

The *All-Hazards Council ALERT* is a new bi-annual e-newsletter created by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) to increase awareness about the All-hazards Councils (AHC), and the vital role they play in protecting the citizens of Georgia. Upcoming topics will include regional response plans, the 2005 AHC workshop, member appointments and grant updates.

In order for this newsletter to be successful, we need your input. Please contact Tracy Sargent at (404) 635-7513 or tsargent@gema.state.ga.us with AHC's accomplishments or if you have any questions about the AHCs.

For more information about AHCs, please visit www.gema.state.ga.us and click on "All Hazards Council" under Quick Links.

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All Hazards Councils Were Created in 2002

Georgia has well-established and much-practiced mechanisms in place to respond to disasters and other large-scale emergencies. However, in the wake of 2001's terrorist attacks against the United States, it became evident that better planning and communication among federal, state and local emergency responders and government officials would further enhance Georgia's ability to rapidly and effectively respond to large-scale disasters. To improve communication and help fight terrorism at the local level, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) has organized regional All Hazards Councils, established within the eight existing GEMA regions consistent with the current state and local government disaster/emergency response system.

These councils bring together community leaders and key consequence managers to develop preparedness, response and recovery strategies for all disasters, both natural and man-made, for their region. Councils are composed of two representatives from the various disciplines within the public service community. These include sheriffs, police chiefs, public health directors, fire chiefs, emergency medical services directors, medical examiners, 9-1-1 center directors, emergency managers, mayors and county commissioners. Additional members may be added as needed.

The mission of these councils is to:

- improve local, state and federal information sharing,
- identify critical regional infrastructure and potential terrorist targets,
- facilitate and review Office of Domestic Preparedness grant applications,
- prepare regional response plans,
- coordinate mutual aid agreements for communities to share resources,
- identify capacity needs,
- conduct training and exercises, and
- bring federal Citizen Corps programs to local communities.

The first council was established in Atlanta in September 2002, and the seven others soon followed. They have proven to be a valuable asset to state and local communities in their continuing fight against terrorism and responding to other hazards. Although much progress has been made in preparing for the next wave of terrorist attacks, we must remain committed and ever vigilant lest we allow history to repeat itself.

Roll Call

Outlined below is a brief overview of each All Hazard Council, the counties they serve, member information, accomplishments from each area and committee information.

Area 1 All Hazards Council

Members: 70

Counties Served

Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Franklin, Greene, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Jackson, Lincoln, Lumpkin, Madison, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, Walton, White and Wilkes.

Who's Who in Area 1

Chair

Honorable Scott Berry
Sheriff, Oconee County Sheriff's Department

Vice Chair

Don Seabolt
Director, Lumpkin County Emergency Management Agency

Secretary

Lt. Jimmy Williams
Director, Oconee County E-911

Committees

Emergency Response Capability and Resource, Hazardous Materials, Public Health and Emergency Response Capabilities, Special Operations Unit, Grant Review.

Sub-committee

Interoperability Committee

Funding Received

Part 1 ODP FY-03 State Homeland Security Grant Programs - \$763,591
Part 2 ODP FY-03 State Homeland Security Grant Programs - \$1,938,922
ODP FY-04 State Homeland Security Grant Programs - \$2,048,527
ODP FY-05 State Homeland Security Grant Programs - \$1,586,786

Under the Grant Review Committee, a total of \$4.8 million was dispersed during FY03-04 grant periods to the following agencies: Lumpkin County Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Hall County EMA, Athens-Clarke County Fire and Emergency Services, Banks County EMA, Greene County EMA, Morgan County EMA, Rabun County EMA, Union County EMA, and Walton County EMA.

The grants were used to improve radio communications, upgrade existing hazardous material teams, purchase communications vans with decontamination rooms for interoperability, buy trailers equipped with fluids, backboards, generators, heaters and personal sanitation systems to provide triage for 50 people, and provide decontamination centers for hospitals in northeast Georgia. With the benefits of continuing grants this is just a beginning of improvements.

