



# Alert

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## RESILIENT

### *Federal Disaster Assistance for Arkansans*

On June 26, 2015 President Obama approved Governor Hutchinson's request that affected Arkansas counties qualify for federal disaster aid. There were twenty-eight counties that qualified for Public Assistance (municipalities) and nine qualified for Individual Assistance (residents).

Initial estimates listed damages as reaching more than \$6 million for Public Assistance while the amount of relief residents would need was unknown. FEMA representatives set up a Joint Field Office with ADEM staffers, everyone rolled up their sleeves and got to work.

Three Disaster Recovery Centers were opened for residents affected by the storms, severe weather and flooding between May 7 and June 15, 2015 to register with FEMA and get their questions answered. These centers were placed in Van Buren (Crawford Co), Nashville (Howard Co), and Pine Bluff (Jefferson Co) to make sure that all affected residents could reach help.

In addition FEMA brought Disaster Survivor Assistance Teams that went into affected counties and reached out by going door-to-door to make contact with those affected and offer help.



A home in the Island Harbor neighborhood of Pine Bluff, AR during the May 7-June 15 disaster that included record flooding. At one point the only way in and out of this neighborhood was by boat.

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### *In this issue* Necessary Planning



Reasons for and ways to start a Hazard Mitigation Plan.

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### FEMA Aid Info



Information on the different forms of disaster assistance available.

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## **Disaster**

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Governor Asa Hutchinson, when quoted about requesting a federal disaster declaration, said “This will provide residents and local communities with financial assistance as they continue their recovery efforts. Much remains to be done, but Arkansans have proven again and again that they can overcome any obstacle.”

The facts behind that simple statement are awe-inspiring. Our state endured numerous disasters during the previous 18 months.

- January 2014 included a massive search and rescue effort after an Arkansas Forestry plane went missing.
- February 2014 brought a severe winter storm across the northeast part of the state.

- March 2014 included another severe weather event.
- The beginning of April 2014 had more severe storms and flooding impacted 5 counties and the end of the month had severe weather and tornadoes impacted another 11 counties. This was also a federal level disaster.
- June 2014 had two more rounds of storms and flooding that caused damages in 9 counties.
- August 2014 brought more flooding.
- February 2015 saw more winter weather storms.
- March and April of 2015 saw many county roads damaged from flooding.

That list of disasters is long and cannot properly convey the impact



these incidents have had upon communities, individuals or local economies. Governor Hutchinson is right though, Arkansans are notable for how well and quickly we overcome the damage done by weather in the Natural State and how much we turn to help our neighbor in these situations.



**Another home in the Island Harbor neighborhood of Pine Bluff, AR during the May 7-June 15 disaster that included record flooding. At one point the only way in and out of this neighborhood was by boat.**



ADEM Alert is an unofficial publication of Arkansas Department of Emergency Management Public Affairs.

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• **Krista Guthrie, Deputy PIO**

# What's the deal with Hazard Mitigation Plans?

So, I'm sure you're asking yourself why you need a current Hazard Mitigation Plan (Or maybe you're not, but you should be). What's in it for my County/Jurisdiction? You ask. Well, we've listed the pros and cons to having a current hazard mitigation plan.

If you don't already have a current plan, or if your plan has expired, or even if you want to start your five year update for your current plan, FEMA has **FUNDING** available to help. What types of mitigation funding are available? You ask. There are three sources of mitigation funding:

I'm sure your final burning question is "How do I get started in such an undertaking?" Simply put, as Nike would say, just do it!

- Submitted by  
Jennifer Oakley  
Grant Coordinator

***"It's better to prepare and prevent than repair and repent."***  
***-S. Thomas***

## Pros & Cons

### Pros:

- A comprehensive hazard risk assessment. This is a great tool for everything from your first responders' awareness, to helping budget, to planning and development, to helping bring about new ordinances or helping write your EOP.
- A comprehensive list of potential mitigation actions and potential funding sources, which can also be used for planning and budgeting purposes.
- And last but not least... **FUNDING!** Funding for safe rooms for schools and/or communities. Funding for mitigation projects large and small from wildfire mitigation, to community acquisition of SRL and RL structures, to flooding projects to infrastructure retrofits and so much more. **FUNDING!!**

### Cons:

- There are no cons to your county/jurisdiction writing a hazard mitigation plan. So why not join in the fun?

