



Alert

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EPAPP exercise tests processing abilities

State Department of Health, ADEM partner for event

ADEM's annual exercise to test in- and out-processing procedures for a hypothetical emergency situation involved not only partners from the state Department of Health but a couple hundred volunteers as well.

The EMAC (Emergency Management Assistance Compact) Personnel Accountability and Processing Package (EPAPP) event simulated an anthrax breakout in the state. ADEM and Health Department personnel staffed stations that assigned out-of-state personnel would pass through as they arrive for duty and again when they leave.

Julie Goshen, EMAC coordinator, said the event closely resembles how a real-world event would play out.

"This is what would happen if another state sends 50 people to come work and give shots," she explained. "The 50 people are going to have to come here so that we can have accountability."

In-processing involved five stations — check-in, ID badging, safety briefing, EMAC briefing and mobilization assistance — not counting a scenario explanation station.

See EPAPP on page 2



LaTryce Robinson, Exercise and Training Section Administrative Assistant, staffs the final out-processing station at the EPAPP exercise. The joint exercise with the Department of Health tested capabilities to in- and out-process staff in the event of a major emergency situation.

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EPAPP

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Goshen said the final in-processing station would involve up-to-date environmental information such as road closures before staffers head into the field.

Out-processing stations included sign-in, debriefing and final check-out. The debriefing station would normally include counselors and other information specific to coping with the after-effects of emergency situations.

The exercise had two purposes, Goshen noted.

“One, to make sure that all staff is properly trained to work the stations, and two, making it as easy as possible on the people coming in who don’t know what to expect,” she said.

In the early going of the four-hour exercise, Goshen reported that the process was moving smoothly.

Danna McGinty, Planning Branch Manager, served as team lead for the event, and she noted that in past exercises, the

badging station had been a bottleneck. This year, though, additional equipment made that station more efficient, she said.



Randall Berry (above, right), Duty Officer, poses as an EMAC staffer and receives a safety briefing from Larry Pullon, Executive Officer, and Katie Belknap, Earthquake Program Manager/Natural Hazards Planner. Kyle Key (below, right), HMGP Grant Coordinator, staffs the initial exercise station, at which participants learn the scenario for the event.



Wanda Cook, Duty Officer, has her photo taken for an ID badge. Badging was one of the in-processing stations during the annual EPAPP exercise.



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Rick Fahr, PIO • Krista Guthrie, Deputy PIO

May

General Events

16 — ADEM Team competes in the River City Dragon Boat Races.

HazMat Training

- 2-3** — HazMat Awareness Course in Fulton County.
- 4-5** — Terrorism Awareness Course in Craighead County.
- 9** — Terrorism Awareness Course in Sebastian County.
- 11-22** — HazMat Technician Course in Lawrence County.
- 18-19** — HazMat Awareness Course in Sevier County.
- 30-31** — HazMat Operations Course in Fulton County.

EM Training

- 2-3** — ICS 300 in Johnson County.
- 4-7** — O-305 Type 3 IMT in Garland County.
- 18-20** — G-202 Debris Management in Benton County.
- 18-19** — ICS 300 in Craighead County.
- 20-21** — ICS 400 in Craighead County.

Exercises

- 6** — Mayhem in May: Vilonia TTX with a Local Tornado Scenario. POC is [K.C. Williams](#).
- 20** — ADEM State Emergency Operations Center Exercise.

June

General Events

- 17-19** — AR Interoperability Conference in Little Rock.
- 25-28** — AR State Firefighters/Fire Chief's Join Convention in Hot Springs.

HazMat Training

- 10** — Terrorism Awareness Course in Ouachita County.
- 13** — Terrorism Awareness Course in Fulton County.

Exercises

- 17** — ADEM State Emergency Operations Center Exercise.
- 17** — IZard County Tornado TTX. POC is [Sonia Blankenship](#).



Attorney General tour

Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge toured the ADEM facility in April, learning about the agency's operation.

**Have news to share?
Contact ADEM PIO
publicaffairs@adem.arkansas.gov**

FSP to mark Donee Appreciation Day

Federal Surplus Property will sponsor its annual Donee Appreciation Day on May 7.