What's New in Area 1

A seminar was held last fall to assist agencies applying for Office of Domestic Preparedness funding. Attendees received a packet with a CD-ROM and notebook with information about the grant process. In addition, Dan Yeargin, Tracy Sargent and Ralph Reichert of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency

(GEMA) answered questions about the grant process. It was helpful to learn what was and what was not covered by this grant, as well as alternative funding sources.

Training is an ongoing priority of Area 1 AHC. Interoperability van training was held last month. Moreover, Area 1 AHC has met or will meet all priorities in communications, hazard mitigation and detection equipment.

Meetings

Meetings are usually held at the Oconee County Civic Center. Lunch is provided at 12:00 p.m. with the meeting starting at 1:00 p.m. The next Area 1 AHC meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2005.

Area 2 All Hazards Council

Members: 22

Counties Served

Baker, Brooks, Calhoun, Clay, Colquitt, Cook, Crisp, Decatur, Dougherty, early, Grady, Lee, Lowndes, Miller, Mitchell, Quitman, Randolph, Seminole, Terrell, Thomas, Tift, Turner and Worth.

Who's Who in Area 2

Chair

Clark Harrell
Mitchell County 9-1-1

Vice Chair

Honorable Elaine Mays
Commissioner, Thomas County

Secretary

David Edwards
Crisp County EMS

Committees

Grant Application Review Committee, CERT Committee

Funding Received

Part 1 ODP FY-03 State Homeland Security Grant Programs - \$545,214
Part 2 ODP FY-03 State Homeland Security Grant Programs - \$1,305,605
ODP FY-04 State Homeland Security Grant Programs - \$1,742,460
ODP FY-05 State Homeland Security Grant Programs - \$1,410,476

Area 2 has received approximately \$3.7 million in three phases of ODP funding, which was used to fund five strategically placed hazardous material teams, four communications trailers equipped with Smart-boxes, three medical disaster supply trailers, and upgrades for SWAT, EOD, fire and law enforcement.

What's New in Area 2

Soon after the Area 2 AHC was formed in September 2002, the group tackled an asset and vulnerabilities assessment of southwest Georgia. Personnel from each discipline surveyed their counterparts to prioritize needs and found that hazardous materials and interoperable communications are top priorities. Data from the assessment helped to create a work plan, which is used to review grant applications so the most urgent needs are addressed first.

New equipment and assets have been placed around southwest Georgia, so another survey of all disciplines is being conducted. The goal is to develop a Mutual Aid Strategy for Area 2. A regional project, such as placing Web-EOC in every county in southwest Georgia, also is being considered in order to provide a more unified response to neighboring communities in times of disaster.

Meetings

Meetings are usually held quarterly on the third Tuesday of the first month of the quarter at the Mitchell County Emergency Services Facility in Camilla.

Area 3 All Hazards Council

Members: Area 3 AHC has 18 members; 5 are advisory

Counties Served

Baldwin, Bulloch, Burke, Candler, Columbia, Evans, Emanuel, Glascock, Hancock, Jasper, Jefferson, Jenkins, Johnson, Laurens, McDuffie, Putnam, Richmond, Screven, Taliaferro, Treutlen, Twiggs, Warren, Washington and Wilkinson.

Who's Who in Area 3

Chair

Edward "Ed" Westbrook
Director, Jasper County Emergency Management Agency

Vice Chair

Harvey Cryder
Chief, Screven County Fire & Rescue

Secretary

Terry Cobb
Director, Laurens County Emergency Medical Services

Committees

Nominating, Communications, Law Enforcement, EMS, and Fire and Rescue/Haz-Mat

Funding Received

Part 1 ODP FY-03 State Homeland Security Grant Programs - \$615,585
Part 2 ODP FY-03 State Homeland Security Grant Programs - \$1,602,693
ODP FY-04 State Homeland Security Grant Programs - \$1,798,657
ODP FY-05 State Homeland Security Grant Programs - \$1,410,476

What's New in Area 3

An interoperability communication vehicle was placed in Columbia County, four multi-county hazardous materials teams were developed, and the area's only bomb squad was upgraded. Ongoing projects include interoperability, area-wide response and updating the resource list.

Meetings

Meetings are usually held the fourth Thursday of every other month at 10:00 a.m. at the Sandersville Fire Station located at 125 Warthen Street, Sandersville, Georgia. Area 3 meetings are scheduled for the following dates: January 27, March 24, May 26, July 28, September 22, and November 17.

