2013 Year End Review





Winter Storms - EBCI

Federal flood aid helped the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians repair infrastructure, remove debris and provide emergency protective measures after severe storms, flooding and mudslides damaged roads, bridges, culverts and public utilities. NCEM worked closely with ECBI and FEMA to help the community recover. The federal disaster declaration marked the first time in U.S. history that a recognized Native American tribe applied directly for and received federal disaster assistance. ~ January 14-17

NCEM Forum

The EM community bid farewell to Doug Hoell who retired as NCEM director. They also heard about legislative changes, updates to interoperable communications and recent Geodetic Survey activities. ~ January 16











Heavy rains and snowfall caused flooding, mudslides and rockslides washing out roads and knocking out power to many areas in western NC. Heavily impacted counties included: Ashe, Catawba, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon and Rutherford. ~ January 17

Western NC Flooding Part 1







Disaster Assistance Work Group Receives SERC Award

The DAWG received the first annual SERC award for team achievement and contributions to statewide preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation programs. The DAWG consists of 13 northeastern counties that regularly plan, respond and exercise together under a regional concept to maximize funding and resources. ~ January 18





Watauga County Winter Flooding



Severe storms dumped 3 to 6 inches of rain across Watauga County in 24 hours damaging 40+ homes and businesses. U.S. SBA loans were approved to help residents and business owners recover from the flooding. ~ January 30







HART Training - Butner

All 3 NCEM branches trained together with multiple state and local agencies for a mock flood event. The exercise was the first *statewide* HART training and gave all players the chance to work together under one Incident Command.









Emergency managers and public health officials gathered for the semi-annual conference to discuss partnering in disaster response, media relations at the scene of a disaster, chemical testing capabilities in NC, radiological emergency preparedness , school safety and more. ~ March 10-13



NCEMA Spring Conference







EMAP Assessment

After months of preparation, NCEM staff met with trained EMAP assessors to conduct an in-depth peer-review assessment of the agency's programs and practices. The goal was to ensure the division was in compliance with 64 national standards. Assessors examined 18 capability categories ranging from hazard mitigation to incident management to crisis communications. NCEM was granted full re-accreditation with no deficiencies a rare accomplishment for qualifying agencies. ~ April 15-19

Carteret & DAWG Exercise

Carteret County hosted a week-long exercise to test coordinated response within 13 northeastern North Carolina counties. The training included a tabletop exercise for a Category 2 hurricane, search and rescue tabletop discussion, hazmat train derailment and incident management team activation for the Disaster Assistance Work Group. ~ April 22-26













Quake 2.0 Exercise

More than 730 first responders, health officials & emergency managers from multiple agencies & jurisdictions responded to a fake earthquake in Spruce Pine. The exercise tested responders' ability to fight fires, rescue trapped victims, treat the injured, arrange mass care for civilians and domestic animals, and handle civil unrest.

~ April 26-29





Harris Nuclear Drill

The Ingestion Pathway Zone exercise for Duke Energy's Harris Nuclear plant tested the ability of EM, agriculture,

health and other agencies to coordinate response to a radiological event that impacts a 50-mile radius. Both functional and large-scale

tabletop exercises tested local, state & federal protocols and plans. ~ April 30 - May 1











Western NC Flooding Part 2



Avery, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Mecklenburg, McDowell, Mitchell, Watauga and Yancey counties had torrential rainfall – as much as 11 inches over three days in some areas – that flooded communities, caused landslides and closed roads. ~ May 4-6







Chatham County Search & Rescue

Local and state agencies and dive teams from several counties partnered in a multiple day search for a missing boater. ~ May 13



NCEM-ECU Workshop

More than 150 local emergency managers, meteorologists and academics met to review and discuss hurricane predictions, preparedness and response. Topics included Hurricane Sandy response, use of social media in emergencies and developments in storm surge modeling. ~ May 22







Madison County Flooding

More flooding in western North Carolina – this time in the Hot Springs area of Madison County – damaged roads and bridges and flooded several residences. ~ June 6









TS Andrea Flooding

Tropical storm Andrea brought



additional rain to already-saturated areas. Many counties – including Cumberland, Caldwell, Harnett, Hoke, Lee, Moore & Wake – experienced flash flooding and unusually high water. Local swift water teams helped rescue numerous stranded motorists, residents and animals. ~June 7-9



DOD Summit

NCEM hosted the sixth annual meeting with partner agencies of the Department of Defense to discuss operational relationships during disasters. Lt. Gen. William Ingram shared his insights as Director of the Army National Guard for the nation. ~ June <u>12</u>







Severe Storms across Piedmont

Severe storms rolled across the central part of the state killing three people, knocking down trees and power lines, damaging homes and blocking roads. Federal and state aid helped 20 residents in Stanly County – the hardest hit area – recover from the severe thunderstorms & damaging winds. ~ June 13-14







RCCE Annual Shakedown

The Regional Coordination Center East held its annual exercise to test capabilities, equipment, personnel and processes to ensure all resources are ready to support a disaster.







