



## Get prepared for severe weather ahead of the storm

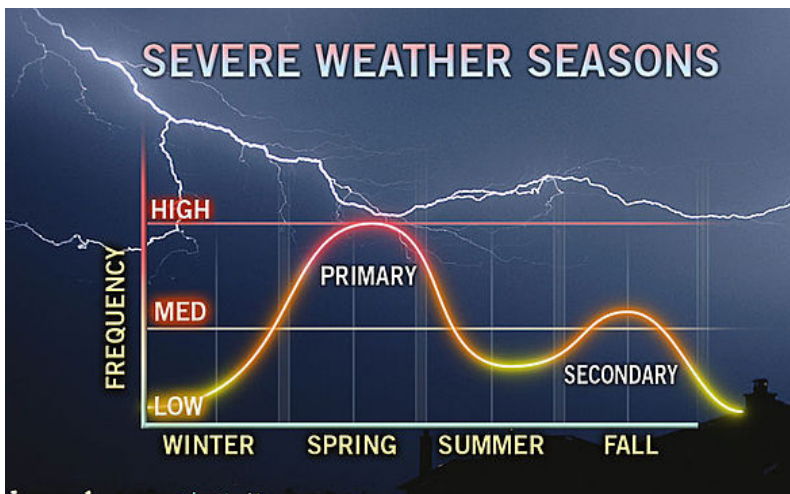
Much of the severe weather we experience in Georgia occurs during the spring and early summer. So, now is a good time to review your plans for thunderstorms and tornadoes that could affect you and your family.

If you do not have a home emergency plan, complete one now. Every family member should be involved in creating your plan. Start by discussing how a severe storm could impact your home. Note safe areas and exits in your home, and decide where to go if you need to evacuate. Make a communications plan in case family members are separated, plan for the medical and special needs of family members, and develop a plan for pets. Make an emergency kit to sustain your pet(s) for three days.

Once you have a family emergency plan, everyone needs to be familiar with what to do if a major storm hits. The best way to do this is practice the plan. Every couple of months discuss the plan and walk through the steps that you have in your plan.

Assembling an emergency kit is also important. Make sure that your kit contains water and food for each family member for three days in case essential services have been disrupted. Other items you should include are a first aid kit, flashlight, radio, copies of important documents, and cash in small bills and change. You may also need a mobile phone with charger and special items for babies, elderly, or individuals with special needs.

There are simple things that you can do to minimize the impact of storms on your home and surrounding property ahead of severe weather. Check your roof regularly and make sure gutters, downspouts, and drains are clear. Remove trees and limbs that are rotten or damaged that could fall on power lines or your home. Secure outdoor items, like patio furniture that could cause damage if blown around in high winds.



Source: pinstake.com

### In This Issue

Severe Weather	1
EMAG Summit	2
PHEP Summit	2
Hall All-Hazared Summit	3
ASHE Exercise	4
Community Fairs	4

Review your home owners and automobile insurance to ensure that it is adequate to cover losses during a disaster. Learn how to safely turn off water, power and gas at your home, and keep water containers, a camping stove and fuel on hand.

Being informed is also important during weather events. Get a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) capable radio. The NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Working with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), NWR provides "all hazards" information and warnings about the various natural disasters that

may occur. This includes events such as earthquakes, tornadoes, and hurricanes, environmental accidents like chemical releases and oil spills, and public safety such as amber alerts or 911 telephone outages.

If you need help in making a plan, visit <https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>. For information about NOAA visit, <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/>.





## Emergency Management Association of Georgia Summit Held

The annual EMAG Summit and Training Session was held April 19-21 in Savannah. This year's summit was attended by more than 1,000 emergency preparedness and response professionals and for the first time, was open to emergency pro-

fessionals outside of Georgia. Many colleagues from neighboring states in FEMA Region IV took advantage of the invitation to join the conference.

Session topics covered a variety of learning opportunities for emergency managers, public health

professionals, and healthcare practitioners with presentations addressing local, state, and federal responses to incidents.