Area 4 All Hazards Council

Members: 95

Counties Served

Bibb, Butts, Chattahoochee, Crawford, Dooly, Harris, Houston, Jones, Lamar, Macon, Marion, Meriwether, Monroe, Muscogee, Peach, Pike, Schley, Spalding, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Taylor, Troup, Upson and Webster

Who's Who in Area 4

Chair

Honorable Jerry Modena
Sheriff, Bibb County Sheriff's Department

Vice Chair

Honorable Gerald Kersey
Commissioner, Butts County

Secretary

Lee Oliver
EMS Director, Medical Center of Central Georgia

Committees

Law Enforcement, Fire and Hazardous Material, EMS and Hospital, Emergency Management, Communications, Transportation and Infrastructure, Grant Evaluation and Review and Training

Funding Received

Part 1 ODP FY-03 State Homeland Security Grant Programs - \$856,106
Part 2 ODP FY-03 State Homeland Security Grant Programs - \$2,243,695
ODP FY-04 State Homeland Security Grant Programs - \$3,419,738
ODP FY-05 State Homeland Security Grant Programs - \$1,586,786

To date, Area 4 has processed a total of 147 grant applications and assisted GEMA in disbursing approximately \$6 million dollars during three rounds of grant funding. Our members once again stand ready as the application deadline approaches for a fourth round of grant funds, of which Area 4's designated portion is \$1,586,786.

What's New in Area 4

The Area 4 Council finds its advisory members invaluable. These individuals do not vote on issues raised before council, but they do lend expertise during discussions on various aspects of homeland security and emergency preparedness. Advisory members include experts in areas such as communications, utilities, military affairs, and CERT training, among others.

The 95 dedicated individuals who make up the council today have pulled together as a team to stay on top of what's going on in Area 4 and keep candid discussions flowing about the area's needs. In 2003 Georgia's All Hazards Councils were first tapped as advisors to GEMA when post-9/11 funding was directed into the state for addressing homeland security concerns.

Both the voting members and the advisory members realize the important responsibility entrusted to them as members of this body. Each individual strives toward the common goals of Area 4, the State of Georgia, and our nation as a whole for reaching the best possible level of preparation and response to emergencies, whether they are brought about by nature or by man.

Next Meeting

Meetings are usually held the second Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. Location varies.

Area 5 All Hazards Council

Who's Who in Area 5

Chair

Honorable Herb Shaw
Mayor, City of Jesup

Vice Chair

Lawton "Carl" Smith Jr.
Chief, Thunderbolt Fire Department

Secretary

Jim Phillips, CEM
Director, Office of Emergency Preparedness
East/Coastal Health Districts

Committees

Communications, Fire, Technical Rescue and Haz-Mat, Emergency Medical Services, Health and Human Services, Law Enforcement, Finance, Planning, Training, Bylaws

Sub-committee

Grants Review

Funding Received

Part 1 ODP FY-03 State Homeland Security Grant Programs - \$546,122
Part 2 ODP FY-03 State Homeland Security Grant Programs - \$1,975,601
ODP FY-04 State Homeland Security Grant Programs - \$5,516,269
ODP FY-05 State Homeland Security Grant Programs - \$1,586,786

What's New in Area 5

Due to the G8 Summit and the commitments that it required, Area 5 has been unable to properly plan and set priorities. Area 5's focus is to set those priorities for a regional response plan and the level of training needed to accomplish the task. This is a large undertaking with two major ports, one major airport, two major military bases, (one is a nuclear submarine base) and more than 120 miles of coastline in Area 5. There is a great deal of planning and training ahead for Area 5. We are working with GTRI to assist in developing a regional response plan, resource and inoperable communications study.

Our 911 committee is reviewing requests for 250 hand-held 800mhz radios that was part of G8. Over 500 requests were received by agencies in Area 5.

Next Meeting

Meetings are usually held the second Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. Locations vary. The meetings for Area 5 are the following: January 13, February 24, May 12, July 14, September 8 and November 10.