~June 17-21











NCEM Forum

The EM community gathered for the summer forum to hear updates on VIPER, NCSPARTA, legislative matters, all hazards incident management teams and the Hurricane Sandy recovery act. The group also heard how social media can enhance situational awareness during events. ~ June 26



Orange County Flooding



Federal & state aid helped 110 families & businesses recover from severe flooding in Orange County & surrounding areas after a powerful storm cell dumped nearly 5 inches of rain in a 24-hour period. ~June 30.



HART Rescue - Chatham County

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A lone kayaker was stranded in the middle on the super-swollen Haw River. After several failed attempts to rescue him, NC HART was tapped to bring the man to safety. It was the first completed HART mission for the Central Branch. ~ July 5

NC-VA Border Traffic Control Planning



Local and state emergency managers from northeastern North Carolina and southeastern Virginia met for their annual meeting to coordinate evacuation plans for the region. They reviewed communication and notification processes to ensure all agencies are synchronized. ~ July 10





Western NC Flooding Part 3



Even MORE! rain continued in western counties through early July. Flash flood warnings were in effect for the western third of the state on several days. Burke, Caldwell and Polk counties were particularly hard hit knocking down trees and power lines, closing roads and damaging homes in Collettsville, Morganton and Lenoir . ~ July 13-14





Great Flood Exercise



The two-day exercise simulated widespread flooding caused by a dam failure at Falls Lake. The scenario inflicted catastrophic damage through major parts of Raleigh and several communities down stream. Dozens of SERT partners from multiple agencies and counties practiced response and recovery operations during the exercise. The exercise also tested auxiliary communications, NCNG capabilities and all hazards incident management teams. Ironically, the exercise was planned before any of the 2013 flooding events. ~ July 16-17





Communications Exercise



To ensure emergency managers maintain essential communication during emergencies, NCEM partnered with the NCNG & USAR TF 10 Communications to shuttle equipment to the Outer Banks as part of the statewide flood exercise. Using Blackhawk helicopters, the agencies loaded, flew, set up and operated a communications suite that supported disaster communications. The groups tested UHF, HF, AUXCOM, SATCOM and Internet capabilities. ~ July 17



Western NC Flooding Part 4







Severe storms dumped 10-12 inches of rain in just a few hours in Catawba & Lincoln counties. Nearby counties also received torrential amounts of rain. For many areas, the storm was the second or third flood event within a two month timeframe. Federal & state flood aid helped 145 residents and business owners recover from the flood. Federal aid also helped multiple local governments repair damaged infrastructure. ~July 27



Flood Recovery

Joint Field Offices were set up in flooddamaged communities to help residents, business owners and local governments recover. NCEM Recovery staff lived and worked along side local and federal emergency management employees in the flooded communities for days or weeks. ~ Summer-Fall









McGuire Nuclear Drill

NCEM, Duke Energy, Catawba, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln and Mecklenburg counties tested their coordinated response to a nuclear event as part of the required biennial fixed nuclear facility exercise.

~ August 6





Harnett County SAR Exercise

Several Piedmont counties partnered in a two-day Search and Rescue exercise that tested coordination, command and control, incident management teams and HART capabilities. ~ August 23–24







Pensacola Fire Department

A \$510,000 grant from FEMA/NCEM enabled the Pensacola Volunteer Fire Department in Yancey County to build a new facility out of the flood plain. The new facility also serves as a shelter for the Pensacola community during disasters. They dedicated the new building August 24.



Mitigation Funds Aid Alleghany County

NCEM provided a \$31,000 hazard mitigation grant to purchase a 60 kilowatt generator for Alleghany County Emergency Management. The back-up power supply kicks in within 30 seconds of a power outage and can keep the building powered for nearly a week. ~ August 27



CRES meeting

Local & state emergency managers, public health agencies & disaster support partners met to discuss sheltering for special medical needs & coordinating evacuation & sheltering between coastal & inland counties.