One of the most captivating presentations was by Eric Alberts, Manager - Emergency Preparedness for Orlando Regional Medical Center. He described the hospital's response to individuals injured during the attack at Pulse Nightclub on June 12, 2016. Located only three blocks from the nightclub, the hospital received victims who were able to get out within minutes after the tragedy began. He highlighted many of the challenges the hospital faced that night and the days following the incident, including security, family reunification and surge capacity.

Another well attended session focused on the response to wildfires in the Gatlinburg, Tennessee area. Local officials described how quickly the changing weather (high winds) took a managed, contained fire and turned it into an uncontrollable wildfire. They also discussed issues encountered with evacuation, accounting for people who were in the area, and moving resources to safe areas.

Our own District 2 Emergency Preparedness team were among those at the local level who presented. EP Director, Mark Palen and Health Care Liaison, Donna Sue Campbell described how personnel funded by the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant and the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) grant work together to meet the deliverables required for each program. Brandin Gilman, District 2 Training Coordinator, also presented at the summit. Her presentation addressed how teaching children about preparedness enhances community resilience.

## 2017 PHEP Summit held in Atlanta



Retired Sen. Joe Lieberman (left), and former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Tom Ridge (right) discuss efforts to increase the nation's resilience to natural, chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) events.

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness Summit brought together a wide array of the nation's local, state and federal partners to present new research findings, share tools and resources, and provide a variety of learning opportunities. More than 1,800 attendees from the U.S., territories, and other countries participated in this year's event.

The focus of this year's summit was to explore the factors driving change in our world, analyze how they will impact the future of public health preparedness, and identify opportunities we have today to drive action

toward meeting future needs.

A vast number of sessions covered current issues such as disaster epidemiology, how changing weather affects human health, managing volunteers, and engaging health clinics in disaster response. Harris County, Texas public health officials shared their first-hand experiences about responding to locally transmitted Zika cases, and a group from Tennessee demonstrated their training process for radiological response. Other sessions focused on medical countermeasures, emerging diseases, and environmental topics.





## Hall County All-Hazards Summit features federal and state response agencies

On May 11, 2017 local public safety, public health, volunteers, and interested individuals, gathered to learn about the capabilities of our state and federal partner agencies. Clint Perkins, Operations Division Director, Georgia Emergency Management Agency kicked off the event with an overview of GEMA and some recent incidents that Georgia has experienced. He stated that since 1943 there have been 46 presidentially declared disasters in the state.

Joe McKinney, Georgia Homeland Security Division Director, followed with a report on how all-hazard councils and partnerships address terrorism and other disasters. He shared the 11 disciplines that homeland security encompasses. They are planning and coordination, ground search and rescue, K-9 teams, explosive ordinances teams, infrastructure, grants, terrorism/all hazards, firefighting, agriculture, radiological, and training and exercises.

Attendees learned that the Georgia Bureau of Investigation was established in 1937 along with the Georgia State Patrol. In 1972, the two agencies were separated. The GBI now consists of three sections, the crime lab, the Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) and the Investigation Division.

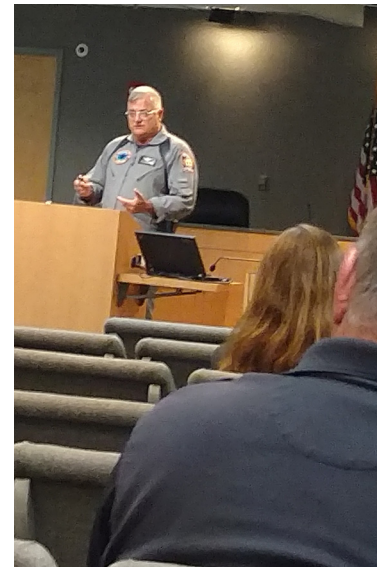
From the National Weather Service's David Nadler, we learned that there are 122 forecast offices in the U.S. Six of those forecast centers cover parts of Georgia. The Peachtree City office is responsible for most of the state and covers 96 of the 159 counties. These offices provide information to Emergency Management Agency Directors and to The Weather Channel.