## FEMA Funding

- HMGP** (Hazard Mitigation Grants Program) – Disaster driven. 15% of a presidential declaration is awarded for mitigation planning and projects.
- PDM** (Pre Disaster Mitigation) – An annual competitive grant awarded by congress. Amount varies each year. For planning and mitigation projects.
- FMA** (Flood Mitigation Assistance) – Also an annual competitive grant awarded by Congress. Amount varies each year. Administered through the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission specifically for flood planning and mitigation.

## How-to-start

- Send in a Notice Of Intent (NOI) when funding opportunities are available (ADEM sends out notices of funding opportunities to all Judges, OEM's and interested parties).
- Reach out to your local planning and development districts or a reputable contractor to assist you. You can also write the plan yourself.
- Be prepared to roll your sleeves up and work with us. This is YOUR mitigation plan! While your PDD or contractor will facilitate and scribe, you are their source of information.

Finally, don't be shy. Reach out to the ADEM mitigation branch ([mitigation@adem.arkansas.gov](mailto:mitigation@adem.arkansas.gov)). We are here to help you each step of the way.

## ADEM's Duty Officers - 24/7/365



On July 8<sup>th</sup>, the Arkansas Response and Coordination Center held a staff meeting with all Duty Officers attending. With a 24 hour a day, seven days a week, year 'round operation, it's difficult to get everyone together in one room at one time.

Emergencies don't keep time. They happen at all times during the day and night. The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM) has people ready to answer the telephone, radio, or email 24 hours a day, seven days a week, all year long. ADEM Duty Officers receive all phone calls for the agency and route the calls to the appropriate ADEM staff person during business hours. They are also responsible for working all types of incidents and resource requests. These are documented into ADEM's incident management database known as WebEOC and notifications are made to local, state and federal officials about each incident.

Duty Officers work in the Arkansas Response and Coordination Center (ARCC), located behind the glass panels of the State's Emergency Operation Center (SEOC) at Camp Joseph T. Robinson in North Little Rock. The ARCC was designed so staff could be in close visual contact with SEOC staff during emergency operation periods. When the SEOC has increased activation, calls are routed not only to ADEM staff persons; they are also routed to other state and federal agencies that staff the SEOC in support or liaison roles.

Duty Officers are responsible for testing each piece of equipment in the ARCC. Some equipment, like the two National Warning System phones (one for state agencies and one for federal agencies), are tested twice a day. Others, like the Emergency Alert System and the State Emergency Notification System are tested once a week. All tests are logged into WebEOC and if problems are identified, notifications are made and follow up provided until the problem has been resolved.

If a local office of emergency management experiences technical difficulties or a disaster requires that a mobile office be established on site, Duty Officers deploy with ADEM's mobile command vehicle. The mobile command vehicle contains telephone, computer, satellite and radio capabilities.

The next time you phone ADEM to report an incident or contact an ADEM staff member, the first person you will be talking to is a Duty Officer. They are behind the scenes to make sure that Arkansas' emergencies are addressed.

-Submitted by Barbara Hager,  
ARCC Branch Manager

## SmartPrepare available to Local Coordinators



One of the most difficult and most important job of any emergency manager is knowing the resources of your community. This list is dynamic, changing constantly as new residents and new businesses move in and out of your community.

As you all know, all disasters are local, and in many cases, it is your local resources that fight to bring normalcy back to the community. I was pleased to hear that several of our local emergency managers had partnered with their 9-1-1 Coordinators to search [SmartPrepare](#) for local resources that may be available to communities recently affected by the flooding.

SmartPrepare is a complementary service to Smart911 offered to all LEMCs that enables them to query information provided by their citizens to Smart911. Information can include resources that individuals are willing to share with their communities in the event of an emergency. For example, earlier this afternoon, I ran a query for airplanes and helicopters that Arkansans are willing to share with emergency management and I found 22 results! The generosity of our citizens is amazing. I found hundreds of ATVs, trailers, and boats listed. People from all over the state are offering to share their information and prop-

erty to help us build safer, more disaster resilient communities.

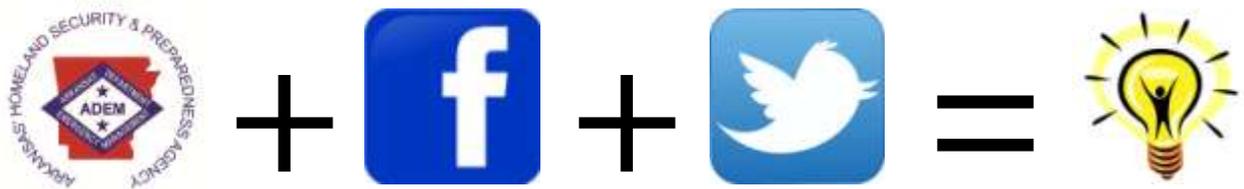
Gaining access to the SmartPrepare system is a simple process. There is a short training webinar and then the county judge can determine the authorized users for your county. That's it. Once you receive your credentials, you can utilize SmartPrepare for planning, response, recovery – the possibilities are endless.