~ September 9





NCEM sponsored the first-ever HeloAquatic Rescue Training for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. The class was held to help improve local, state, tribal and federal coordination during search and rescue missions along the Great Smokey Mountains National Park. ~ September 24

NCHART TRAINING AT EBCI



CERT Exercise

This large-scale Community Emergency Response Team exercise brought together multiple teams from around the state to test

their response to a mass casualty incident, while working under the authority of a Civil Air Patrol Incident Management Team. NCEM planned, supported and evaluated the exercise. ~ September 28






NCEM and Charlotte Fire Department partnered with members of Great Britain's Royal National Lifeboat Institution in a four-day, intense, real-time training exercise. The course gave each group the chance to share water rescue strategies and tactics and sharpen rescue maneuvers in fast moving floodwaters. ~ September 30 – October 3

NC – British Swift Water Rescue Training

A chemical tanker carrying ethanol overturned in Selma prompting evacuations of nearby businesses. Crews applied foam to suppress vapors and mitigate any released chemicals. ~ October 1

Johnston County Hazmat Event





The incident commanders from the Moore, TX fertilizer plant explosion and Boston Marathon bombing shared lessons learned at the NCEMA Fall Conference.

~ October 20-23

NCEMA Fall Conference





Radio communications was an issue early on

Most of the agencies did not ge used







NCEM partnered with local first responders from across the state to provide numerous basic and advanced boat operator classes that gave students invaluable hands-on training needed for swift water rescues. Teams practiced navigating river hazards, emergency rescue procedures and boat maneuvers – all essential skills needed for real life rescues.







Swift Water Rescue Training Classes

Anson, Chatham, Halifax, Johnston, Lee, Montgomery& Richmond counties provided indepth training, tabletop discussions and/or hands-on exercises that gave local first responders, law enforcement, emergency managers and school officials the opportunity to practice their response plans to an active shooter on a public school campus.

School Shooter Exercises













counterpart to clarify precise state boundaries.





Providing Essential Training

Effective training gives first responders, emergency managers & law enforcement officers the opportunity to develop, sharpen & practice essential skills for disaster response and recovery. North Carolina NCEM sponsored 300 classes that trained more than 5,900 personnel on topics such as: disaster response and recovery; debris management; handling mass fatalities; damage assessment; mass shootings and response, etc. The division also began developing a series of interactive on-line courses.





SERC Meetings

The 18-member State Emergency Response Commission met quarterly to review, assess, plan and implement projects and procedures to protect North Carolina residents and the environment through effective emergency planning.





ReadyNC

ReadyNC.org was updated as the onestop-shop for emergency preparedness AND recovery information for North Carolinians. A new ReadyNC mobile app was launched as an all-in-one emergency preparedness tool. The app provides residents & visitors with the

latest weather, traffic & hazard information & basic info. on what to do to be safe. The free app is available for iphones & Android devices.





Joining NCEM in 2013

Meghan Brown – HLS planner Perchrista Boone - EBO assistant Jim Brown – Logistics Zach Carpino – Tech Hazards Lead Jeffrey Childs – 24-hour center Phyllis Courtney – HazMit specialist Mary Donny – Human Services planner Nolan Fry – Risk Mitigation Planner Mike Feger – Exercise/SWIC Jamie Hammermann – database admin, Matthew Kemnitz - CIKR planner Mike Krupa - 24-hour center

Jim Klopovic – exercise officer Bob Mielish – risk mitigation planner Donna Miller – account tech Sherry Pinamonti - exercise planner Brian Parnell – Area 1 coordinator Tim Reavis- HLS grant manager Michael Roper – Geodetic Survey Group Jennifer Robinson - 24-hour center Nelson Santiago – training officer Katie Webster – meteorologist Richard Williams – Geodetic Survey Group Zak Whicker - 24-hour center

Saying Goodbye

Doug Hoell Jay Anderson Mike Feger **Cooper Hancock** Carolyn Freitag Steve Payne Angig Langston Felicia Daniels Yolanda Abram Diana Olivieri Sue Preston Britne Gleason Donna Miller Nelson Santiago Clay Benton Alyssa Young Mike Krupa Lisa Burke Andrew Langan **Rick Carraway** CHRIS LETOURNEAU Lisa Adcock Ryan Wiedenman Carol Smith Cherelle James



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Merry Christmas from the Eastern Branch Lonnie, Paula, Alex, Brian, Dianne, Melissa, Perchrista, Charles & Doug



Merry Chrístmas from the Central Branch Ricky, Alan, Steve, Tyres, Dennis, Lisa, Tim & Debbie

Merry Christmas from the Western Branch Eric, Darla, Jeff, Mike, Danny, Jimmy, Tiawana, Greg & Karen

GENER



Merry Christmas ! Wishing You All a Happy & Peaceful 2014