



Alert

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Response and Recovery are part of rebuilding

No two disasters are the same, even for those who work in the field of preventing, responding to and recovering from destructive incidents. Standard procedures are established and tested to make sure there is a framework to guide actions, but every incident has its own problems and effects.

Nowhere is this more clear than when comparing the 2015 flooding to the 2014 tornados. These disasters both affected a large number of people and caused significant damage to infrastructure, public and private property.

The one boon during a flood is that in most cases there is time to prepare. Shelia Bellott, Local EM Coordinator for Faulkner County said it best, "The tornado came with little warning, it destroyed

"The flooding - you have time to prepare and know the areas that are prone to flooding and at risk."

- Shelia Bellott, Faulkner Co OEM

and it left. It's a waiting game to see if it happens, where it happens and the magnitude of it. The flooding - you have time to prepare and know the areas that are prone to flooding and at risk."

Waiting for the waters to rise is only half the disaster, as you then also have to wait for the water to crest and finally recede. Tina Owens, Deputy Director at ADEM, said "Flooding is more frustrating for us because we can see it coming and we know damage is done, but it takes so long to be able to start responding. Flooding has a mental aspect that other disasters don't and that is the frustration of waiting."

To further complicate this bout of flooding the waters have gone up and down several times, possibly causing more damage and dragging in more debris each time. Rainfall in Arkansas ranged from 3 to 14 inches across the state in the 30 days between 18 May and 15 June.

What has made this situation far worse than it would have been

See Rebuilding on page 2

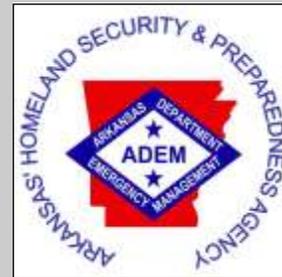
In this issue **Water Dangers**



Water risk statistics and water safety tips.

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AEMC Info



Conference registration information and links.

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EM Crossword



A small brain-teaser just for you!

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is the record rainfalls that both Oklahoma and Texas also received in May and June. Some areas of Oklahoma saw more than 16 inches of rain in that very same timeframe. Texas has endured devastating floods in many of their major cities and many smaller towns lost homes and entire families in the floods.

Arkansas' loss of life was thankfully small, two deaths to an E2 tornado and one swift water fatality on the Red River. The damage to property is hefty though. Public property totaled more than \$6 million for the state and over 370 homes were reported as damaged. The most devastating part of this disaster though is that it is one in a long line of tough knocks in the past year.

Winter weather, tornados and flooding are just a few of the natural disasters that have affected almost every part of the state in the past 12 months.

Highway 23 in Franklin County after the unusually high amounts of rain caused a landslide. AHTD estimates the road will be closed for repairs at least until the fall.



Highway 71 in the Red River Valley was eventually shut down completely as the water level rose to cover the entire roadway.

The effort of rebuilding from those losses makes recovery from this disaster even harder. Infrastructure like roads and bridges is essential to keeping the workforce engaged and thus the economy healthy—and infrastructure has been victimized in serious ways this past year.



Lavaca Police Department shared this photo of their flooding on their agency Facebook page.



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Rick Fahr, PIO • Krista Guthrie, Deputy PIO

Water Safety Statistics

WATER SAFETY



American Red Cross

Troubled Waters: Many Americans Lack Basic Water Safety Skills

Many of those polled in a recent American Red Cross survey believe the myths about water safety...



63%
of families with children will swim somewhere without a lifeguard on duty



67% believe "water wings" keep kids safe in the water



93% were unable to identify the correct order of steps for helping a swimmer in danger



11% think it's OK to read or talk on the phone when supervising children in the water

How many Americans have taken swimming lessons?



Almost half

say they've had an experience where they were afraid they might drown.



What to do:

If you see a swimmer in distress, shout for help, reach or throw the person a rescue or flotation device, tell them to grab on to it and call 9-1-1 if needed. Give care as needed.



Be water safe this summer.
Learn more at redcross.org/watersafetytips

Note: All findings based on a telephone survey of 1,011 U.S. adults 18 years and older on April 11-14, 2013. Comparison findings based on a telephone survey of 1,002 adults 18 years and older on March 20-23, 2008.

Play it safe when swimming!

WATER SAFETY RULES

 **Buddy up!**
Make sure you never swim alone.

 Swim in safe areas and always know where the lifeguard is.

 **STOP** Know your limits.
Don't swim farther than or hold your breath longer than you are able to.

 Jump in feet first.

 Don't enter cold water.

 Don't swim during storms.