The event will include lunch, a board meeting and a huge sale (with some restrictions).

The board meeting will begin at 10 a.m.

Lunch will be served at 11.

Save the Date !
Donee Appreciation Day - May 7, 2015
***50% off All Property Over 30 Days** (Excludes Oversea Items and HMMWW's)
Lunch Will Be Served, Door Prizes, & Refurbishment Contest
RSVP : kathryn.mahan@adem.arkansas.gov

April celebrates 9-1-1 services

April was 9-1-1 education month and many took the time to thank those who make it their work to save lives. Using #thankyou911 on social media hundreds and thousands of people have posted pictures, videos, links and simple statements of thanks to dispatchers, first responders and other emergency services personnel. This year the national campaign had a few different areas of focus, most of them touching on the way technology has touched on the service.

Know Where You Are – Could you tell 9-1-1 exactly where to find

 **Get Smart About 9-1-1**
Take action and help 9-1-1, help you.

you? Your home phone provides a street address when you call 911, but your cell phone doesn't.

Knowing how to tell the dispatcher where you are will save seconds and lives. **Stay Calm & Ready to Listen** – The 9-1-1 dispatcher is there to help you until emergency services arrive. Be ready to listen and follow directions.

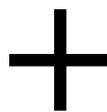
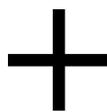
These two things can be difficult

during an emergency when panic is an understandable reaction. This is one reason that Smart911 joined this campaign and designated the 30th as their "Smart About 9-1-1 Day". A safety profile with Smart911 provides dispatchers in Arkansas your home address and other details that first responders need to know, even when you are unable to tell them.



Cross-training

Bill Cantrell (right), Natural Hazard Lead Planner, and Tim Johnson, Operations Planner, cross-train in the State Emergency Operations Center during a recent session. Many ADEM staffers have recently trained on secondary positions as part of the agency's preparedness programs.



Follow ADEM on social media for real-time news and information!

Revamped ADEM website focuses on users

ADEM staff revamped the agency's website with one goal in mind — making the portal more user friendly.

Several components and features of the new site aim for that mark.

A users box on the home page separates frequently requested content into categories of users who may be searching for it.

For example, the “Citizen” tab includes information on family readiness, the storm shelter rebate program and Community Emergency Response Teams.

Other groups highlighted in the users box are business partners, school officials, emergency managers and other public safety officials.

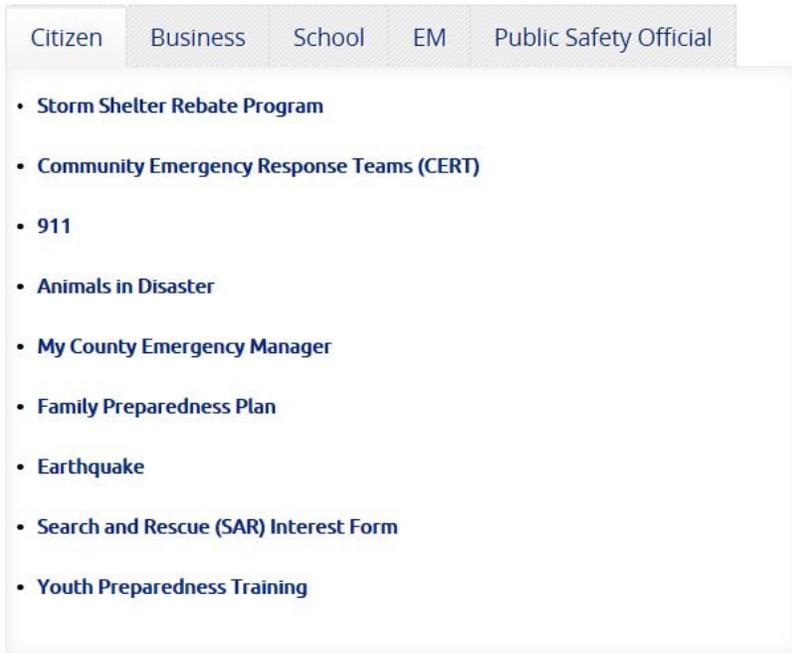
A media box on the home page links to the agency's social media channels and photo galleries.

