



June 2015 Issue

Office of Preparedness Ensures Public Safety



Photo Captions: **Left and Right:** Thousands gather at the Sunset Symphony in downtown Memphis, **Center:** The airshow over the Mississippi River. Photos by Michael Brazzell, SCOP Officer.

Thousands of citizens gathered on the banks of the Mississippi River downtown Memphis on May 23, 2015 to enjoy the final Memphis in May Sunset Symphony. Citizens kept their eyes to the sky for the exciting airshow, listened to the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, and watched the grand finale fireworks. As a precautionary measure, the Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP), in partnership with law enforcement and other emergency agencies, kept their eyes on the crowds to ensure public safety at the event. Having “boots on the ground,” the SCOP staff rode a Kubota on the river banks and staffed the Mobile Emergency Operations Center near the site in case a large-scale emergency were to occur. “You have to be part of the scene to be effective,” said Michael Brazzell, SCOP Officer. The pre-planning for large public events is now standard operating procedure for the Shelby County Office of Preparedness.

Child ID App



The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) offers a new version of the popular “Child ID App.” The app provides parents with an easy way to electronically store their child’s photos, physical descriptions, birthmarks, and specific information to aid first responders in the event of an emergency. The information is stored on your mobile device only, not with your mobile provider. It includes an automatic reminder to update your child’s profile and safety tips on what to do during the first hours if your child is missing. The app works on Apple and Android smartphones and tablets. To find out more, please visit: www.fbi.gov/new/new_blog/fbi/releases-new-version-of-child-id.

Shelby Cares Ready for Hurricanes

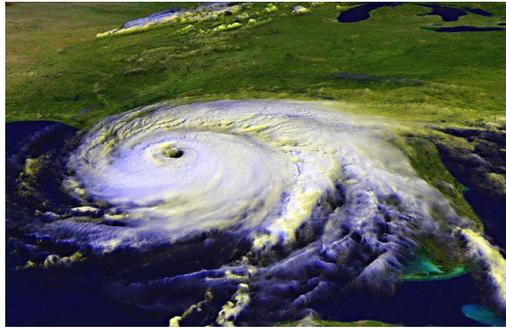


Photo Caption: Hurricane Katrina aerial view

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts a “slower-than-normal” Atlantic hurricane season for 2015. From June 1 to November 30, NOAA expects 6 to 12 named storms and 3 to 6 hurricanes. On average, the hurricane season ends with 12 named storms and 6 hurricanes.

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP) will be keeping a close eye on any Atlantic storms. If citizens living in Louisiana Gulf Coast (New Orleans) are threatened by a category 3 or greater hurricane, they will be evacuated inland until the storm has passed. Shelby County, Tennessee is one of the destinations where evacuees wait out the storm. Shelby Cares, the county’s faith-based sheltering initiative coordinated by SCOP Officer Terry Donald, is ready to house hurricane evacuees if needed.

Shelby Cares also shelters local citizens. In 2010 and 2011, the agency housed hundreds of citizens when major flooding forced citizens out of their homes in our county.

If you or your faith-based group would like to be a part of the Shelby Cares initiative, volunteer, or contribute, please email terry.donald@shelbycountyttn.gov or call 901.222.6700.

Shelby Cares at Family Life Services



Photo Caption: Officer Terry Donald

Officer Terry Donald from the Shelby County Office of Preparedness will present, “Shelby Cares Emergency Preparedness Network,” during Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.’s “Family Life Series,” on Wednesday, June 24, 2015 at 5:45 p.m. at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church. The address is 2731 Enterprise Avenue, Memphis, TN. The public is welcome to attend.



Summer is upon us! Plan to survive summer weather! The National Weather Service and the Shelby County Office of Preparedness suggest following these 3 simple steps:

1. Know your Risks: Mid-South summers can bring severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, lightning, flash flooding, major flooding, power outages, and heat waves.

2. Take Action: Make a plan for every summer hazard and threat and practice your plan!

- **Tornado:** Have a plan of action before a tornado watch or warning. Locate a “safe place” in your home or workplace. Underground is best! If not possible, get to the lowest floor with the most walls surrounding it, away from windows. Conduct tornado drills.
- **Lightning:** There is no safe place outside when a thunderstorm is nearby. If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning. **“When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!”**
- **Flash flooding:** Flooding is the #1 cause of death with thunderstorms. Flash flooding can occur in less than 6 hours. Learn alternative routes to home and work. When faced with water on the road, remember to **“Turn Around, Don’t Drown!”**
- **Know heat-related illness warning signs:** Check the forecast! Schedule outdoor activities early in the day. Dress for hot weather. Drink water often. Children, seniors, and those with medical problems are most vulnerable. Stay indoors during a heat wave. Seek medical attention as soon as possible if heat illness symptoms develop.

3. Be a Force of Nature! Create a plan for communications, shelter-in-place, and evacuations. Take a Community Emergency Response Team class with family members. Keep a NOAA weather radio with a battery back-up and an ALERT FM with you at all times. Being prepared is up to you!

Visit: www.weather.gov/com/weatherreadynation/summer. Follow Twitter at #summersafety.



