

National Preparedness Month!

As we enter into National Preparedness Month this September, we are reminded of what can happen in Shelby County. The potential man-caused threats remain serious - terrorism, hazardous materials incidences and power outages. And the natural disasters that can occur include flooding, tornadoes, and seismic events.

But, even though we face challenges, the good news is that we are much better prepared in September 2012 than ever before.

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness aims to partner with the whole community – our citizens, our public safety agencies, public health, and county government to accomplish our mission to prevent, protect, respond and recover from all hazards and threats.

In working with our partners, we have:

- Created a new Emergency Operations Center with a progressive attitude towards new technology that will enhance our response and coordinate a virtual environment.
- Expanded Shelby Cares, a faith-based sheltering initiative.
- Formed the “River Watch” committee to monitor the Mississippi River and its tributaries.
- Supported our Citizen Corps Program that includes the Community Emergency Response Team training, the Medical Reserve Corps, USAonWatch and Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS). Our “volunteers in disaster” are vital to assisting us before, during and after a disaster.

September 2012 issue

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Our one focused message this September from the Office of Preparedness and our partners is that we are moving towards a stronger resilient community through the efforts of a willing and supportive county government and its citizens. We continue to encourage our citizens to partner with us to stay prepared by following these four steps:

- **Know your risks** by learning what disasters can occur where you live.
- **Create a disaster kit** for home, work, and auto capable of sustaining you, your family and pets for at least seven days
- **Make a plan** for every possible hazard and threat and practice your plans with your family and co-workers
- **Stay informed** with a NOAA all-hazards radio or ALERT FM.

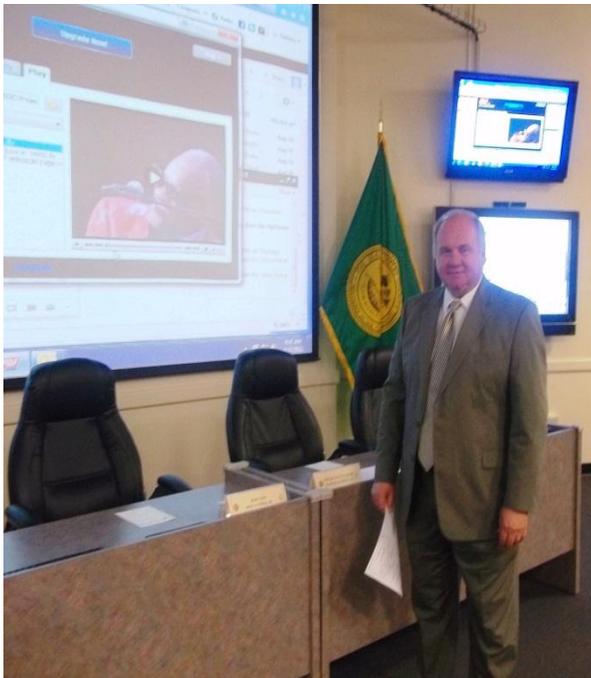


Photo caption: Bob Nations, Jr. Director Shelby County Office of Preparedness at the new Emergency Operations Center during the dedication ceremony.

PLEDGE to PREPARE

In any disaster, we can choose to be part of the problem or part of the solution. If we prepare ahead of time, pledge to take the steps necessary to be ready, we are part of the solution. The Federal Emergency Management Agency invites you to “**Pledge to Prepare**” during National Preparedness Month. There is no cost and no obligation to join the **Preparedness Coalition**. As a member, you have total access to numerous resources to keep you informed and included in your community’s efforts to stay safe. To find out more, please visit www.ready.gov/prepare. Join today!

Weather Ready Nation for Kids



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has launched “Weather Ready Nation,” an initiative intended to increase your weather-readiness! With new upgrades in radar and satellite technologies, more effective communication and accurate forecasting will save lives when inclement weather strikes. Weather Ready Nation also offers a free interactive computer game for kids. “The Young Meteorologist Program” invites children through age 8 to follow “Owlie” and two meteorologist as they explore weather events. This program can teach children how easy it is to stay prepared. To play the game visit, www.youngmeteorologist.org.

“Shelby Cares” Emergency Sheltering



“Entirely driven by compassion and desire to help,” said Bob Nations, Jr., Director, describing this unique faith-based initiative. Lead by the Office of Preparedness and Hope Presbyterian Church, Shelby Cares includes several houses of worship working together to provide emergency shelters in times of disaster. With one phone call, up to 1,000 displaced citizens will be welcomed into a safe environment and provided food, hygiene supplies, and bedding at participating churches.

“They just want to serve – they realize they are not going to be reimbursed for their efforts,” Nations continued. With only 24 hour notice, a shelter can be set up and ready to receive victims. Shelby Cares will work with the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency(TEMA) if the event is catastrophic and more assistance is needed. For more information about Shelby Cares, to volunteer or to donate, please contact Terry Donald at 901.515.2525.



“River Watch”



Photo Caption: The Mississippi River at Greenbelt Park, downtown Memphis during the 2011 “Flood of the Century.”

