Director Lane's Message: Shelby Cares!

“All I have to do is make one phone call when we need to set up shelters and you respond. We so appreciate these partnerships!” said Shelby County Office of Preparedness Director Dale Lane on February 24 as he welcomed Shelby Cares, our faith-based partners, to the EOC. A 501c3 mission, Shelby Cares is part of Emergency Support Function 18: Faith-Based Partnerships responding to disasters when citizens require sheltering.

Pastor Rolando Rostro from Iglesia Nueva Vida offered an opening prayer followed by Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr. The Mayor said, “Time and again, we are faced with disasters and our citizens need a safe place to be housed and fed. Government will help - but having Shelby Cares step up as a partner makes all the difference. On behalf of Shelby County, we thank you for being a part of this volunteer sheltering mission. And folks, I personally want to thank you as well.”

Terry Donald, SCOP Preparedness Officer / Shelby Cares Coordinator, said, “There is joy to be found in preparation! We are excited about the collaboration to be ready to shelter those in need. Thank you to the churches, the pastors, the American Red Cross, and the Tennessee Department of Human Services. My motto is...T.E.A.M. (together everyone achieves more)!

Jeana Bailey, American Red Cross Disaster Program Manager, graciously said, “This is the group of people here who we look to when sheltering is needed. Thank you!”

Gary Woodall, National Weather Service Warning Meteorologist, presented the 2017 Spring Weather Outlook and Atlantic Hurricane predictions. The hurricane prediction is neutral. However, he said, “It only takes one to make it a bad season!” The Atlantic Hurricane season is from June 1 until November 30.

If you are interested in finding out more about Shelby Cares or volunteering, please contact terry.donald@shelbycountyttn.gov.

Captions: Top Left: SCOP Director Lane. Top Right: Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr. Bottom Left: SCOP Officer Terry Donald
Partner Spotlight: Shelby County Fire Adds EMS

Captions: Left: Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr., far right, congratulates Shelby County Fire Chief Alvin D. Benson, 2nd to right, as the Shelby County Fire EMS Division is launched on February 2. Center and Right: 12 new Shelby County Fire Department ambulances grace the parking lot of the Shelby County East Campus at 1075 Mullins Station.

On February 2, after 16 weeks of hard work and extensive detailed planning, Shelby County’s Mark H. Luttrell, Jr., Mayor, and Alvin D. Benson, Fire Chief, proudly launched the county’s first fire-based ambulance service! As the county officials welcomed first responders, the public, and the media, the excitement was evident as the crowd viewed the 12 new state-of-the-art advanced life support ambulances. With creating the new EMS division, in addition to the ambulances, more than 50 new EMT's and paramedics were hired - with more on the way. Congratulations Shelby County Fire!

Tennessee Severe Weather Awareness Week

From 1959 to 2016 the state of Tennessee had a total of 52 tornadoes. With this statistic in mind, citizens are invited to learn more about sever weather and how to prepare to stay safe. Tennessee’s Severe Weather Awareness Week is February 26 – March 4. The Shelby County Office of Preparedness joins the National Weather Service in Memphis to encourage citizens to stay “weather ready” with a NOAA radio, upload free weather apps, and have a “safe place” for shelter!

Safety initiatives for the week include:

- **February 26:** SKYWARN Volunteers
- **February 27:** Flooding and Flash Floods
- **February 28:** Lightning, the Underrated Killer
- **March 1:** Tornado Safety and Preparedness. A statewide tornado drill will be held. A NOAA radio test will be conducted at 9:30 a.m.
- **March 2:** Severe Thunderstorm
- **March 3:** NOAA Weather Radio and the Emergency Alert System
- **March 4:** Importance of Social Media

For more information, please visit [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov).
PrepareAthon 2017!

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness, in partnership with the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), will have a day-long PrepareAthon in April! More details will be forthcoming about how you can participate! Stay tuned!

Monsters Teach Kids Preparedness

Monster Guard, a mobile app by the American Red Cross and Disney, is designed to teach kids how to prepare for emergencies. Maya, Chad, Olivia (and other monsters) show kids how to get ready for real-life emergencies at home and elsewhere through games and adventures. Please visit: http://www.redcross.org/monsterguard to upload your free app to text MONSTER to 90999 today!

Outreach: Bickford Senior Center

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness spent a delightful morning at the Bickford Senior Center at 233 Henry Street on January 31. The 47 seniors received valuable information on how to prepare for the most common MidSouth disasters and what to put in a “go kit” in case they need to evacuate or shelter-in-place. All received a gift bag of preparedness literature and HELP / OK signs.

