

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EP NEWS & VIEWS



**July & August
2025**



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BLAST FROM THE PAST

COMMUNITY EVENTS



WIC Farmer's Markets

07/8/25 & 07/16/25 | Health Departments

The Women Infants and Children (WIC) Program organized farmer's markets in Dawson and Banks County Health Departments to increase community access to healthy foods. Legacy Link and the local Senior Center in Banks County attended, and seniors enjoyed fresh produce along with nutrition tips. COVID-19 test kits and preparedness materials were shared by the EP team.

Back to School Immunizations

07/26/25 | Health Departments

School is back in session, and that means it's time to update vaccine records. The health departments have been hosting special immunization events and offering extended hours. The EP team shared valuable preparedness information at Lumpkin County and White County Back to School Fairs which were both successful community events filled with food, music, and fun activities. Participants received their vaccines, all while enjoying a fun, summer day.



Community Resource Fair

08/21/25 | Young Harris College

A plethora of resources were shared at the Community Resource Fair, a well-established event supported by several District 2 Public Health programs. The EP team engaged with community members by distributing Covid-19 test kits and flyers on how to build an emergency kit, so individuals can become better prepared for emergencies.

Resource Fair

08/28/25 | Piedmont University

Piedmont University is a longstanding partner of the EP Program. During the Resource Fair, students were connected with organizations and beneficial resources, including emergency preparedness materials and Covid-19 test kits.



HURRICANE KATRINA

20 YEARS LATER

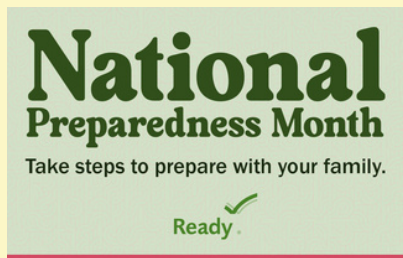
On August 25, 2005 Hurricane Katrina began its destructive path along the Southeast. Nearly 1,833 people lost their lives during the hurricane. Homes were submerged in up to 12 feet of water. The city of New Orleans was left 80% underwater (weather.gov). Hurricane Katrina drastically changed the livelihoods of survivors.



Due to widespread destruction, a federal coordinating center was established in Georgia, where numerous survivors were evacuated. Survivors were flown on military and Delta jets from the disaster zone in Louisiana to the Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta. A massive, historic response effort unfolded among numerous partner agencies, including District 2 Public Health. Together, survivors were triaged, treated, and either transported to Atlanta hospitals or to shelters. Soon after, another storm, Hurricane Rita struck in the Southeast again, prompting the reactivation of Dobbins Air Reserve Base as a critical point once again for survivors.



We recognize every partner organization and every person in the country who united and cared for those affected by one of the worst hurricanes in US history. It just takes one hurricane to devastate an entire city, but its impact can reach far beyond state lines and may call public health workers from across the nation to respond, as seen in this incident. 20 years later, we recognize the resilience of both survivors and responders during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita.



SEPTEMBER

“PREPAREDNESS STARTS AT HOME”

The theme for September National Preparedness month of 2025 is Preparedness Starts at the Home. This message reminds us of the essentials for preparedness. See valuable tips directly from the District 2 Public Health EP team below.

KNOWLEDGE CHECK!

Different seasons bring different weather hazards. As we're in hurricane season (hint, hint), test your readiness from previous newsletter information.

1 When is Hurricane Season in Georgia?

- A.) May- September
- B.) June - November
- C.) February- April
- D.) July- October

2 How can you prepare your home for a hurricane?

- A.) Remove patio furniture
- B.) Know how to turn off the power
- C.) Check home and property insurance policies
- D.) Seal damages to exterior
- E) All of the Above

Answer key:

- 1.) B
- 2.) E

“Always have cash in your emergency kit. Experience has shown us that gas stations, ATMs, and even grocery stores may experience card system outages during disaster response and recovery.”

-Mark Palen, EP Director

“Have a plan. Make sure your plan covers various emergencies and includes what you would do while at home and while at work “

-Katie Jenkins, EP Training & Exercise Coordinator

“Keep a mid-level first aid kit that contains over the counter medicines such as analgesics/anti-inflammatory items, antacids and other digestive system aids e.g. anti-diarrhea treatments. Simple water purification tools are good as well. A simple, basic tool kit can be helpful, including edged instruments (scissors and knives).”

-Greg Kelsoe, EP Specialist

“In public spaces e.g. Movie Theatres, check for all exits in case of an emergency.”

-Ashley Shaw, Healthcare Coalition Facilitator

“Please take all weather-related warnings and hazards serious. If evacuation warnings have been issued, try and evacuate as soon as possible.”

-Marius Brown, Inventory Management and Administrative Specialist

“Enable weather notifications on your device, or follow weather updates to prepare and protect yourself from possible hazards.”

-Christina Joseph, Public Information Officer