 Wear a life jacket if you can't swim or while on a boat.

 Learn how to swim.

 To assist someone in trouble, reach them with a pole or throw a floatable ball.

Last, but not least...
FOLLOW THE RULES!



New Features for Smart911

Smart911 gets even smarter

Arkansas 9-1-1 is proud to now offer a way to better protect facilities across the state. On June 1st, Rave Mobile Safety rolled out the new Facility Profile component to Smart911. Like the citizen's safety profile, facility profiles are free to create and will be automatically displayed inside the 9-1-1 center should a 9-1-1 call for service be placed within the facility's boundaries.

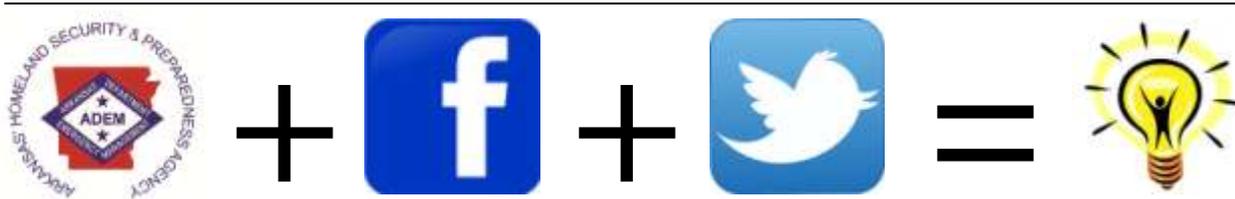
According to Rave, Smart911 Facility is an added service within Smart911 that allows for a profile to be created for any type of facility or campus at www.smart911facility.com. When any call, landline or mobile, dials 9-1-1 from within the geographi-

cal boundaries of that location (as determined by the facility profile) the profile will immediately display within the Smart911 console to the 9-1-1 dispatcher. In addition, a dispatcher can search for the profile of a facility by name within their area.

- A facility profile can include:
- multiple buildings within a campus;
 - point(s) of contact on site;
 - fire alarm contact;
 - security alarm contact;
 - property owner contact information;
 - gates or access codes;
 - geographical boundaries including parking lots;
 - floor plans of each building;

- landline phone numbers within a building.

Emergency calls come from within large facilities or campuses every day, from landlines and mobile phones. Whether it is an employee, customer, or visitor in that location - having the information to reach their exact location within the facility, as well as access points, points of contact, and maps can cut seconds and minutes off of the response time. A Smart911Facility profile can help protect both people and places.



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

Arkansas State Citizen Corps Council



Organizing CERT statewide

The Arkansas State Citizen Corps Council is committed to supporting the expansion of CERT training in our state. The Council elected two of its members as co-chairs for the upcoming year. Tina Cole with Baxter Co. OEM and Brent Cox with Arkansas State University, will lead the newly organized Council.

The Arkansas State Citizen Corps Council held its first meeting of 2015 on May 21st. Sixteen attendees representing community leaders and emergency responders from around the state met at the ADEM offices in North Little Rock. Gary Ragen, State Citizen Corps Coordinator, opened the meeting with a brief history of the Citizen Corps initiative in Arkansas.

During the course of the meeting, several Council objectives were identified for the upcoming year to include the expansion of CERT training across the state, increase the number of CERT instructors, expand CERT to the state's youth through a Youth Preparedness Council, and generally promote CERT Program education and awareness in all county jurisdictions across Arkansas.

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training is a FEMA-sponsored program that trains citizens to provide initial care and sup-



CERT members attend training at ADEM, learning how to help their communities in a disaster. CERT members often work closely with their Local Emergency Management Office.

port to their families and neighbors immediately after a disaster. CERT is about readiness, neighbors helping neighbors, **rescuer safety** and doing the greatest good for the greatest number.

CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens will be initially on their own and their actions

make a difference. Through training, citizens can manage utilities and put out small fires; treat the three killers by opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock; provide basic medical aid; search for and rescue victims safely and organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective.

