



# AAEM Today

Official quarterly newsletter of the Alabama Association of Emergency Managers  
Second Quarter 2010

## New Ideas and Looking Ahead!

First, I would like to say I am honored to be allowed to serve as the President of the Alabama Association of Emergency Managers. This organization is made up of dedicated group of professionals, many of which have made tremendous accomplishments with very little funding. My goal for this year is to continue the work of the past presidents and to take this association forward to the next level.



Roy Waite  
Clarke County  
President, AAEM

This is YOUR association and we want you to have a voice in its efforts. We

need your help! The success of the association depends upon the involvement of its membership. The job title of “emergency manager” has grown tremendously with many additional duties and responsibilities. We need innovative ideas to address issues we face everyday.

We have a lot of standing committees for the association. Too often, we end up with members having to serve on

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multiple committees because of lack of participation. This year, each committee will have a chair and a co-chair. The committees, along with the chairs and co-chairs, will be listed on the AAEM website. Please review the list on the website and contact the chair or co-chair to get involved in one or more of the committees. Again, this is your association. Make your voice heard.....get involved.

The legislative committee has worked hard for this association for the past several years. One area I feel has been lacking has been

our legislative efforts at the state level. This year, we will have a Legislative Chair and two co-chairs, a federal co-chair and a state co-chair. I know many of you cannot go to Washington, DC for the legislative meetings due to budget constraints. This does not mean that you cannot be involved in our legislative efforts. We need members to assist at the state level.

If you do not have time to be directly involved but you have ideas

or suggestions, please contact your area director or myself.

There is strength in numbers and together, we can make this a great year for the Alabama Association of Emergency Managers. I look forward to being your President.

Don't forget to make plans to attend the ACCA's 82nd Annual Convention. This year you will get to meet the candidates running for Governor, Lt. Governor and Attorney General. We hope you plan to attend. I look forward to seeing you there!

**Get involved**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

- ⇒ **AAEM Board Meeting**  
Aug. 24  
Orange Beach, AL
- ⇒ **CGEI Class - Disaster Preparedness & Response**  
Sept. 29-30, Deadline to Register is Sept.15  
Prattville, AL
- ⇒ **IAEM 58th Annual Conference**  
Oct. 30-Nov. 4  
San Antonio, TX

## AAEM 2009-10 Board of Directors

**ROY WAITE**  
President  
Clarke County

**ERIC JONES**  
President-Elect  
Clarke County

**DAN LONG**  
Immediate Past President  
Calhoun County

**MINDY NASH**  
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Area 2 Director  
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St. Clair County

**RICKY LITTLE**  
Area 8 Director  
AEMA

[www.aaem.us](http://www.aaem.us)

When you are mailing **anything** to AAEM, especially your membership dues or conference registrations, please make sure that the address your county commission office (particularly your accounts payable office) has on file is **100 N. Jackson Street, Montgomery, Ala. 36104.**  
Thank you for your help!

## What is your Emergency Plan for Excessive Heat Events?

Information provided by: [www.EPA.gov](http://www.EPA.gov)

The 2010 Summer has been the most severe heat Alabama has ever seen. Starting in May the temperatures were in the high 90's and have been over 100 degrees for a couple of months. What are we doing to warn our citizens? Do you have an Excessive Heat Event (EHE) plan?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has produced the Excessive Heat Events Guidebook with assistance from Federal, state and local and academic partners.

The handbook is designed to help community officials, emergency managers, meteorologists, and others plan for and respond to excessive heat events as it highlights best practices that have been employed to save lives during excessive heat events in different urban areas and provides a menu of options that officials can use to respond to these events in their communities.

### Useful Community Interventions For Public Officials:

- Send a clear public message
- Communicate that EHEs are dangerous and conditions can be life-threatening. In the event of conflicting environmental safety recommendations, emphasize that health protection should be the first priority.
- Inform the public of anticipated EHE conditions and how dangerous it will be?
- How long will EHE conditions last?
- How hot will it feel at specific times during the day (e.g., 8 a.m., 12 p.m., 4 p.m., 8 p.m.)?
- Assist those at greatest risk

- Assess locations with vulnerable populations, such as nursing homes and public housing
- Staff additional emergency medical personnel to address the anticipated increase in demand
- Shift/expand homeless intervention services to cover daytime hours
- Open cooling centers to offer relief for people without air conditioning and urge the public to use them.
- Provide access to additional sources of information
- Provide toll-free numbers and Web site addresses for heat exposure symptoms and responses
- Coordinate broadcasts of EHE response information in newspapers and on television and radio.