The menus bar at the top of the home page separates content into categories, and an image at the top of the home page will indicate the status of the State Emergency Operations Center at all times.

Users may notice some content in more than one location on the site. That occurs when the content overlaps divisions and also to make locating content easier for new users.

The site is not static. It will change over time, as new content becomes available and tweaks to the layout hopefully make navigating the site more intuitive.

Visitors wishing to comment on the site may do so under the “Contact Us” button. A website comment option is available and will send those comments directly to personnel responsible for maintaining the site.



A users box on the ADEM website home page (above) helps visitors locate information, while a media box (below) contains links to the agency's social media channels and photo galleries.



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Search

- HOME
- PLAN & PREPARE
- RESPONSE
- RECOVERY
- GRANTS & FUNDING
- TRAINING & EXERCISE
- FEDERAL SURPLUS PROPERTY
- ABOUT ADEM

The menus bar at the top of the ADEM website home page includes links to myriad information, separated into categories.

ADEM encourages ShakeOut participation

Many people are surprised to learn about the earthquake risk in Arkansas.

When the large earthquake comes from the New Madrid Fault, the entire state will be affected, and citizens need to be prepared. The first step of this is raising awareness and interest. ShakeOut is an annual nationwide exercise about how to react during an earthquake, but not very many people know what to do or expect after the initial quake.

ADEM's Natural Hazards section will be producing a week's worth of graphics, pamphlets and information designed to interest and inform people about ShakeOut and earthquake preparedness. Registering for ShakeOut

2015 is easy; one person can register an entire agency. This year we hope participation extends beyond the simple "Stop, Drop, Cover" exercise. Every organization is unique and here are some ideas for how anyone can participate in ShakeOut 2015.

Keep an eye on our social media channels (FB, Twitter, Instagram) for updates and email us at publicaffairs@adem.arkansas.gov if you want us to send you the week's worth of material to use during the countdown to ShakeOut. Encourage citizens to plan ahead, for themselves and their family, and they will be less at risk and less likely to become another casualty for emergency personnel to handle during the crisis.