Following the historic flooding of 2010 and 2011, the Shelby County Office of Preparedness formed a committee called “River Watch.”

Representatives from the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the Army Corps of Engineers, Public Works, the Office of Preparedness, and the University of Memphis gather monthly with the sole purpose to prevent and prepare for possible flooding in this region.

Realizing that the Mississippi River is not the only waterway that effects our safety, the committee recently purchased six new solar-powered river gages and weather stations to be placed at the Mississippi River tributaries to monitor the depth of the water. The National Weather Service interprets the real-time data acquired from the gages and notifies the Office of Preparedness if the citizens need to be warned of rising flood waters.

“We will have our eyes and ears on this data 24/7 and be able to warn the citizens in those populated areas that are likely to flood,” said Director Nations.

Evacuation: Lessons From Hurricane Isaac



Photo Caption: Ominous clouds surround the Pyramid, downtown Memphis, as remnants of Hurricane Isaac bring wind and rain to the MidSouth.

Officials proclaimed a “state of emergency” for Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, almost seven years to the date Hurricane Katrina destroyed the Gulf Coast. Hurricane Issac evolved from a tropical storm to a category 1 hurricane in a matter of days. As it approached landfall, heading towards New Orleans, LA, mandatory and voluntary evacuation orders rang out through the media. Over-crowded highways and hotel “no vacancy” signs along the route inland signaled that many heeded the warnings for this potential disaster.

Do you know what to do if you had to evacuate at a moment’s notice? Would you be ready? Here are some preparedness tips for safe evacuation:

1. Decide where you are traveling to as soon as possible. What is the safest route away from the disaster? Have street maps and a compass with you at all times.

2. Have an alternate plan of escape if your intended route is too crowded or roads and bridges are blocked.
3. Communicate with family and friends about your intended route and destination.
4. Have a disaster kit in your vehicle that will sustain you and your family for at least 7 days to include: non-perishable food, bottled water, prescription medications, first-aid kit, tools, sanitation items, lightweight layers of clothing, personal protection equipment (helmet, gloves, reflective vest, boots, mask, goggles), cash, maps, flashlight, batteries, NOAA all-hazards radio with tone alert, identification, copies of important papers (medical, insurance, phone lists, bank accounts, passports, birth certificates), photos of family and possessions, cell phone and charger, extra keys, infant and children's items, special needs items.
5. Pack your vehicle for at least a 12 hour ride.
6. Keep your vehicle's tank at least half full. Make sure your vehicle is tuned up and ready for travel.
7. If you don't own a vehicle, make arrangements ahead of time for mass transit or ride-sharing.
8. Pre-plan for your pets and livestock. They must have a disaster kit with food, water, medications, leash, toy, photographs. Visit your veterinarian ahead of time and get a permanent ID for your pet (microchip).
9. Prepare your home with pre-cut plywood and hardware (for covering doors and windows) before you depart.
10. Monitor NOAA all-hazards weather radio for updates



The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) will offer a Simulated Emergency Test or "SET" on October 6 – 7, 2012. The exercise will encourage amateur radio operators involved with Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES), the National Traffic System (NTS) and SKYWARN to practice and prepare for an emergency event.

New Shelby County EOC



Photo Caption: The new Shelby County Emergency Operations Center at 1075 Mullins Station Road.

“Disasters are difficult,” said Bob Nations, Jr., Director of the Shelby County Office of Preparedness, during the dedication of the new Shelby County Emergency Operations Center on August 17, 2012. “What we do is not an easy thing. But we respond with courage, strength, and resolve as we do our work.”

Emergency managers and city and county officials were welcomed into the large, bright new Emergency Operations Center dominated by three 17-foot projection screens and six video monitors. In attendance for the ceremony and demonstrations were Mark H. Luttrell, Jr., Shelby County Mayor, Jane Waldrop, Regional Director of the West Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, Bill Odom, Shelby County Sheriff, Dr. Craig Strickland, Pastor of Hope Presbyterian Church, and representatives from the National Weather Service, the University of Memphis, Shelby County Fire Department, Shelby County Sheriff’s Office, and the Shelby County Health Department.



Photo Caption: Technology is demonstrated at the new EOC dedication by the Office of Preparedness. Sitting left is Bob Nations, Jr., Jane Waldrop, Regional Director TEMA West, Bill Odom, Shelby County Sheriff, and Mark Luttrell, Shelby County Mayor

Director Nations lead demonstrations of the exciting new “virtual environment” that will “connect everyone with one button, one key stroke.” Mondo boards and cameras that will allow the users to have face time and connect in real time from different rooms in the same building as well as different jurisdictions were shown. Preparedness Officer, Mike Brazzell, showed off the “VueToo” system displaying sixteen screens of video that could be seen simultaneously. The National Weather Service’s live feeds were viewed along with GIS mapping from a work station and lab on site.

Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell said of this new location and bright new work space, “As we meet here after a disaster, it is a diverse group that comes together for a common purpose. This is a new day, reinforcing our commitment to help each other with improved communications access. We are in this new EOC for a single cause and we are a community who cares.”



