors on Surge Inundation web page. On hand to welcome the media were Major General Stan Spears, Governor Jim Hodges, SCEMD Director Ron Osborne, and State Hurricane Program Manager Jon Boettcher.



*Major General Spears speaks with a Charleston reporter during the Media Day.*



*Local media report from the South Carolina Emergency Operations Center.*



*Major General Stan Spears speaks with SCEMD Director Ron Osborne.*



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