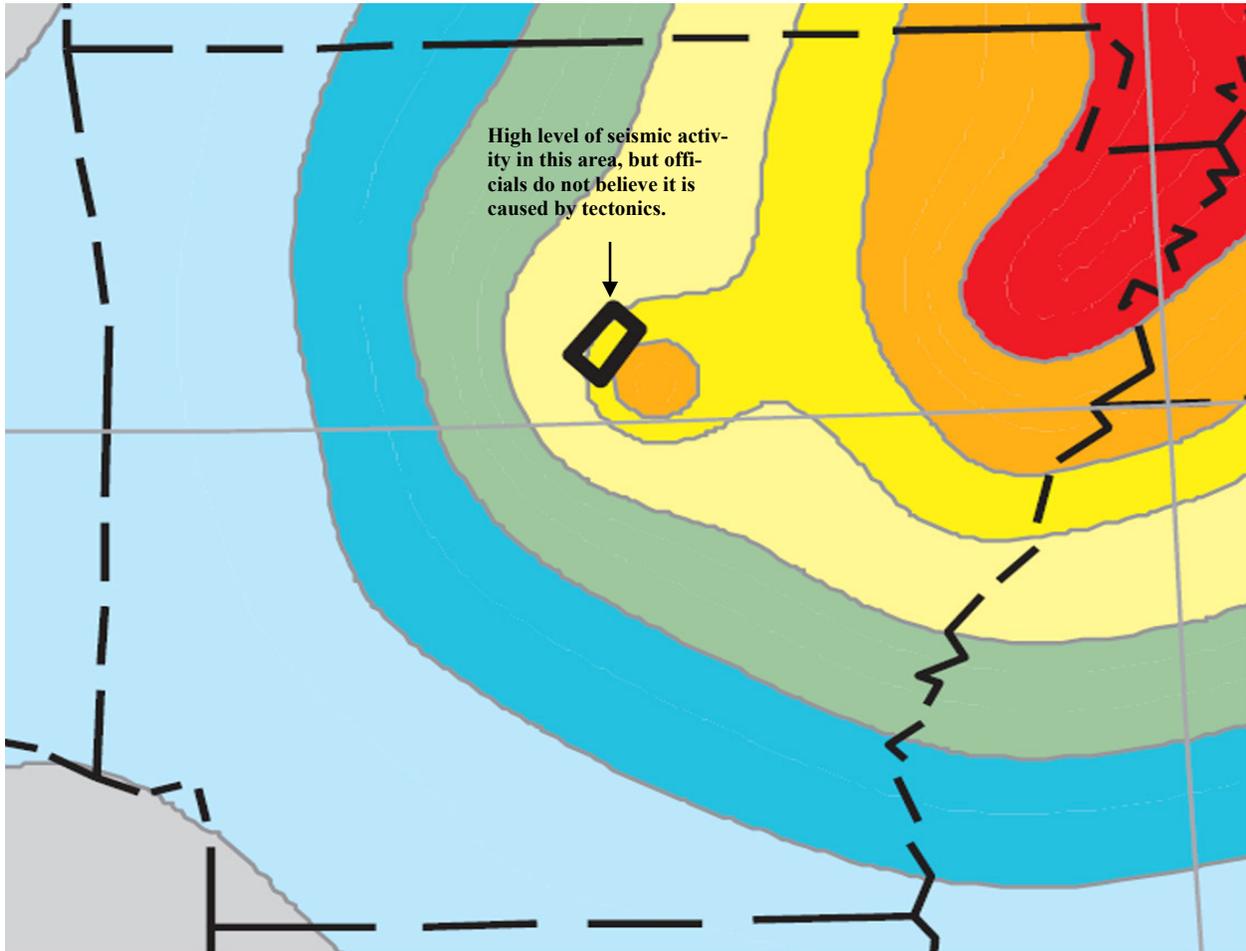


NWA Health Care Exercise

Health care professionals from across Northwest Arkansas participated in an emergency response exercise in April. Among the activities were a triage operation at Ozarks Community Hospital (above) and screenings at Washington Regional Medical Center (right)



Quake map shows effects in state



Totally destroyed areas. Waves can be seen or transmitted at ground surface. Topography is changed. Objects can be thrown into the air.

Almost all masonry structures are collapsed, bridges destroyed, fissures over entire surfaces of the ground. Underground pipelines are destroyed. Earth slumps and land slips in soft ground. Railways are prominently bent.

Wooden houses of good design and construction collapse. Most masonry and frame structures are destroyed together with their foundations. Ground is cracked causing damage. Rails are bent, slopes and embankments slide. Water surface rises.

Damage is considerable in building of good design and construction. Structures thrown out of alignment with foundations. Ground is cracked conspicuously. Underground pipes are damaged.

Some damage to buildings of good design and construction. Considerable damage in ordinary buildings with some collapsing. Great damage in poorly constructed buildings. Panel walls thrown out of frame structures. Falling of houses and factory chimneys, columns, monuments and walls. Heavy furniture overturned. Sand and mud ejected in small amounts. Changes in well water. Hinders driving.

Everybody runs outside (not advised!) Damage negligible in buildings of good design and construction, slight to moderate in ordinary structures and considerable in poorly built or badly designed structures. Chimneys are broken. Shaking can be felt in moving automobiles.

People are frightened and run outdoors (not advised!). Heavy furniture may be moved; some instances of fallen plaster and toppling of chimneys. Slight visible damage.

Felt by all, many awakened if happening at night. Some dishes and glass objects broken. Wall plaster may crack. Unstable objects are overturned. Disturbance of telephone poles, trees, and other tall objects. Pendulum clocks stopped.

Destruction: One year later

On the evening of April 27, 2014, a violent EF-4 severely damaged the Faulkner County towns of Vilonia and Mayflower.