-Submitted by Randie Jones,  
911 Coordinator

**2015 Arkansas Emergency Management Conference**  
Holiday Inn & Convention Center - Northwest Arkansas  
1500 South 48th Street  
Springdale, AR 72764



[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE](#)



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

# Arkansas State Citizen Corps Council



## Organizing CERT statewide

The Citizen Corps is a FEMA-sponsored initiative that was created after the tragic events of September 11, 2001. State and local government officials wanted to increase opportunities for citizens to become more involved in protecting the homeland and supporting local first responders. Officials agree that the formula for ensuring a more secure and safer homeland consists of preparedness, training, and citizen involvement in supporting first responders. In January of 2002, President George W. Bush launched Citizen Corps, to capture the spirit of service that emerged throughout our communities following the terrorist attacks.

Citizen Corps was created to help coordinate volunteer activities that will make our communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to any emergency situation. It provides opportunities for people to participate in a range of measures to make their families, their homes, and their communities safer from the threats of crime, terrorism, and disasters of all kinds.

The Arkansas Citizen Corps organization is sponsored by the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management. Gary Ragen is the State Citizen Corps Coordinator. The program is supported by the State Citizen Corps Advisory Council, a group consisting of representatives from emergency management, first responder organizations, volunteer organizations, state agencies, and educational institutions.

The Council had its first meeting of 2015 on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Several new Council members were welcomed to the group. Tina Cole of the Baxter Co. Office of Emergency Management and Brent

Cole of Arkansas State University were selected as Co-Chairs of the Council. The Council's focus is primarily on the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program.

Several objectives were identified as priorities for this year's Council. They include:

- The establishment of a State Youth Preparedness Council
- The promotion of CERT program education and awareness in all county jurisdictions.
- The development of a cadre of CERT Instructor-Trainers and CERT Instructors
- The development of CERT Program Managers (training at the Emergency Management Institute).
- Host a state CERT Program Manager Workshop

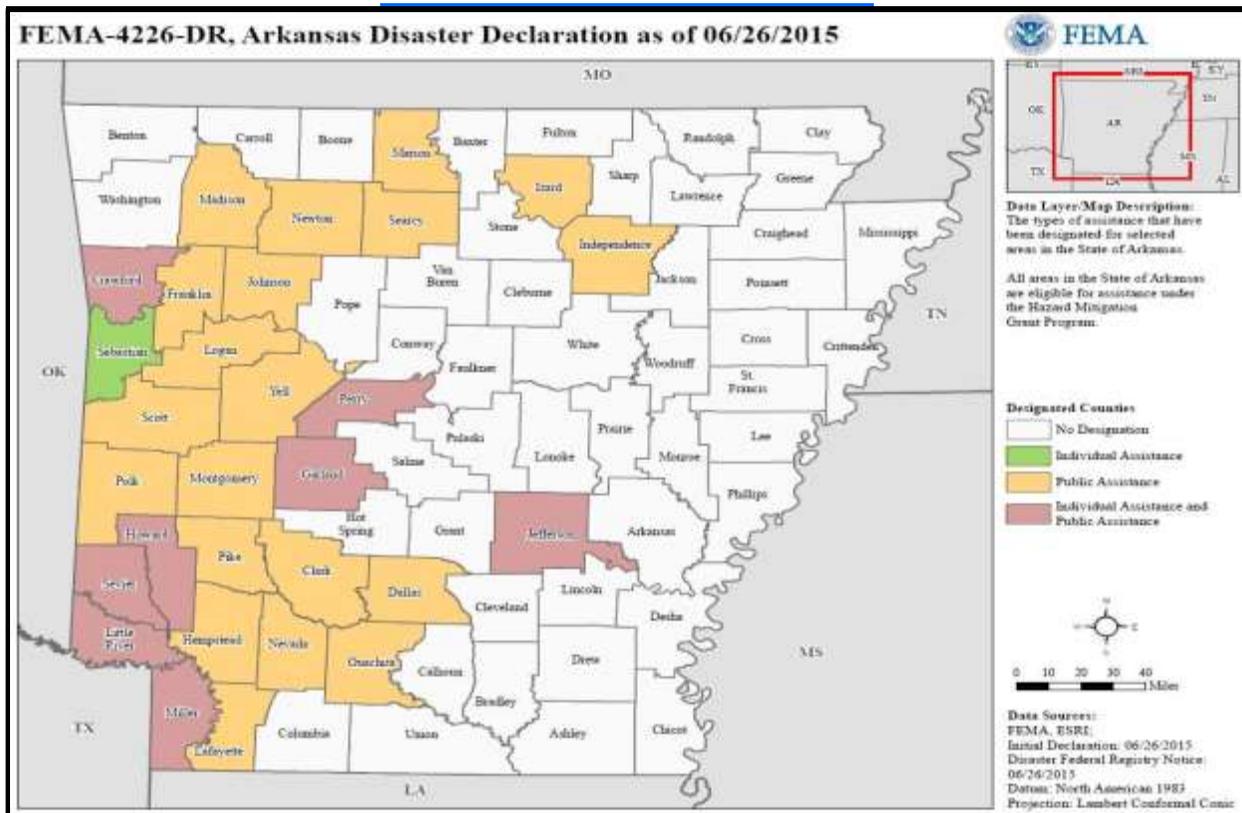
The mission of the Arkansas Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program is to maximize the ability of ordinary citizens to safely respond to disasters within their local communities by increasing the number of trained CERT volunteers that can provide initial response, care, treatment and support to their family members and neighbors until professional response services arrive.