The Department of Agriculture's Inspector General, Gary Kelley described how his department keeps our food supply safe. He provided information about agriculture's contribution to Georgia's overall economy and how farming and food security have changed with emerging threats. One example he provided was the recent threat of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) found in a poultry farm in Catoosa County in 2016. Georgia became the first state to respond to an avian influenza incident without any federal assistance. This demonstrates the effectiveness of the department's agrosecurity efforts and plans to keep our food supply safe.

The Department of Natural Resources is a multifaceted agency. Lt. Col. Jeff Weaver, Assistant Director of



**Left:** Colonel Jeffrey Dickerson, Georgia Department of Defense, contrasts the differences in the federal and state missions of the Georgia National Guard.



**Right:** Captain Greg Mercier, Georgia State Patrol, shares information about the aviation section of the public safety department.

the Law Enforcement Division, spoke about the duties associated with his department. Among their capabilities are the ability to pursue criminals where the dirt road ends, recovery of drowning victims in rivers and lakes, and search and rescue.

Speaking for the Department of Public Health, Dr. Patrick O'Neal, Director of Health Protection Division, explained the responsibilities of public health under Emergency Support Functions six and eight. He highlighted the efforts public health has made in working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to meet the 15 capabilities of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant and how we partner with the state's health care system to respond to disasters. Additionally, he described the Regional Coordinating Hospital system and how each of the 15 entities work with public health in disaster preparedness and response. Lastly, he talked about emerging diseases and most recently, the threat of the Zika virus and what public health is doing to mitigate the threat.

On the federal level, attendees heard from agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. Much of their work is sensitive and focuses on homegrown extremists. There have been 39 incidents involving homegrown extremists in the last 10 months in the U.S. They reminded all of the attendees to remain vigilant and watchful for people who might be in the process of being radicalized or influenced to do harm to others.



## Active threat, hostile event exercise held for District 2 Office employees

On May 19, employees at the District Office participated in an active threat exercise. The training is designed to give employees information about steps they can take to help them survive an active threat situation. Officers from Hall County Sheriff's Office conducted the training and information session. Employees learned about active threats through videos, discussion, and participation in scenario-based training. During this time, they learned what they should do, what they shouldn't do, and some actions to take to help protect themselves.

The training focused on the avoid, deny, defend principles of thwarting attacks from an active threat. Actions taught included, escape if at all possible and call 911 as soon as possible. If you stay on the premises, lock/block doors to keep the threat out and stay quiet. As a last option, fight back by attacking the threatening person.



The training videos illustrated how the avoid, deny, defend actions can help save lives and even stop a person who is a threat. After learning from the videos and discussing scenarios, it was time to put the learning into action. Employees were told when the exercise was beginning and then had to respond accordingly. Everyone who participated in the exercise said that they had learned a lot and were surprised at how real the exercise seemed.

## District 2 Emergency Preparedness participates in community fairs



Community services fairs help residents learn about resources available from the various agencies and organizations in our area. Recently, District 2 Emergency Preparedness staff participated at Spout Springs Library in Flowery Branch and the Gainesville Safety Day in Gainesville. Preparedness information for likely threats in our area and specific information for threats like Zika were given to participants.



## THE SENTINEL

is a quarterly publication of District 2 Public Health Emergency Preparedness 1280 Athens Street, Gainesville, Georgia 30577 770-535-5743

Pamela Logan, M.D., MPH, MA  
District Health Director

Mark Palen  
Emergency Preparedness Director

Donna Sue Campbell  
Healthcare Liaison

Brandin Gillman  
Training Coordinator

Katie Jerwers  
EP Program Associate

Dave Palmer, Public Information Officer  
Editor of The Sentinel