June do1thing: Prepare for Unique Family Needs! Individuals with access and function needs may require extra assistance preparing for an emergency. Make a list of items required to shelter-in-place or evacuate to include: prescription medications, insulin syringes, glucometer supplies, eye glasses, hearing aids and batteries, canes, wheelchairs, oxygen, braces, specialty beds, copies of medical conditions and physicians, and medical alert tags. Inform your local fire department of the location of the special needs person. Ask local paratransit providers what services are available if evacuations are ordered. Sign up for emergency alerts from local emergency agencies. For more information, please visit: www.do1thing.org.

Amateur “Ham” Radio



- **Training:** Ham Radio Technician License class is offered by the Delta Amateur Radio Club, Thursdays, July 9 - August 13, 2015, 6:15 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., 6972 Appling Farms. FREE! FCC exam is \$15 and the manual is \$45. To register, email Joe Lowenthal at wa40ovo@gmail.com.
- **SCOP Ham Net:** The Shelby County Office of Preparedness invites licensed hams to check-in to the “SCOPERNET” Mondays at 6:00 p.m., 147.09 repeater, tone 107.2. Ned Savage, Reserve Communications Officer, is net control. The net is also activated during weather warnings.

Inclement Weather / Power Outages



Photo Captions: Downpour downtown Memphis on May 26, 2015 during a flash flood watch for Shelby County.

The National Weather Service in Memphis issued the following advisories, watches, and warnings and Memphis Light, Gas and Water reported these outages:

- **May 24:** Tornado Watch, Severe Thunderstorm Warning, Flash Flood Watch, Flash Flood Warning.
- **May 24 and 24:** 5,500 power outages reported by Memphis, Light, Gas and Water. Most were in the Raleigh / Bartlett area. A tree fell on 3 major power lines at Stage and Old Brownsville Road.
- **May 25:** 3,700 outages reported by MLGW near East Holmes road and Highway 385.
- **May 25:** Flash Flood Watch
- **May 26:** Flash Flood Watch
- **May 31:** MLGW reported power outages when a tractor trailer hit a pole at West Holmes and Tulip Road. Downed power lines were on the street.

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness reminds citizens to stay informed with a NOAA all-hazards weather radio with battery back-up and a tone alert or an ALERT FM receiver. Heed the watches and warnings! For more information about weather forecasts, please visit www.weather.gov. To view the MLGW outage map, please visit: www.mlgw.com/residential/outagemap.

Community Emergency Response Team Training



Photo Captions: Left: Students “log roll” a victim, Center: Hazardous Materials training, Right: Building a “go kit”

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness invites you to “get ready” by taking the FREE Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. Citizens learn what to do before, during, and after a disaster through lectures, videos, and hands-on exercises. Preparedness topics include: team organization, preparedness, psychology, hazardous materials, fire suppression, light search and rescue, medical triage and first aid, and terrorism. CERT graduates gain confidence that they can survive while assuming a leadership role in their community or workplace until emergency services arrive on the scene.

The next CERT class is June 20 and 27, 2015, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m, at 1075 Mullins Station Road, Memphis, TN 38134. Graduates receive a CERT ID card, a CERT manual, and a certificate from Citizen Corps and the Office of Preparedness good for 2 years. Pre-registration is required.

To sign up, please email Sandra Mathias, Reserve Manager, at mathiasl@bellsouth.net. Eugene Jones, CERT Coordinator, can be contacted at eugene.jones@shelbycountyttn.gov or call 901.222.6700.



Photo Captions: Left: Head-to-toe assessment documentation, Center: Moving a victim, Right: Search markings

Preparedness Training

On-Line SKYWARN Training: To learn about inclement weather, weather spotting, spotter safety, communications, and the criteria for spotter reporting, visit www.meted.ucar.edu/training_course. Topics include "Role of the Skywarn Spotter," and "Skywarn Spotter Convective Basics." The free course is offered by MetEd and the COMET Program and sponsored by the National Weather Service.

Visit: www.staysafeshelby.us to register for these FREE training opportunities:

- Personal Protective Measures for Biological Events, June 18 – 19, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), June 20 and 27, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Mass Prophy Preparedness, July 28 – 29 and August 26 – 29, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Sports and Special Event Incident, August 11 – 12, and August 26 – 27, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Critical Asset Resource Management, September 15 – 16, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Schools, October 6 – 9, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Preparedness Resources

Shelby County Office of Preparedness: www.staysafeshelby.us, 901.222.6700

Shelby County CERT: email Eugene.jones@shelbycountyttn.gov

Shelby County Office of Preparedness Storm Shelter Registry, email Kimberlyn.bouler@shelbycountyttn.gov

Shelby Cares, email Terry.Donald@shelbycountyttn.gov

Shelby County Citizen Corp: citizencorps@shelbycountyttn.gov

Shelby County, TN: www.shelbycountyttn.gov

Shelby County Medical Reserve Corps: www.shelbycountymrc.org

ALERT FM: www.alertfm.com

Federal Emergency Management Agency: www.fema.gov.

National Weather Service: www.weather.gov, National Weather Service in Memphis, 901.544.0399

Ready Tennessee: www.tn.gov/homelandsecurity/getready.shtml

Tennessee Emergency Management Agency: www.tnema.gov

EMERGENCY: call 911