Caption: Bickford Seniors learning about preparedness.

SCOP Attends HLS Conference

Shelby County Office of Preparedness Officers, Michael Brazzell and Shelby Logan, attended Tennessee Homeland Security (HLS) Conference at Paris Landing State Park last week. Emergency management and law enforcement personnel from all across the state of Tennessee were in attendance.

Caption: Steve Mallard, left, standing, from the Tennessee College of Applied Technology, giving a lecture on the importance of cyber security. Photo by Michael Brazzell, SCOP Preparedness Officer.
West Tennessee Type 3 AHIMT Recruits Bouler

Kimberlyn Bouler, Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP) Planning Officer, was selected to attend the “All Hazards Incident Management Team (Type 3 AHIMT)” training at the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy in Bell Buckle on January 23 - 27.

IMT's or Incident Management Teams coordinate on-scene operations for natural disasters, planned public events that include two or more agencies or jurisdictions, public health emergencies, terrorism events, or other large complex accidents (such as train or aircraft incidents). The Type 3 AHIMT is a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional team of 10 to 20 trained personnel from different agencies responding to extended incidents. AHIMT Type 3 is a new endeavor for Tennessee – we currently uses a Type 4, a local or regional IMT managed at the city or county level.

SCOP is the host agency for the West Tennessee Type 3 AHIMT and will be participating behind the scenes in pre-planning events for Memphis in May, the Mid-South Airshow, and the Delta Fair. Congratulations Kimberlyn!

Caption: Type 3 AHIMT class. SCOP’s Kimberlyn Bouler, standing far right, back row.

Residential Storm Shelter Registry

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness Storm Shelter Registry, a database of storm shelter locations, assists emergency agencies in providing aid to victims of severe weather. The registry is a tool to help locate and assist citizens who may be trapped in their storm shelters or their “safe place” by tornado debris.

Residential and businesses owners are welcome to register their storm shelter or safe place by emailing Kimberlyn.bouler@shelbycountytn.gov, calling 901.222.6715, or filling out the online form at www.staysafeshelby.us. The form requires your name, phone number, email, shelter address, shelter location, type of shelter, the size and capacity of the shelter, and your out-of-town contact.

Your storm shelter information will not be shared or distributed for any reason other than to aid emergency responders.
New Spiritual Care Team

Kenneth Brown, Memphis Fire Department Chaplain, and Brenda Harper, Shelby County Fire Department Chaplain, will serve as the new American Red Cross Disaster Spiritual Care Team. In their new roles, they may be called to serve and offer comfort and prayers anywhere in the United States. Both are also members of the West Tennessee Crisis Response Team. Congratulations!

Caption: **Left:** Brenda Harper, **Right:** Kenneth Brown

Earthquake Activity

On February 9, the United States Geological Survey reported a 2.8 magnitude earthquake 6 miles west of Dyersburg, Tennessee. No injuries or damage were reported. The Shelby County Office of Preparedness reminds citizens to stay ready to respond safely! If you can walk or use a cane, practice the **DROP! COVER! HOLD ON!** maneuver. If you use a walker or have a wheelchair, practice the **LOCK! COVER! HOLD ON!** maneuver.

To monitor the latest earthquakes or to receive earthquake notifications, please the USGS earthquake notification service at [https://sslearthquake.usgs.gov/ens/userhome](https://sslearthquake.usgs.gov/ens/userhome).

Mississippi River at Memphis:

The Mississippi River at Memphis measured 5.87 feet on February 27 according to the National Weather Service (NWS) Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service. For the lastest river level information, please visit [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov).

Captions: **Left:** Mississippi River at Martyrs Park, downtown Memphis, February 26. **Right:** MWS river stage graph.
**Significant Weather / Power Outages:**

- **National Weather Service 7-Day Hazardous Weather Outlook:**

  **Strong to severe thunderstorms possible Tuesday and Wednesday.**
  Tuesday's threat is conditional on storms developing ahead of a cold front. The severe weather threat increases Tuesday night through Wednesday afternoon. Tuesday night threat is over northeast Arkansas, the Missouri Boot heel, and extreme western Tennessee. Wednesday's threat includes west Tennessee and north Mississippi. Primary hazards are large hail and damaging winds. Tornadoes are possible.