Area 6 All Hazards Council

Members: Mike Dawson County Commissioner, Raymond Barber County Commissioner, John Weaver Mayor William Hoyle Mayor, Bruce Harris Sheriff, Ted Paxton Sheriff, Scott Carter Fire Chief, Lenny Nesbitt Fire Chief, James Chadwick Police Chief, Gary Moss Police Chief, Lanier Swafford EMS, Benjie Alexander EMS, Ann Walters 911 Communication, Jennifer Clayton 911 Communication, Robby Westbrook EMA, Tim Padgett EMA, Joe Adams DHR, Michael Brackett DHR, Thomas Chester DHR, David Loftin, Earl McGrotha DHR, Wade Sellers DHR, Melody Stancil DHR, Billy Watson DHR

Counties Served

Bartow, Carroll, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Coweta, Dade, Dawson, Fannin, Floyd, Forsyth, Gilmer, Gordon, Haralson, Heard, Murray, Paulding, Pickens, Polk, Walker and Whitfield.

Who's Who in Area 6

Chair

Tim Padgett
EMA Director and Deputy Fire Chief
Carroll County Fire Rescue and Emergency Management

Vice Chair

Scott Carter
Deputy Chief, Cartersville Fire Department

Secretary

Benji Alexander
Vice President, West Georgia Ambulance

Committees

Finance, Fire, Technical Rescue and HAZMAT, Communications, Law Enforcement, Health and Human Services, Emergency Medical Services, Nominating

Funding Received

Part 1 ODP FY-03 State Homeland Security Grant Programs - \$1,108,241
Part 2 ODP FY-03 State Homeland Security Grant Programs - \$2,519,926
ODP FY-04 State Homeland Security Grant Programs - \$3,172,468
ODP FY-05 State Homeland Security Grant Programs - \$2,292,024

What's New in Area 6?

We conducted a training workshop at Red Top on May 26, 2004 taught by Georgia Tech on Georgia's CONPLAN "Decision Modeling for Emergency Response." And through the grant process, we have enhanced our regional response capabilities for hazards materials response, bomb squad capability and interoperability communications within a Mobile Command Vehicle.

Next Meeting

Meetings are usually held the third Wednesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at the Bartow County Emergency Operations Center located in Cartersville, Georgia. The meetings scheduled for Area 6 are the following: January 19, February 16, April 20, June 15, August 17, October 19 and December 21.

Area 7 All Hazards Council

Members: 18

Voting members of the Council include the following:

- 2 – Police Chiefs
- 2 – Fire Chiefs
- 2 – EMA Directors
- 2 – EMS Directors
- 2 – 911 Directors
- 2 – Sheriffs
- 2 – County Commissioners
- 2 – Mayors

Advisory and Liaison members are appointed by the Council.

Counties Served

Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry and Rockdale

Who's Who in Area 7Chair

Jack Krakeel

Director, Fayette County Department of Public Safety

Vice Chair

Johnny Roberts

Chief, Fayetteville Police Department

Secretary

Jim Cook

Director, Atlanta-Fulton County Emergency Management Agency

Sub-committees

Fire, Technical Rescue and Haz-Mat, Communications, Health and Human Services, Law Enforcement, Finance, Emergency Medical Services, Planning and Training

Funding Received

Phase 1 ODP FY-03 State Homeland Security Grant Programs - \$3,217,680

Phase 2 ODP FY-03 State Homeland Security Grant Programs - \$8,770,815

ODP FY-04 State Homeland Security Grant Programs - \$14,902,561

ODP FY-05 State Homeland Security Grant Programs - \$7,052,380

What's New in Area 7

During the past year, the Area 7 Council has been actively involved in the development of a Regional Response Plan for the Metropolitan Atlanta Area. The development of this plan is being coordinated by the Georgia Tech Research Institute through a grant from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency. It is anticipated that the work being done in Area 7 will serve as the foundation for development of regional response plans throughout the State of Georgia. One principal feature of the plan that is currently being concluded is the development of an electronic inventory of equipment and personnel resources available within the Atlanta Metro Region. Other aspects of the plan include the identification, typing and coordination of various Task Force and Specialty Teams as well as standardization of emergency response teams and capabilities.