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



AR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

2015 Arkansas Emergency Management Conference

Holiday Inn & Convention Center - Northwest Arkansas

1500 South 48th Street
Springdale, AR 72764



[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE](#)

To Make Hotel Reservations

(479) 751-8300 or [ONLINE](#)

GROUP CODE

AEM

ROOM RATE

\$83.00 + Tax

GROUP NAME

ARKANSAS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

HOTEL REGISTRATION CUTOFF DATE

AUGUST 3, 2015

ROOMS NOT RESERVED BY AUGUST 3, 2015 WILL BE RELEASED FOR GENERAL SALE MAKING THE GOVERNMENT RATE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. A MAJOR CREDIT CARD IS REQUIRED FOR RESERVATION AND CHECK-IN. CHECK-IN TIME IS 3:00 PM AND CHECKOUT TIME IS 12:00 PM

Training

August 24, 2015 — August 25, 2015

[ICS-300 Intermediate ICS
for Expanding Incidents](#)

[Training Point of Contact](#)

ADEM Training Section

General Session

August 26, 2015 — August 28, 2015

[Conference Point of Contact](#)

Pamela Burton or Jodi Lee
(501) 683-6700

<http://www.adem.arkansas.gov>

<http://www.arkansas-ema.org>

Have a safe and happy 4th of July!

Fireworks Safety Tips

- ★ Never allow **children** to play with or ignite fireworks.
- ★ **Never** try to **re-light** or **pick up** fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- ★ Keep a **bucket of water** or a **garden hose** handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- ★ Make sure fireworks are **legal** in your area before buying or using them.
- ★ Light fireworks **one at a time**, then **move back** quickly.
- ★ More Fireworks Safety Tips –
www.cpsc.gov/fireworks

Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission 2012 Fireworks Annual Report



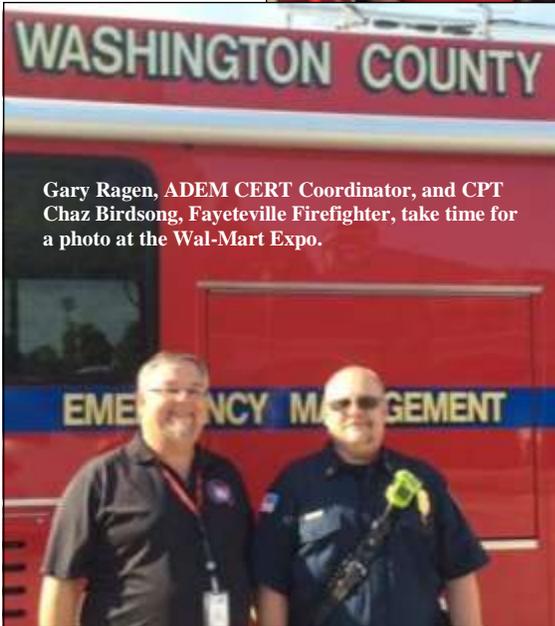
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
CONSUMER PRODUCT
SAFETY COMMISSION

**U.S. Consumer Product
Safety Commission**

CPSC Hotline: (800) 638-2772

www.cpsc.gov

EM personnel attended Wal-Mart Expo



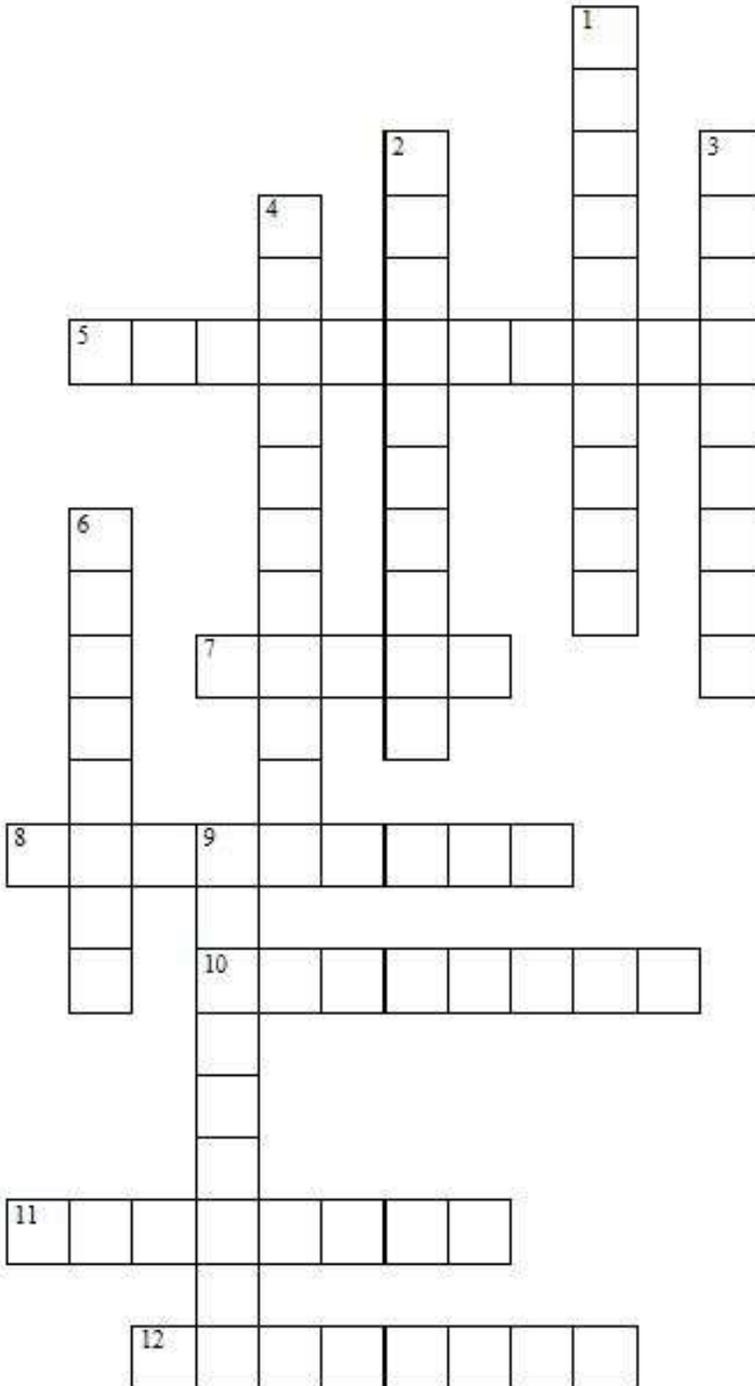
Gary Ragen, ADEM CERT Coordinator, and CPT Chaz Birdsong, Fayetteville Firefighter, take time for a photo at the Wal-Mart Expo.