  - **NWS Predictions:** Gary Woodall, National Weather Service Warning Coordination Meteorologist, reported at the February UASI meeting:
    - **Mississippi River at Memphis:** modest precipitation over the Ohio Valley and snow melt may cause the Mississippi River to rise to 18.5 feet by March 9 or 10.
    - **Spring Outlook:** above normal temperatures. Above normal precipitation in the Upper Mississippi Valley. No major flooding predicted at this time.

**Severe Weather / Outages:**

- **February 6, 7:** Severe Thunderstorm Warning
- **Feb 10:** Elevated wildfire danger. Outages: 1,955 customers in South Memphis.
- **Feb. 17:** Elevated wildfire danger
- **Feb. 8, 19, 22, 23:** Dense fog advisory
- **Feb. 24:** Outages: 723 customers in Cordova.
- **Feb 25:** Elevated fire conditions.

**Captions:** Left: Threatening clouds February 6.

**Super Tuesday Anniversary**

Tuesday, February 5 marked the ninth anniversary of the 2008 "Super Tuesday" tornado outbreak – the largest February tornado outbreak in U.S. history. On February 5 and 6, for over 15 hours 86 tornadoes touched down in the southern United States and lower Ohio Valley. Five of the tornadoes were classified as EF4. The outbreak killed 57 and injured 425. An EF2 tore across south and southeast Memphis after sunset, causing 3 deaths. An EF4 caused severe damage in Jackson, hitting the Union University. Fifty-one people were injured.

**Caption:** Hickory Ridge Mall Sears store damaged by the tornado on February 5, 2008.
Sports and Special Events Incident Management

On January 25 and 26, the Shelby County Office of Preparedness hosted “Sports and Special Events Incident Management” training with instructors from the Texas A & M Engineering Extension Service. The instructors presented information on how to respond to incidents occurring during a sports or special event using the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The course assists stakeholders, such as the athletic department staff, facility management personnel, campus public safety staff, and emergency responders, manage these events. To sign up for free preparedness training, please visit www.staysafeshelby.us.

Caption: SCOP Director Dale Lane greets students attending the Sports and Special Events Incident Management class.

Stay Vigilant!

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness, in partnership with the Department of Homeland Security, reminds citizens and especially their faith-based partners to stay vigilant during this time of increased violence and terrorism perpetrated by homegrown violent extremists. Here are some safety tips:

- Always be aware of your surroundings.
- Have at least 2 exits available.
- Practice the Run, Hide, Fight maneuver when faced with an active shooter.
- If you see or hear something suspicious, report it immediately! Call local law enforcement or submit a tip on-line to the FBI at https://tips.fbi.gov/

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness has trained over 5,800 citizens in active shooter awareness. To schedule a class, please visit www.staysafeshelby.us. To view the "Run, Hide, Fight - Surviving an Active Shooter Event” video, please visit https://youtu.be/5VcSwejU2D0.

SKYWARN Training:

SKYWARN Weather Spotter training on March 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the Lord of Life Church, 6865 Poplar Pike, Memphis, TN. FREE!

SKYWARN volunteers assist the National Weather Service by reporting inclement weather and property damage.
Amateur Radio Check-In / Training:

- Check in! SCOPERNET on Mondays, 6:00 p.m., 147.09 repeater, tone 107.2.
- **Technician Class**: Saturdays, February 25 – April 15, 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m., 6972 Appling Farms Pkwy. FREE. FCC exam is $15.00. ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, 3rd Edition is $25.00. Email Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO at wa4ovo@gmail.com by February 10.

Emergency Operations Center Activation Status February 27, 2017:

- The **Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP)** is at Level 5, Normal Operations.
- The **Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA)** is at Level 5, Normal Operations.

Flag Status: Full staff.

Shelby County Office of Preparedness:

Visit us! [www.staysafeshelby.us](http://www.staysafeshelby.us)
Follow us! SCOP@SCOP_HLS_EMA  Like us! [https://www.facebook.com/StaySafeShelby/](https://www.facebook.com/StaySafeShelby/)
CERT: Contact Eugene Jones at Eugene.jones@shelbycountytn.gov
Storm Shelter Registry: Contact Kimberlyn Bouler at kimberlyn.bouler@shelbycountytn.gov
Volunteer!
  - **SCOP Reserves**: Contact Shelby Logan at shelby.logan@shelbycountytn.gov
  - **Shelby Cares**: Contact Terry Donald at terry.donald@shelbycountytn.tn.gov

Preparedness Resources:

American Red Cross (ARC): [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

Emergency: call 911