In addition, the Area 7 Council has initiated a coordinated and continuous dialogue with the Metropolitan Medical Response System to ensure that the respective organizations remain abreast of capabilities and responsibilities during a regional response event. Through this process, regional capacity and capability for events involving large patient volumes will be identified and included in a coordinated, systematic regional approach.

The Area 7 Training sub-committee is in the process of developing a training calendar to provide agencies with opportunities for training their staffs in the newly released National Response Plan, National Incident Management System and the Incident Command System.

The Council is also planning a tabletop disaster exercise involving a multi-jurisdictional event to test regional response capacity and capability during the first half of 05.

The Area 7 Communications Sub-Committee has met with the Department of Justice and received approval from DOJ for the installation of fixed ACU1000 equipment to enhance regional interoperable communications between E911 centers in the Metro Atlanta Area. Area 7 was selected as one of 18 urban areas nationwide to receive grants to improve interoperable communications.

Next Meeting

Meetings are usually held the third Tuesday of every other month. Locations of meetings will be posted prior to the meeting on the GEMA website and are generally rotated between the various counties in the Region.

The meetings scheduled for Area 7 for 2005 are the following: March 1, April 19, June 21, August 16, October 18 and December 20. March 1st meeting to be held at the Gwinnett County Sheriff's Department from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Area 8 All Hazards Council

Members: 23

Counties Served

Appling, Atkinson, Bacon, Ben Hill, Berrien, Bleckley, Clinch, Coffee, Dodge, Echols, Irwin, Jeff Davis, Lanier, Montgomery, Pulaski, Tattnall, Telfair, Toombs, Ware, Wheeler and Wilcox

Who's Who in Area 8

Chair

Mike Smith

Director, Bleckley County Emergency Management Agency

Vice Chair

Charles Wasdin

Chief, Hazlehurst/Jeff Davis Fire Department

Secretary

Kelly Barnard

Director, Tattnall County E-911

Committees

Fire, Nominating, Law Enforcement, Planning, Communications, Exercise Planning, EMS, Regional response Planning, Agriculture, Nims and Health.

Funding Received

Part 1 ODP FY-03 State Homeland Security Grant Programs - \$312,350

Part 2 ODP FY-03 State Homeland Security Grant Programs - \$794,400

ODP FY-04 State Homeland Security Grant Programs - \$1,008,405

ODP FY-05 State Homeland Security Grant Programs - \$705,238

In 2004, the Area 8 AHC awarded \$1 million to Tattnall County EMA for interoperable communications; City Of Waycross Fire Department for light and air truck; Ben Hill County Fire Department for light rescue truck; City of Alma Fire Department for light rescue truck; Bleckley County EMA for communication, surveillance and inventory tracking software; Telfair County EMA for light rescue truck; City of Cochran Fire Department for S.C.B.A.'s.

What's New in Area 8

Future projects will include light and air truck completion, sign and barricade trailers, scene lighting, Web E.O.C. and low-band radios.

Next Meeting

Meetings are usually held the third Wednesday of each month or every other month, as needed.

A Special Thank You ...

To past AHC Executive members. As the first AHC Executive members, these individuals laid the foundation for today's AHC and are to be commended on a job well done. Thank you.

Area	Chair	Vice Chair	Secretary
1	Mike Satterfield, Hall EMA	Neal Thompson, Madison PD	Dr. Melody Stancil
2	Nick Lacey, Lowndes 911	Paul Johnson, Triton Mayor	Ann Lamb, Mitchell EMA
3	Ted Wynn, Bulloch EMA	N/A	N/A
4	Jerry Modena, Bibb SO	Gerald Kersey, Butts Commissioner	Lee Oliver, Central GA EMS
5	Phillip Webber, Chatham EMA	Herb Shaw, Mayor of Jesup	Dr. David Page, DHR – PH Div.
6	Robby Westbrook, Cherokee Fire	Tim Padgett, Carroll EMA	Benji Alexander, West GA Amb
7	Jack Krakeel, Fayette EMA	Johnny Roberts, Fayetteville PD	Jim Cook, Fulton EMA
8	Jim Blackburn, Waycross PD	Mike Smith Bleckley EMA	Camille Kimball, Appling Cty 911