



September 2015 Issue

Create a Family Emergency Plan!

Family Communications Plan

Contact Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Out-of-Town Contact Name _____

Telephone: _____

Neighborhood Meeting Place: _____

Meeting Place Telephone: _____

Dial 9-1-1 for Emergencies!

When disaster strikes, will you be able to get in touch with family members to tell them you are OK? As September, National Preparedness Month, comes to a close, citizens are urged to create an **emergency family communications plan**. The Shelby County Office of Preparedness suggests these steps to create a plan:

- For each family member, write down contact information (phone numbers, web sites, and addresses) for medical facilities, doctors, schools, veterinarians, insurance companies, utility companies, poison control, and service providers.
- Make everyone an identical wallet card with the same emergency contact information on it.
- Program ICE (In Case of Emergency) phone numbers in family members' cell phones.
- Teach family members how to text. Texts may go through when a phone call will not.
- Make sure everyone knows your child's school emergency plans.
- Make sure all family members are signed up for emergency alerts on their mobile devices.
- Confirm your mobile device can receive Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA).
- Upload free emergency and weather apps to mobile devices (National Weather Service, FEMA).
- Have a cell phone charger in your vehicle and a solar cell phone charger.
- Conserve cell phone batteries by reducing brightness, limit watching videos, and turn off apps.
- Appoint an out-of-state contact to check in with.
- Maintain a landline for use if cell phones are inoperable.
- Decide on three meeting locations: in the home, outside the home, and one in the community.
- Teach children and when how to call 911.
- Purchase a battery-powered NOAA all hazards weather radio for each family member.
- Purchase a set of family radios and find out about the Family Radio Service (FRS).
- Take an amateur "ham" radio class and become a licensed operator.
- Put your plan in place and practice your plan!

To create your free family communications plan and wallet cards, please visit www.ready.gov/make-a-plan.

SCOP Hosts Citizens University



Photo Caption: Director Dale Lane.
Photo by Shelby Logan, SCOP Officer.

Shelby County Office of Preparedness Director Dale Lane and staff enthusiastically welcomed students from the Shelby County Citizens University to the Emergency Operations Center on September 3. Topics included a definition of Homeland Security, the partnerships of the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), the types of hazards and threats possible in our region, ongoing training and exercises, and how the Shelby Cares faith-based sheltering initiative works. Students also learned about the Office of Preparedness' Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) goals.

Volunteer with the Office of Preparedness!

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness wants you! The agency is recruiting enthusiastic, energetic citizens with a heart to serve, for their Reserve Program. Reserves support the staff by attending community events to hand out preparedness literature, teach the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes, and offer emergency communication as amateur "ham" radio operators. Reserves also may be called in to assist during an activation of the Emergency Operations Center during a disaster. Candidates must be 18 years of age, a citizen of Shelby County, and have reliable transportation. There is a six month probation period before becoming a full Reserve. To apply, please email Eugene Jones, Coordinator, at Eugene.jones@shelbycountyttn.gov for an application.

Flood App



The American Red Cross now offers a "Flood App" for your mobile device. The app helps citizens receive flood watches and warnings from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration based on their location. It gives simple instructions on what to do before, during, and after flooding events. The "I'm Safe" notification feature notifies your loved ones that you are OK through social media, text, and email. For more information, text "GETFLOOD" to 90999 or visit www.redcross.org.

SCOP Protecting Citizens



Photo Caption: Mike Brazzell, SCOP Officer, operates one of the light towers

Any time there is a large public event, SCOP Director Dale Lane and staff are on-scene and monitoring the situation from the Emergency Operations Center to ensure public safety. Before the event, the staff scouts the area for best placement of equipment that may include an 80-foot light tower, three 50-foot solar light towers, a generator-powered light tower, a barricade trailer, a Sky Cop, all-terrain vehicles, and the Mobile Emergency Operations Center. Some of the agency's "Homeland Security partners" SCOP supports during special events include the University of Memphis, the Delta Fair, and the Goat Days event in Millington. SCOP will be also be present and monitoring the Memphis Air Show.

Kids Emergency Supply List



The "Masters of Disaster" ask the kids to make a disaster kit to get ready for disasters. Please include: a 7-day supply of non-perishable foods (dried fruit, energy bar, canned tuna fish, powdered milk, peanut butter), can opener, first aid kit, medications, sleeping bag, change of clothes to last 7 days, sturdy shoes, matches (in a waterproof container to use if an adult is there), toothbrush, toothpaste, soap (washcloths), paper plates, plastic cups, utensils, paper towels, water (a gallon per person, per day), battery-powered NOAA weather radio (with extra batteries), flashlights (with extra batteries), cell phone (with charger, extra battery and solar charger), whistle, local maps, pet supplies and pet photo, baby supplies, books, games or puzzles, and a favorite stuffed animal or blanket.

Kids, work with Mom and Dad to make sure your disaster kit is easy to get to in case of an emergency and practice your emergency plans with your family! For more information, visit www.readykids.gov.

Disaster Competition Public Hearings

The public is invited to participate in three hearings on Shelby County's application for the \$1 billion National Disaster Resilience Competition. The hearings will be held on October 1 at the Harvell Civic Center, 8077, Wilkinsville Road, Millington, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., on October 8 at the Golden Gate Cathedral, 3240 James Road, Memphis, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., and on October 12, at the Whitehaven Library, 4120 Millbranch Road, Memphis, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Citizens are encouraged to provide input regarding preparing for future disasters. Please visit www.resilientshelby.com.