- Submitted by Gary Ragen,  
CERT Program Manager

**Have news to share?  
Contact ADEM PIO  
[publicaffairs@adem.arkansas.gov](mailto:publicaffairs@adem.arkansas.gov)**



# FEMA-AR-4226-DR



[Individual Assistance](#) is available in nine counties. There are several ways to apply for disaster assistance, and residents of those counties affected by severe weather, storms and flooding between May 7 and June 15, 2015 are encouraged to register.

- Call 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY 1-800-462-7585 for the speech- and hearing-impaired. If you use 711-Relay or Video Relay Services call 1-800-621-3362.
- Another option is to register online at [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov) or via web-enable phone or tablet at [m.fema.gov](http://m.fema.gov).

The toll free numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. CDT, seven days a week.

In most cases, a FEMA inspector will call you within a few

days of registering to arrange a visit to your damaged home or apartment. A FEMA inspector will always have an official badge visible during the inspection. Request to see identification before allowing the inspector to enter your home.

If you qualify for FEMA assistance, you will receive a federal government check or the funds will be directly deposited into your designated bank account. A separate letter also will be sent to you explaining how you may use the funds.

Low-interest disaster loans from the Small Business Administration (SBA) are available to help with residential and business losses not covered by insurance. The SBA is the federal government's primary source of money for the rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA

helps businesses of all sizes, private non-profit organizations, homeowners and renters fund repairs or rebuilding efforts and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property.

For more information on SBA programs, applicants may contact SBA's Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center by calling (800) 659-2955, emailing [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov), or visiting SBA's website at [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster). Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals may call (800) 877- 8339.

The deadline to apply for Individual Assistance is Aug. 25, 2015.

[Public Assistance](#) is available for 28 counties and is designed to reimburse qualifying governments after a disaster.

## Celebrating 25 years of the Americans with Disabilities Act

July 26, 2015 marks the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This milestone law prohibits discrimination and mandates equal opportunity for people with disabilities in employment, state and local government services, public accommodations, commercial facilities, transportation and telecommunications and guarantees the civil rights of more than 56 million Americans.

The ADA was signed into law by President George H.W. Bush in 1990 and has shaped opportunities for people with disabilities in providing equal access to education, employment and to programs and services, including transportation, communications access, public accommodations, and more.

Working in Emergency Management means taking into account the needs of people with disabilities when planning for disaster preparedness, response and recovery. Websites must be ADA

compliant, public materials need to be available in alternate formats (brail, vision impairment, captioning, etc.).

ADEM is participating in this year's Ready.gov preparedness public service announcement (PSA) campaign, which is emphasizing accessibility for non-English speakers and those with disabilities. 'We Prepare Every Day' is the first series of videos that aim to deliver a strong preparedness message by showing people with disabilities taking charge to prepare themselves, and families, for emergencies. These PSAs will include open captioning, a certified deaf interpreter and audio descriptions.

