



AAEM Today

Official quarterly newsletter of the Alabama Association of Emergency Managers
Special ACCA 79th Annual Convention Issue

AAEM 2006-07 Board of Directors

BRETT HOWARD
President
AEMA

MATT McCracken
President-Elect
Marion County

WALT DICKERSON
Immediate Past President
Mobile County

CRYSTAL OUSLEY
Secretary / Treasurer
Autauga County

CHUCK MURPH
Area 1 Director
Monroe County

JOHN TALLAS
Area 2 Director
Coffee County

WAYNE HAYES
Area 3 Director
Bibb County

CHANCE CORBETT
Area 4 Director
Russell County

JOHNNY BIGHAM
Area 5 Director
Lamar County

CHRIS REED
Area 6 Director
Madison County

ELLEN HAYNES
Area 7 Director
St. Clair County

PERRY MARTIN
Area 8 Director
AEMA

www.aaem.us

Don't Forget About the Summer Conference!

Join us at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, Ala. on **Sept. 17-19, 2007**, for our annual summer training conference.

Hotel reservations must be made by **Friday, Aug. 17, 2007**. To make your reservations, go online to www.perdidobeachresort.com to the Make Your Reservations section. Type in the group code you received by mail. Rooms are \$99 a night plus tax and are going quickly! All reservations must be made online. After this cut-off date, the rooms will revert to regular price. **Special note: Once you make your reservation, the hotel will automatically charge you for one night's stay. This is now hotel policy, and ACCA's staff has already expressed concern to the hotel for this practice.**

Conference registration is \$200 per person until Aug. 31. After Aug. 31, registration is \$250. Conference registration packets may be found online at www.acca-online.org under the Affiliate Group section or www.aaem.us. If you know of any vendors that would like to exhibit or sponsor an event, and has not received a packet, please ask them to call Lori Quiller at (334) 263-7594.

St. Clair EMA Unveils New Program...

St. Clair County EMA is proud to unveil a special creation...72 AND YOU.

Do you remember the Winter Storm of 1993? Remember the 1998 F-5 Tornado that demolished west Jefferson County? The aftermath of Hurricane Katrina? Following all of these disasters, particularly after Katrina, a lot was written and reported about citizens being stranded without food, water, medicine, power and other essentials.

Folks need to learn to be prepared with enough supplies to sustain themselves and families for at least 72 hours. The message is that in times of disasters, it may take an extended amount of time before help arrives, before you can move to safety, or before power is restored.

The issue came up again at the AEMA's Emergency Response Workshop in Clanton last May, when Bill Carwile, former FEMA Coordinating Officer, touched on the subject. When I suggested that a nationwide campaign with a catchy phrase could establish emergency preparedness as a constant, much like the old "Just Say No" worked for the anti-drug campaign, Bill Carwile said, "Maybe 72 AND YOU!" The idea sounded great! We plan to use our new logo in our CSEPP Emergency Information Guidebook, future articles about emergency preparedness and in booklets, flyers, signs, T-shirts, etc.

If other counties are interested in using this logo, feel free to contact me or Patrice Posey by phone or e-mail, and we will be more than glad to share it. If it starts here in Alabama, and spreads, maybe we can accomplish what we intended – to spread the message for citizens to be prepared.



Ellen Haynes, Director, St. Clair County EMA
(205) 884-6800 or ehaynes@scema.co.saint-clair.al.us

Membership Has Its Privileges...

As a member of the Alabama Association of Emergency Managers, membership has its privileges! And, one of the benefits of membership is this newsletter, which will be published quarterly and jam-packed with information we think will be quite useful to you as emergency managers.

AAEM is a statewide organization of professionals just like you. Through the Association, you will be provided educational opportunities to further your skills as a leader in your profession, all the while making important contacts that can prove most useful in the future.

Not a member of AAEM? Then, you are receiving this edition of *AAEM Today* with our compliments! If you would like to continue to receive future editions of this newsletter, or would like to learn more about becoming a member of AAEM, please log on to www.aaem.us and download a membership form. Complete the form and mail it, along with your membership dues to: AAEM, 100 N. Jackson Street, Montgomery, Ala. 36104.

If you have a question as to whether your membership dues have already been renewed, please e-mail **Jennifer Datcher** at jdatcher@acca-online.org.

Why Should You Attend ACCA's 79th Annual Convention?

...because it's so much more than a week at the beach! Not only will there be interesting vendors to captivate and intrigue you on Tuesday, Aug. 21, but there are also plenty of educational sessions to give you exciting ideas to take back to your counties.

The registration desk will be open on Tuesday from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. inside the Exhibit Hall. Be sure to pick up your registration packets for last-minute details about the week. There is also an AAEM membership meeting from 4-5 p.m. in Sand Castle II.

On Wednesday, Aug. 22, during the Opening General Session, you might want to check out, *County to County: Helping in Times of Disaster*, with **Alabama Emergency Management Agency Assistant Director John James** and **Coffee County Emergency Management Director John Tallas**. Following the County Agents Kitchen Lunch, be sure to catch one of the Concurrent Sessions.