Seventeen people died. Dozens of homes and businesses were flattened.

A year later, the towns are on the road to long-term recovery, aided by two non-profit groups focused on that goal. The Inter-Faith and Partners Dis-

aster Recovery Alliance (IFPA) and the Vilonia Disaster Recovery Alliance (VDRA) work closely together to meet the needs of those in Faulkner County affected by the storms.

These two organizations represent more than 22 local, national and affiliate partners and manage about 150 cases where residents had unmet needs. These needs include everything from funding, materials, sup-

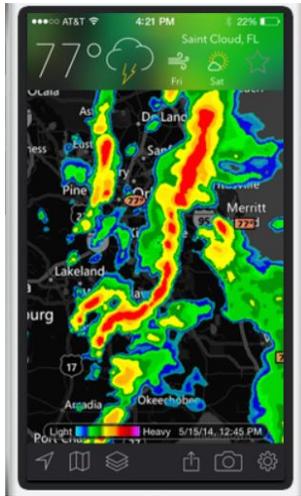
plies, appliances, furnishings, house wares and of course – skilled volunteers. The focus on skilled volunteers is to get the foundations laid for rebuilds or to make repairs so people can live in more suitable or more permanent housing.

For more information or to offer resources or volunteers contact IFPA by email or (501) 205-6873 and/or VDRA by email or (501) 514-7367.



Aerial images from Mayflower (above) and Vilonia show the destruction that occurred when a violent EF-4 tornado swept through Faulkner County on April 27, 2014. Seventeen people died in the storm.

Apps provide fingertip information



MyRadar

This radar-centric app offers high-definition radar, local conditions, weather alerts, storm tracking and forecasts. Aviation features are also available in some versions, which range in cost from free to a few dollars. For more information, click [here](#). Compatible with Apple and Android devices.

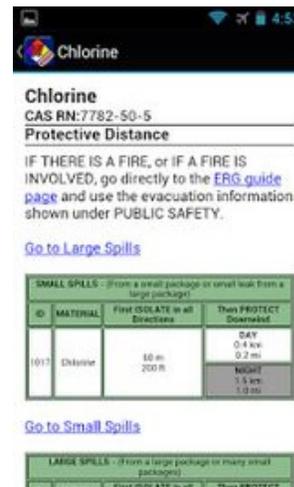


First Aid

American Red Cross produces its First Aid app, which offers step-by-step instructions for basic first aid. The application also allows direct communication with 911, provides safety tips and features interactive quizzes. For more information on this free app, click [here](#). Compatible with Apple and Android devices.

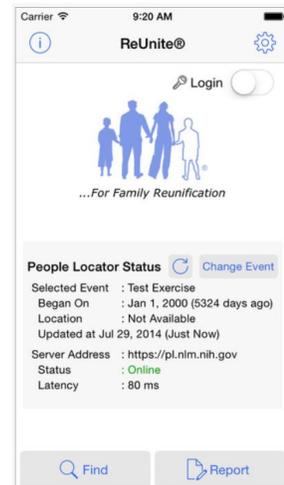
WISER

The Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders (WISER) app provides information contained in the Emergency Response Guidebook pertaining to hazardous materials, their dangers and how to handle them in the event of a spill. For more information, click [here](#). Compatible with Apple and Android devices.



Reunite

This family reunification app can not only help a family find each other after a disaster, but it can also be used to report missing and/or found person information to the U.S. National Library of Medicine's People Locator website. For more information, click [here](#). Compatible with Apple and Android devices.



Congressman tours ADEM facility

U.S. Rep. French Hill (2nd District) recently toured ADEM headquarters.

While doing so, he chatted with staff members and asked questions regarding the agency's operations and practices.



U.S. Rep. French Hill (at left, right) discusses ADEM practices with Director David Maxwell. Later, he shakes hands with Dustin Davis (top, left), natural hazards planner, as James Tiner, surplus property agent at Federal Surplus Property, looks on. Ali Rye (below), public assistance officer speaks with the congressman. LTC Paul Jara (bottom), National Guard liaison, shakes hands with the congressman as he tours the Emergency Operations Center.