Locally a group of ADEM, FEMA and ADA representatives attended the ADA's 25 year celebration in Hot Springs, AR on 23 July 2015. Many of them have been working together during the disaster recovery efforts from the severe weather, storms and flooding that soaked the state from 7 May to 15 June, 2015.



FEMA, ADEM and ADA representatives attended the 25 year celebration for the Americans with Disabilities Act at SPA Area Independent Living Services (SAILS) in Hot Springs AR on 23 July 2015. Many of them have been working together during the disaster recovery efforts from the severe weather, storms and flooding that soaked the state from 7 May to 15 June, 2015.

# Calendar of Events

## August

### General Events

**24-29** — Annual Emergency Management Conference in Springdale

### HazMat Training

**3-4** — HazMat Operations Course in Garland County.

**8-9** — HazMat Operations Course in Sebastian County.

**10** — Incident Response to Terroristic Bombings Operations Course in Garland County.

**10-21** — HazMat Technician Course in Garland County.

**11-12** — Rad/Nuc Awareness Course in Crawford County.

**31-9/4** — HazMat Operations Course in Sharp County.

### EM Training

**3** — Management of Spontaneous Volunteers in Disasters Course in White County.

**4-5** — G-108 Community Mass Care Management in White County.

**8-9** — ICS 400 in Lonoke County.

**15-16** — ICS 300 in IZARD County.

**24-26** — EO-954 Mission Specific Safety Officer Course in Benton County.

**24-25** — ICS 300 at Annual Conference.

### Exercises

**19** — ADEM State Emergency Operations Center Exercise.

## September

### General Events

**7** — Labor Day

### HazMat Training

**14-25** — HazMat Technician Course in Washington County.

### EM Training

**12-13** — ICS 400 in IZARD County.

**14-15** — ICS 300 in IZARD County.

**21-22** — EO-973 Mission Specific Finance Chief in Baxter County.

**28-30** — G-290 Basic PIO in Hot Springs.

### Exercises

**3** — ADEM Training and Exercise Planning Workshop

**16** — ADEM State Emergency Operations Center Exercise.

## Arkansas Hazmat Weekend

September 11-12, 2015

at the Double Tree Hotel  
424 W. Markham St.  
Little Rock, AR 72201



[Click here for more details!](#)



Older children, like preteens and teens, need Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis), MenACWY (meningococcal conjugate vaccine) and HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccines when they are 11 to 12. In addition, yearly flu vaccines are recommended for all children 6 months and older.

Generally speaking, we recommend people call their Health Unit to make an appointment to get their child vaccinated. We also ask that people bring their child's shot records (if they have them) and insurance cards. If they don't have insurance the vaccine will be provided at no charge to the parent. Occasionally, a health unit may run out of a certain vaccine, especially if it's in high demand. We call these spot shortages. When a spot shortage occurs, that Health Unit may ask another county for additional vaccine or see if more can be requested through Central Office. This is another reason why we recommend people call ahead—to make sure the vaccine they need is available.

Parents can find out more about the recommended immunization schedule at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/index.html) or [www.healthy.arkansas.gov](http://www.healthy.arkansas.gov). Call 1-800-462-0599 to find out the closest ADH local health unit that gives shots or contact your healthcare provider.

**National Immunization Awareness Month is a reminder that we all need vaccines throughout our lives**

Back-to-school season is here. It's time for parents to gather supplies and back packs. It is also the perfect time to make sure your kids are up-to-date on their vaccines. To celebrate the importance of immunizations throughout life – and make sure children are protected with all the vaccines they need – the Arkansas Department of Health is joining with partners nationwide in recognizing August as National Immunization Awareness Month.

“Getting children all of the vaccines recommended by CDC's immunization schedule is one of the most important things parents can do to protect their children's health – and that of classmates and the community,” said Dr. Jennifer Dillaha, Medical Director of the Immunization Section at the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH). “If you haven't

done so already, now is the time to check with your doctor to find out what vaccines your child needs.”

In Arkansas, public and private schools follow state rules and regulations on immunization requirements each year to protect the health of all students. Today's childhood vaccines protect against serious and potentially life-threatening diseases, including polio, measles, and whooping cough. When children are not vaccinated, they are at increased risk and can spread diseases to others in their classrooms and community – including babies who are too young to be fully vaccinated, and people with weakened immune systems due to cancer or other health conditions.

School-age children need vaccines. For example, children who are 4 to 6 years old are due for boosters of four vaccines: DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis), chickenpox, MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) and polio.

## **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](http://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](mailto:publicaffairs@adem.arkansas.gov).