- Is your county considering going “GREEN?” If you are concerned about the energy efficiency of your county, or you want to do more to help the environment, then check out *Session B: Energy Efficiency in Your County – Saving Tax-Payer Dollars* in Salon E at 1:30-2:15 p.m. and again at 3:15-4 p.m.
- The recent passage of the County Modernization Act is big news to a lot of people in county government, but there are many people who don't quite understand this new piece of legislation. Check out *Session C: County Modernization Act* in Salons FGH at 1:30-2:15 p.m. and again at 3:15-4 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 23, will begin with the AAEM breakout session in Azure from 8:45 a.m.-12 p.m. **AAEM President Brett Howard**, will preside.

- ACCA Assistant Executive Director Sonny Brasfield will kick off the morning session from 8:45-9:15 a.m.
- Dr. Brad Fields, director of emergency programs with the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, will be on hand to discuss *State Animal Response Teams* from 9:15-10:15 a.m.
- Amanda Capps, emergency management program specialist and earthquake program manager with AEMA, and Sandy Ebersole, a geologist with the Geologic Mapping and Hazards Section will lead a discussion on *Earthquake Planning and Preparedness* from 10:30-11:30 a.m.
- Wrapping up the morning session, **AAEM President Brett Howard** will lead an Issues Round Table from 11:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Immediately following the last session, everyone will gather in Salons DEFGH for the Convention Luncheon Honoring ACCA 2006-07 President Rhondel Rhone from 12-1:15 p.m. The Afternoon General Session in Salons ABC will follow lunch and open with the Awards Ceremony. There will also be a *Report on the Alabama State Employees' Insurance Board* with Alabama State Employees' Insurance Board Executive Director William Ashmore and ACCA Executive Director Buddy Sharpless.

Following the Affiliate Reports and ACCA Annual Report will be the ACCA Business Session in which the reports of the Resolutions and Nominating Committees will be announced before the district caucuses will take place. And, don't forget the President's Banquet at 6:30 p.m. in Salons DEFGH.



News From Around the State...

AREA 2

Region 2 has seen many changes recently. **Clark Mathews** replaced Shelby Womack, who retired from Houston County. Region 2 Coordinator **Pete McGough** has moved to take over Region 4 as part of AEMA's realignment of counties into 10 regions.

Brett Howard, current AAEM President and former Dallas County EMA Director, has assumed duties as Region 2 Coordinator effective March 1. Germane to Coffee County, **Dave Sutton** has replaced Ben Moates as the Coffee County Sheriff.

Finally, Region 2 EMA Directors are very appreciative of the initial support provided by Gov. Bob Riley and AEMA Director **Bruce Baughman** in the combined efforts of ACCA and AAEM to secure legislation that will bolster not only the professionalism of EMA directors across the State of Alabama but will also provide enhancements to their local programs.

John Tallas, Coffee County EMA

AREA 7

Compared to other counties, Cleburne may not be considered a giant. However, the strides being made in emergency preparedness are mind-boggling. The many

initiatives taken on by our staff range from scheduling responder training in efforts to comply with federal mandates; to planning large scale community events with other county offices, and combining two full scale exercises in efforts for becoming compliant with federal programs.

- Local fire, law, and ambulatory personnel have worked diligently to complete the federally mandated courses for becoming compliant with the National Incident Management System (NIMS). By the end of March, the county was 95 percent compliant.
- On March 13, in conjunction with their Anniston CSEPP Community Exercise, the EMA hosted a Homeland Security exercise focusing on events happening not only at the Anniston Army Depot, but also response to a major accident with numerous casualties and a hazardous material spill.
- As a way of building relationships, EMA sponsored an annual road race involving many community agencies in the process. Race morning included demonstrations by various responding agencies emphasizing basic preparedness steps.

AREA 7 UPDATE – Deborah Gaither has been named the EMA director for Etowah County and **Patrice Posey** has been promoted to assistant director for St. Clair County. Congratulations to both!

AREA 8

Everyone here at State EMA is once again preparing for this year's Hurricane Season. The AEMA Director has attended meetings in Washington, D.C. and with FEMA.

Perry Martin and **Larry Patterson** have attended meetings with FEMA, Region IV, discussing and preparing for disasters for this year.

Bill Filter, in concert with the director, is preparing a list of teams that will be dispatched to the affected counties and that list will be forthcoming shortly. Our Logistics Section is maintaining daily contact with FEMA Logistics to prepare and stage water, ice, MREs, tarps, etc. in the State.

I appreciate everyone's hard work and attention to detail in their preparations during the year for ice storms, floods, tornadoes, and now the Hurricane Season.

Perry Martin, AEMA

79th ACCA Annual Convention Registration Form

County or Company Name: _____ Person Completing Form: _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Registration fee is \$185 per person for *ACCA members* if paid **before July 27**. (\$210 per person after July 27)

Registration fee is \$265 per person for *company representatives* if paid **before July 27**. (\$290 per person after July 27)

\$_____ Total amount enclosed. **Please do not ask ACCA to bill you.**

List below the names of the persons you are registering for the conference. Please indicate if each person is a (C) Commissioner, (CA) Clerk/Administrator, (CE) County Engineer, (EIT) Engineer in Training, (EMA) Emergency Management, (CRO) County Revenue Officer, (911) 9-1-1 Administrator, (G) Guest, (S) Spouse.

**Please return form and check payable to ACCA by July 27, 2007 to:
ACCA Convention • 100 N. Jackson Street • Montgomery, Ala. 36104 • Fax (334) 263-7678**



AAEM
100 N. Jackson Street
Montgomery, Ala. 36104

Important ACCA Convention Info Inside...