The Shelby County Citizen Corps Council, under the leadership of Kimberlyn Boulter, Chairperson and Office of Preparedness Planning Officer, gathers monthly to guide the training and volunteer efforts of our volunteer citizens in disaster. Programs include the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS), USAonWatch, and Power Squadrons. The Office of Preparedness would like to thank the thousands of men and women who donate their time and talents for our Citizen Corps Programs.



Photo Caption: "CERT on the Go" for University of Tennessee nursing students. Eugene Jones, CERT Coordinator, far right.

Training opportunities and events:

Shelby County CERT and "CERT on the Go": Contact CERT Coordinator Eugene Jones at 901.515.2525 for scheduled classes.

Germantown CERT: September 28, 29, October 6, 2012. To

find out more information or to register, please contact srhea@germantown-tn.gov.

Lakeland CERT: “Seniors CERT,” preparedness sessions Wednesdays, September 12 - November 7, 10:00 – 12:00, 4523 Canada Road, Lakeland, TN. Contact Lakeland EMA Director Claude Talford at 901.867.5407 or email ctalford@lakelandtn.org.

6th Annual Emergency Preparedness and Incident Conference (EPIC), 2012 EPIC: Making Resiliency a Reality, on Wednesday, September 19, 2012, University Center, University of Memphis. Register at www.msacp.org.

Disaster Preparedness Fair, Saturday, September 22, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Games, prizes, blood drive, disaster preparedness information. Location: Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints, 12096 Arlington Trail, Arlington, TN 38002. Contact Summer Mosley at 901.827.7135 for more information.

TEMA HazMat Awareness Training on October 18, 2012 from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. , at 1075 Mullins Station Road Emergency Operations Center.

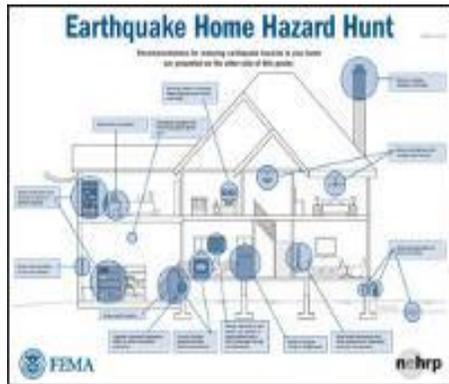
U.S. Department of Transportation Hazardous Materials Transportation Workshop on November 8, from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., at the Memphis Fire Training Academy, 4371, O.K. Robertson road, Memphis, TN 38103. Register at http://opsweb.phmsa.dot.gov/hm_seminars/default_workshop.asp

“Tornado Alley” at the Pink Palace IMAX Theatre until November 16, 2012 at 3050 Central Avenue, Memphis, TN. For more information, show times and prices, please visit www.memphismuseums.org.

For more information or to volunteer for Citizen Corps programs, please email citizencorps@shelbycountyttn.gov or call 901.515.2525.

Preparedness Question

How can I prepare my house for an earthquake?



Answer: The Federal Emergency Management Agency has a new tool to help you and your family pre-plan for earthquakes, the “Home Hazard Hunt.”

This large paper fold-out map of a two-story typical American home encourages you to walk through your own home and identify and fix areas that may be damaged during an earthquake.

The Hazard Hunt suggests home safety steps to take now so that you and everyone you care about survives when a major quake strikes:

- Secure large appliances and TV's to wall studs with metal strapping tape
- Strap bookcases to walls
- Securely fasten or relocate heavy pictures or mirrors
- Secure ceiling fans and hanging light fixtures
- Store heavy items and breakables on lower shelves
- Use latches to keep cabinet doors from flying open
- Learn how to safely turn off utilities

To order your free “Earthquake Home Hazard Hunt” poster please visit: www.fema.gov/hazards/earthquakes or call 1.800.480.2520.

Preparedness Resources

Shelby Co. Office of Preparedness: www.staysafeshelby.us

Shelby Co. Citizen Corp: citizencorps@shelbycountytn.gov

Shelby County, TN: www.shelbycountytn.gov

Ready Shelby: www.readyshelby.us

ALERT FM: www.alertfm.com

Memphis Light Gas and Water: www.mlqw.com,
901.544.6549

American Heart Association: www.heart.org

United States Geological Society: www.usgs.gov

National Fire Protection Association: www.nfpa.org

Center for Earthquake Research and Information (CERI)
www.ceri.memphis.edu

Citizen Corps: www.citizencorps.org

American Radio Relay League: www.arrl.org

Federal Emergency Management Agency: www.fema.org

Tennessee Emergency Management Agency: www.tema.org

Ready America: www.ready.gov

National Weather Service: www.nws.noaa.org

NOAA Hurricane: www.hurricanes.noaa.gov

National Hurricane Center: www.nhc.noaa.gov

Department of Homeland Security: www.dhs.gov

National Flood Insurance Program: www.floodsmart.gov

Emergency: call 911

**Shelby County Office of Preparedness
HLS/EMA**

Bob Nations, Jr., Director
1075 Mullins Station Road, 901.515.2545
www.staysafeshelby.us

*Know Your
Risks*

Get a Kit

Make a Plan

Stay Informed