National Baptist “Fun Fest”



Photo Captions: Left: Earnest Jones picks up “HELP/OK” signs, Right: Janet Seymore and Jo Bennett pick up FEMA brochures from SCOP

On September 7, the Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP) participated in the National Baptist Convention Home Mission Board “Fun Fest” at the Greater Middle Baptist Church, at 4982 Knight Arnold Road in Memphis. Along with face painting, balloon animals, and health check-ups, SCOP was on hand to distribute preparedness literature, Citizen Corp bags, and HELP/OK signs to over 500. Also attending the event was the Baptist College of Health Sciences, Brown Missionary Baptist Church, Alzheimer’s Day Services, All Star Barber Shop, Fit for Christ, NAACP Voter Registration, Sickle Cell Foundation, Wings Cancer Foundation, Memphis Area Legal Network, Walgreens, and Well Care.

MPD Citizens Academy



Photo Caption: SCOP Reserve Officer, Jo Griffith, gives citizens preparedness information at the Airways Precinct

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness is one of the featured agencies speaking to students attending the Memphis Police Department Citizens Academy. SCOP Reserves give presentations on how to prepare for hazards and treats that may occur in Shelby County that include earthquake, inclement weather events, outages, terrorism, major fires, and hazard materials incidents. Students are given preparedness literature to take home to their families as well.

Earthquake Rattles Mid-South



“Did you feel it?” was the question citizens were asked on August 25 at 8:26 a.m. as a 3.5 magnitude earthquake shook the Mid-South. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) stated the quake was centered 6 miles northwest of Covington, Tennessee. No damage was reported.

This event was a reminder that earthquakes can strike any time with no warning. And Shelby County is particularly vulnerable due to its proximity to the New Madrid Seismic Zone. Stay ready! Learn the “Drop, Cover, and Hold” maneuver (drop under a heavy table, cover your head, and hold on until the shaking stops). Make sure you have a disaster kit for home, work, and auto to sustain you and your pets for at least seven days.

For more information about earthquake preparedness, please visit, www.fema.org, www.usgs.gov and www.ceri.memphis.edu

Prepare for Weather and Outages



National Weather Service in Memphis Reported:

- **Flood Warning:** September 2 and 9

Memphis Light, Gas and Water Reported:

- **August 25:** 2,220 outages, at I240 North of I55
- **August 29:** 2,200 outages, Cordova area
- **August 30:** 3,000+ outages, Bartlett area
- **September 2:** 4,412 customers county-wide

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness reminds citizens to stay informed with an ALERTFM and NOAA all-hazards radio with battery back-up and tone alert. Check the National Weather Service forecast at: www.weather.gov. To report a utility emergency call MLGW at 901.528.4465. To report outages, call 901.544.6500. Visit the MLGW outage map, go to www.mlgw.com/residential/outagemap.

Mississippi River Level



Photo Caption: Riverboat pushes a barge on glassy waters on the Mississippi River at Memphis on September 23, 2015.

On September 25, the Mississippi River at Memphis level was minus 1.39 feet according to the National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service. It is predicted to remain low at minus 2 feet by September 30. Minor flood stage is 34 feet and major flood stage is 46 feet. To obtain the next river statement, visit www.weather.gov.

Emergency App



For the most convenient and up-to-date information about the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) and the Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP) emergency operations center activation levels, upload the free mobile app, “Ready TN.” The app includes alerts and warnings from the National Weather Service, American Red Cross Open Shelter information, Tennessee Department of Transportation’s Smart Way road conditions, and a list of local emergency contacts. To upload this free app today, please visit <http://www.tnema.org/ReadyTN/mobile-app.html>.

As of September 25, 2015, TEMA and SCOP activations remain at Level 5: Normal Operations.

Ham Check In!

All licensed amateur “ham” radio operators are welcome to check-in to Shelby County Office of Preparedness Emergency Reserve Net (SCOPERNET), Mondays, 6:00 p.m., on 147.09 repeater, tone 107.2. Ned Savage, Reserve Officer, is net control. The net is also activated during weather warnings.

Preparedness Training

- **Ham Radio Tech (beginner) Class:** Mondays, Nov. 9 – Dec. 14, 6:15 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., FREE! Manual is \$25. Test is \$15. Location: EMHC Ambulance Co., 6972 Appling Farms Pkwy, Memphis, TN To register, contact Joe Lowenthal @ wa4ovo@gmail.com
- **SKYWARN, Weather Spotter Course,** October 5, 6:30 p.m., FREE! Location: Crittenden Regional Hospital, Schoettle Center Atrium, 200 West Tyler Avenue, West Memphis, AR. Contact: Bud Spears at 870.739.3534 to register.

Visit www.staysafeshelby.us to register for FREE classes:

- G364 Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Schools, October 6 – 9, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Tornado Awareness (AWR-326), October 28, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Conducting Damage Assessments (AWR-319), November 4, 8:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- Response to Railcar Incidents, November 11, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Resources

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

- Citizen Corps: citizencorps@shelbycountyttn.gov
- Community Emergency Response Team: eugene.jones@shelbycountyttn.gov
- Shelby Cares Faith-Based Sheltering Initiative: terry.donald@shelbycountyttn.gov
- Storm Shelter Registry: kimberlyn.bouler@shelbycountyttn.gov

Shelby County: www.shelbycountyttn.gov

- Shelby County Medical Reserve Corps: www.shelbycountymrc.org.
- Shelby County Public Health Emergency Preparedness: www.schdresponse.com

American Red Cross: www.redcross.org

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): www.fema.gov

Memphis Light, Gas and Water (MLGW): www.mlgw.com, www.mlgw.com/residential/outagemap
Emergency / Outages: 901.544.6500, Downed Power Lines: 901.528.4465

National Weather Service (NWS): www.weather.gov, www.weather.gov/memphis, 901.544.0399

Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA): www.tnema.gov

Tennessee Department of Transportation: www.tn.gov/tdot

Weather Underground: www.wunderground.com

EMERGENCY: Call 911