### Communities can adopt development strategies to reduce heat islands and coordinate local efforts:

Urban and suburban areas can be "heat islands," a zone 2-10 degrees F warmer than the surrounding rural countryside. Because they are warmer, heat islands use more energy to keep cool, which raises costs and reduces air quality.

### Communities can invest in long- term strategies such as:

- ⇒ Promoting or installing cool or vegetated "green" roofs
- ⇒ Planting more trees and vegetation
- ⇒ Switching to cooler paving materials.

If you don't already have a plan please refer to the Excessive Heat Events Guidebook by visiting

[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov).

# HURRICANE CONFERENCE WRAP UP!

The Gulf States Hurricane Conference on June 2-4 was a great success! More than 415 participants attended from AL, FL, MS, LA, TX and VA. Participants traveled to Mobile, Alabama to attend the conference, which was a great economy boost for the State. The GSHC serves as an open forum to share ideas and become informed on hurricane preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation in order to save lives and we hope you came away with a new outlook on how to deal with today's EMA issues. The GSHC is sponsored by the states of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. Next year Louisiana will be hosting the regional conference. Thanks to AEMA and AAEM for your hard work in organizing this successful event.

## Awards & Accolades

### **Preparedness Program of the Year Award Rookie of the Year Award**



Autauga County EMA &  
Rocky Milliman, EMA Director

### **Career Achievement in Emergency Management Award**



Don Grenne, Retired Shelby County EMA Director

### **Pat Neuhauser Spirit of EMA Award**



Ellen Haynes, St. Clair EMA Director

### **Mitigation Program of the Year Award**



Bibb County Emergency Management Agency  
Wayne Hayes, Bibb County EMA Director

### **President's Award**



Eric Jones, Elmore County EMA Dir. &  
Anita McBurnett, Marshall County EMA Director

### **Volunteer of the Year Award**



Harold Rhodes, Calhoun County

## Statewide Disaster Committee Meets!

ACCA's Government Relations Specialist, Sim Pettway, Jr., attended the Alabama Disaster Recovery Program Committee (ARDC) meeting on July 19th as they adopted rules and regulations for the program. Also established was a guidance document to help counties prepare to meet requirements of the law. Counties should expect to see the document in the coming months.

The committee was formed through SB160 (ACT No. 2009-342) to help provide assistance to counties and municipalities to meet local needs during and immediately following disasters. The eight member committee is made up of state and local officials and employees, including; **Eric Jones, Elmore County EMA Director; Dennis McCall, Butler County Engineer; Bill Strickland, Marshall County Commissioner; Ted Jenkins, Mayor, City of Brewton; Josh Blades, Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor Riley; Dan Jackson, Alabama Forestry Commission; Ed Phillips, ALDOT State County Transportation Engineer and Brock Long, AEMA Director.** ARDC has several challenges to meet, including funding for the program. The committee plans to discuss funding options at their next meeting.

## Oil Spill Update!

### Facts As Of July:

- Approximately 622 miles of Gulf Coast shoreline is currently oiled—approximately 355 miles in Louisiana, 111 miles in Mississippi, 69 miles in Alabama, and 87 miles in Florida. These numbers reflect a daily snapshot of shoreline currently experiencing impacts from oil so that planning and field operations can quickly respond to new impacts; they do not include cumulative impacts to date, or shoreline that has already been cleared.
- From the Mobile, Ala., Incident Command Post, 39 two-person teams, 24 support personnel and 11 vessels responded to wildlife recovery. You may check [www.restorethegulf.org](http://www.restorethegulf.org) for more up to date information.

## 82nd ACCA Annual Convention Making the Right Move

ACCA's 82nd Annual Convention is slated for August 24-26, at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, Ala. The deadline for early convention registration is **Friday, July 30**. Alabama's counties will have to focus on **Making the Right Move** in November with the election of several new statewide officers. This year the Democratic and Republican candidates for the offices of Governor, Lt. Governor and Attorney General will address our membership.

Another focus will be on how counties will tackle growing expenditures. While county revenues dwindle, medical expenses, lawsuits, transportation, and employee costs are skyrocketing.

Nationally, many innovative and productive ideas have been utilized to improve the financial plight of counties facing the same challenges as those here in Alabama. The opening general session of ACCA's

82nd Annual Convention will focus on applying these innovative ideas here in Alabama's 67 counties.

"We're excited about this opening session," said ACCA Executive Director Sonny Brasfield, "because it should provide counties with ideas that can translate into a positive impact back home."

### Educational Sessions

The convention will, of course, include breakout sessions for all the Association's affiliate organizations. Including a combined session on **Effective Tools for Disarming Difficult People** and a session on **EMA and Commissioners Working Together**.