Guatemalan officials study ADEM

Guatemalan emergency management officials visited ADEM in April.

The group sat in on Emergency Operations Center training, which simulated a full activation.

While observing the training, the group asked questions regarding practices and policies.



Ken Gibson (above), Communications Division director, explains the capabilities of ADEM's mobile command post. CPT Rebecca Rojas, bilateral affairs officer at the Guatemalan U.S. Embassy, translates for Nicolas Vergara Maldonado as he thanks ADEM staff for their time.



Julie Goshen (left), EMAC coordinator, served as the group's guide. Deputy Director Tina Owens (right) accepts a small rendering of the identifying vest of Guatemalan humanitarian officials.



Public Affairs

Need an easy speech? Here's one

**By Rick Fahr
ADEM PIO**

Show of hands, how many of you ever talk to civic groups or students or Sunday School classes?

More than a few of us accept speaking engagements on something of a regular basis. Often, tailoring your material to fit the audience makes sense, but that's not always necessary. It's not a bad idea to have a standard 20-minute presentation in your back pocket to fall back on.

On the subject of emergency preparedness, a go-to speech is as simple as 1, 2, 3.

1. Before an emergency.

Preparing for an emergency situation or disaster is pretty much common sense.

Put together a supplies kit. Water. Foodstuffs. A radio. Some way to charge a cell phone, perhaps. And don't forget a week's worth of medication.

Decide on your plan. If you don't have a safe room or shelter to go to, where will you go? How long would it take you to get there and get in your safest position? Don't guess at these things. Work them out.

If bad weather is looming, pay attention. Be aware of what might be coming today, tonight, tomorrow. If you are planning on traveling, check the weather for that area. Think ahead of time where might be a safe place to be in the event bad weather hits when you're on the road.

2. During an emergency.

Technology today allows us to have lots and lots of accurate information, but all the information in the world is worthless if we don't access it or don't respond appropriately.

After last year's storm that ripped through Vilonia, I spoke to at least a dozen people who said a variation of this: "Yeah, I heard the sirens and saw on TV that it was headed this way. I could have walked to the community safe room, but I figured we would just stick it out here. ... And that's when the house exploded ..."

If the threat is nearby, trust the people who are giving you information. The experts on TV aren't trying to drive up ratings by scaring you. They are trying to help you be safe. If they tell you to take cover, TAKE COVER.

A plug for first-responders: If

there is a real threat of severe weather, know where your family is actually going to be. If Johnny is going to Brad's house, make sure Johnny and Brad are going to be at the house, not at the creek fishin'. Why? Many hours are lost by responders searching a home where someone supposedly was, only to find out later that the person was somewhere else.

3. After an emergency.

Know how to secure your home. If necessary, turn off the water and natural gas. Don't mess with the electricity.

Execute your family communications plan. You do have a family communications plan, right?

That's where everybody knows to contact a designated relative — probably by text, since phone lines will be extremely busy. And, in case your phone is gone, have important phone numbers written down and accessible.

One last thing, all the plans in the world are useless if you don't remember them. So, have a drill now and then. It is during those tests that you'll discover weak points. It's much better to amend your plan on your time than in the aftermath of a disaster.

ADEM Alert user's guide

Content

Each month's newsletter will contain information about ADEM personnel, programs and activities; news from coordinators around the state; and updates on legislative, policy and other important matters.

Hyperlinks

Throughout each issue, embedded "hyperlinks" will allow users to click on an image, graphic or [blue text](#) to view additional information on an external website, such as Facebook or www.ready.arkansas.gov.

These hyperlinks will include links to photo galleries, video interviews, more information about a given subject and/or other types of multimedia content.

Many smartphone operating systems are not set up to properly follow hyperlinks. Therefore, this newsletter is best viewed on a desktop, laptop or tablet device.

Submissions

To submit information to ADEM public affairs or request public affairs support, call 501-683-6700 or email publicaffairs@adem.arkansas.gov.