

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EP NEWS & VIEWS



**March & April  
2025**



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# BLAST FROM THE PAST



## COMMUNITY EVENTS



### Thrive & Connect Teen Summit 03/11/35 | University of North Georgia

The annual summit aims to empower high school students in Hall County by encouraging mental health awareness, leadership, and wellness. Several departments of District 2 joined. Mark Palen presented on the importance of community, workplace, and personal preparedness.

The EP Program has participated in the exercise for 15 years.

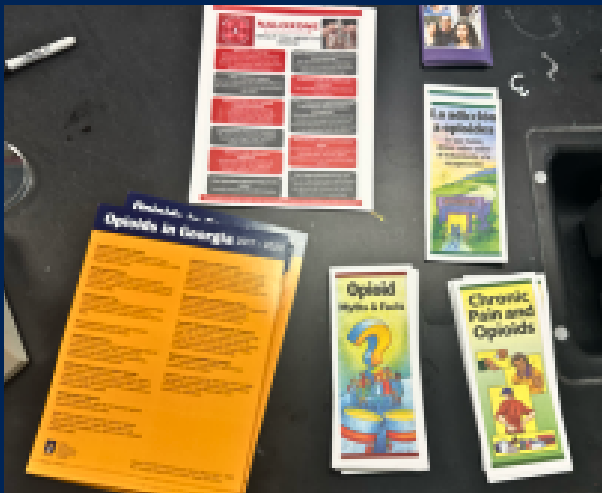
### Active Shooter Drill 03/19/25 | Piedmont University

Piedmont University unites several agencies each year to enact a full scale preparedness exercise. This year, an active shooter drill was simulated with over 10 agencies. The EP team joined as event recorders and also in the media conference.



### HOSA MRC Partnership Virtual

As part of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Partnership, Katie Jenkins mentors several HOSA (Future Health Professionals) high school groups. The students create an immense impact by leading numerous events in the community such as an Opioid Awareness Campaign with the District Opioid Program. We cheer on Lambert High School and South Forsyth High School groups as they prepare to compete in the International Competition!



### Employee Wellness & Safety Fair 04/01/25 | Gainesville Civic Center

The City of Gainesville fair brings together several vendors and organizations to support the health and safety of employees. As part of this effort, COVID-19 test kits were distributed to community members at no cost and preparedness information was shared.



# WILDFIRES

Wildfire season in Georgia runs from February to May (GEMA). Wildfires occur in grassy or forested areas and can travel quickly, causing dangerous impacts. Know how to prepare and protect yourself.

Weather.gov & NPS.gov

## Natural Causes

- Dry air + high winds form an ideal condition for wildfires to occur
- Lightning

(NPS.gov)

## Human Causes

- Camp fires left unattended
- Burning debris
- Equipment error
- Cigarette incorrectly disposed
- Intentional arson

About 85% of wildfires are caused by humans (NPS.gov)! When there is a red flag warning, dry, windy conditions are either present or expected. (Weather.gov). Avoid activities that could cause a wildfire on these high risk days, and prepare beforehand with the tips below.

## Clean Room

Choose a room to keep smoke free.

- Close windows and doors
- Keep a portable air cleaner
- Avoid cooking or burning candles
- Run fans and AC to recirculate

## Create an Emergency Kit

- N95 masks
- nonperishable food
- important documents in fire safe folder

## Home

At least 30 feet from your home, keep a fire resistant zone without leaves, debris, or other flammable materials. (FEMA)

**PREPARE**

## Evacuation

Identify and practice evacuation routes

Ready.gov & CDC

## WILDFIRE SMOKE

According to the CDC, wildfire smoke is a harmful health hazard that can reach far beyond a wildfire.

Vulnerable populations include: children, people with chronic conditions (asthma, COPD, diabetes, chronic kidney disease, or heart disease), those who are pregnant, and first responders (CDC). Make sure to talk to your provider about your needs.





# HURRICANES

Hurricanes, also known as tropical cyclones, are organized systems of clouds and thunderstorms that brew above warm, tropical waters. These rotating, low-pressure storms produce sustained winds of at least 74 miles per hour. Their effects can be felt inland, and the storm system can move over land, especially between June to November in Georgia. (NOAA.gov)

## IMPACT Weather.gov



Storm Surge



Inland flooding



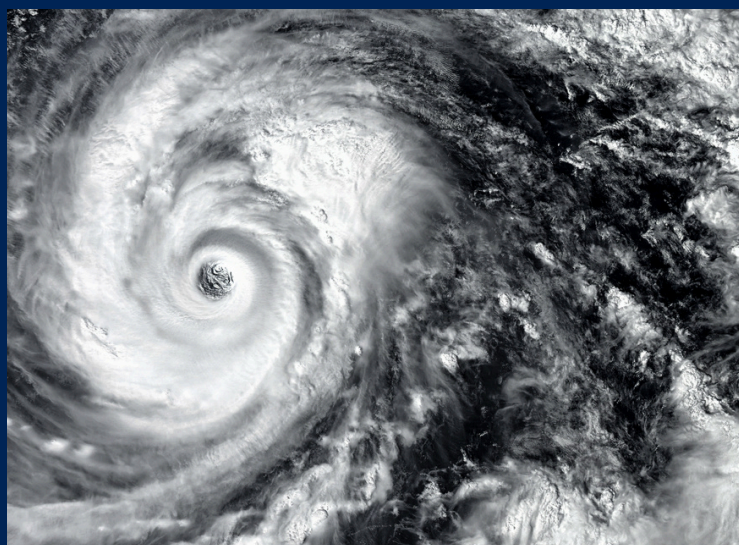
Destructive Winds



Tornadoes



Power Outages



## Cultural Context (NOAA.gov)

Have you heard of a typhoon or cyclone? Typhoons, cyclones, and hurricanes are all the same phenomenon. They are differentiated by their geographical location.

- Hurricane: North Atlantic and eastern/central North Pacific oceans. Rarely near South Atlantic
- Typhoon: Western North Pacific Ocean (near Philippines, China, and Japan)
- Cyclone: western South Pacific and Indian Oceans

## PREPARE NOAA.gov & CDC

- ☐ Evacuation plan: know where you can go and transportation to reach there
- ☐ Gather emergency supplies: water, nonperishable food, medicines, flashlights, batteries, cash, & pet essentials
- ☐ Document your valuable possessions
- ☐ Note emergency contact numbers, utilities' numbers, and banking information
- ☐ Prepare your home: Remove patio furniture, prepare storm shutters for windows and doors, trim trees, and seal any damages to exterior