And don't forget the President's Banquet on Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. honoring **2010-2011 President-Elect Ricky Burney** of Clay County followed by the **President's Inaugural Dance** featuring *The Maxx* band.

Log onto [www.acca-online.org](http://www.acca-online.org) to register and get more information. We hope to see you there!

association of county commissions of alabama  
**82nd ANNUAL Convention**

Aug 24-26, 2010 • Perdido Beach Resort • Orange Beach, Ala. • Register online at [www.acca-online.org](http://www.acca-online.org)

### Monday, August 23

12 p.m. Golf Tournament Lunch

1 p.m. Golf Tournament Shotgun

### Tuesday, August 24

9 - 10 a.m. ACEA Board Meeting

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Affiliate Meetings

ACEA - 10 a.m.; ACAA - 1 p.m.; AAND - 3 p.m.; AAEM Board Meeting - 4 p.m.

11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Registration Desk Open

11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Exhibit Showcase

11 a.m. - Noon ACCA Board of Directors

12 - 1 p.m. Lunch in the Exhibit Hall

1 - 5 p.m. CROAA Breakout Session

- ▶ Sales Tax Exemption for Pollution Control Devices
- ▶ Steps to Deny License Renewal
- ▶ Auditing for 6 years and how the 25% rule applies
- ▶ Ethics Overview
- ▶ Overview of the County Government Education Institute
- ▶ CROAA Business Session

2 - 3 p.m.

- ▶ Minority Issue Steering Committee (Open Forum)

2 - 3 p.m.

- ▶ ACCA Workers Compensation & Liability Insurance Fund Meeting

5 - 6:30 p.m.

- ▶ Opening in the Exhibit Hall

### Wednesday, August 25

7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Convention Breakfast

7:45 - 8:30 a.m.

Nominating Committee Meeting

Resolutions Committee Meeting

8 - 11:30 a.m. Registration Desk Open

8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

- ▶ Opening General Session
- ▶ Improving Pretrial Justice
- ▶ Reducing Expenses Associated with Pretrial Detainees

- ▶ Gubernatorial Candidates
- ▶ Report of the Nominating Committee
- ▶ Attorney General Candidates
- ▶ Lieutenant Governor Candidates

12 - 1:15 p.m. County Agents Kitchen

1:30 - 4:45 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

- ▶ The Future of Alabama's Prison System
- ▶ EPA Storm Water Update
- ▶ Tour of Auburn University Biomass Gasification and Electrical Power Mobile Laboratory
- ▶ Electronic Hearings for Prisoners
- ▶ Problems with Municipal Police Jurisdictions
- ▶ Increasing County Influence in Legislative Elections
- ▶ Managing Public Input

4:45 p.m. ALGTI Board Meeting

### Thursday, August 26

7:45 - 8:45 a.m. County Agents Breakfast

8:45 a.m. - 12 p.m. Breakout Sessions:

**Commissioners**

- ▶ Why the Collection of 9-1-1 Fees is Important to Your County
- ▶ Commissioners and EMA Directors Working Together, *Rhondel Rhone, Clarke County Commissioner*
- ▶ Federal Energy Policy Update: Climate Change Legislation

**Combined Session with Engineers After the Break**

- ▶ Discussion of Boundary Problems with Subdivisions
- ▶ Home Builders Perspective on Subdivision Regulations
- ▶ Lessons Learned: Private Road Subdivisions

**ACEA**

- ▶ ALDOT Update
- ▶ National Center for Pavement Preservation

**Combined Session with Commissioners After the Break**

- ▶ Discussion of Boundary Problems with Subdivisions
- ▶ Home Builders Perspective on Subdivision Regulations
- ▶ Lessons Learned: Private Road Subdivisions

**ACAA**

- ▶ Examiners Report
- ▶ Checklist for Tax Collection: Are You Getting All Your Money?
- ▶ Preparing Your New Commissioners
- ▶ Review of Omnibus and Q&A Session

**AAEM, AAND and CROAA Combined Breakout Session**

- ▶ Effective Tools for Disarming Difficult People, *Dr. Rick Voyles, Conflict Resolution Academy*

12 - 1:15 p.m.

- ▶ Convention Luncheon Honoring 2009-2010 President Larry White

1:45 - 4:45 p.m.

Afternoon General Session

- ▶ Awards Ceremony
- ▶ Update on the Alabama Trust Fund
- ▶ Update on the Road and Bridge Constitutional Amendment
- ▶ ACCA Business Session
- ▶ Executive Directors Report
- ▶ District Caucuses

6:30 p.m.

President's Banquet Honoring 2010 - 2011 President-Elect Ricky Burney

8 p.m.

President's Inaugural Dance