A volunteer with Red Cross and Randie Jones, State 911 Coordinator, pose with Rick Johnson, Local Coordinator, and Fayetteville firefighters.



Rick Johnson, Washington County OEM and Fayetteville firefighters pose in front of a fire truck.

Emergency Management Crossword



Down

- 1 Crucial element in disaster response
- 2 Attempt to prevent a repeat disaster
- 3 Lack of preparation on your part does not make an _____ on my part
- 4 Everyone should have one
- 6 Thinking about what you do before you need to do it
- 9 Giant tornado

Across

- 5 Front line official during an incident
- 7 U.S. natural disaster responsible for most fatalities
- 8 Potential threat that can be deadly from 10 miles away
- 10 Saving life, limb and property
- 11 Many of these things revolve around a _____
- 12 Dealing with the aftermath

- Answers**
- 1 Volunteers
 - 2 Mitigation
 - 3 Emergency
 - 4 Survival Kit
 - 5 Coordinator
 - 6 Planning
 - 7 Flooding
 - 8 Lightning
 - 9 Hurricane
 - 10 Response
 - 11 Disaster
 - 12 Recovery

Calendar of Events

July

General Events

- 4 — Independence Day (observed on the 3rd)
24 — Governor's Earthquake Advisory Committee Meeting

HazMat Training

- 6-17 — HazMat Technician Course in Benton County.
13-14 — HazMat Awareness Course in Franklin County.
15 — BioDiesel Awareness Course in Crawford County.
18 — HazMat Awareness Course in Sebastian County.
20-24 — Chemistry for Emergency Response in Benton County.
27-28 — HazMat Awareness Course in Ouachita County.

EM Training

- 11-12 — ICS 400 in Johnson County.
13-14 — G-386 Mass Fatalities in Sebastian County.
25-26 — ICS 300 in Lonoke County.
27-29 — EO-967 Mission Specific Logistics Chief Course in Craighead County.
27 — COOP-Guardian Accord TTX in Sherwood.
28-30 — COOP Planers Workshop in Sherwood.

Exercises

- 15 — ADEM State Emergency Operations Center Exercise.
22 — ANO Full Scale Plume Drill.

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.

“Natural disasters are increasingly becoming a regular feature of life for large numbers of people around the globe.”

- Earl Blumenauer

Public Affairs

Many lessons learned at ADEM

By Rick Fahr
ADEM PIO

Next month, I'll mark yet another birthday — my 45th.

Ugh.

But even at this advanced age, I hope that I continue to learn things on a daily basis.

During my time here at ADEM, I've learned a great deal about disasters, readiness and the people who respond to and prepare for them both.

Some of those things:

Who knew there was such a thing as space weather?

Somebody goes missing almost every day in this little state.

If you kinda like storms, don't get into emergency management. You'll grow to get really, really sick of weather.

Three out of every four conversations in ADEM headquarters get interrupted by a telephone ringing.

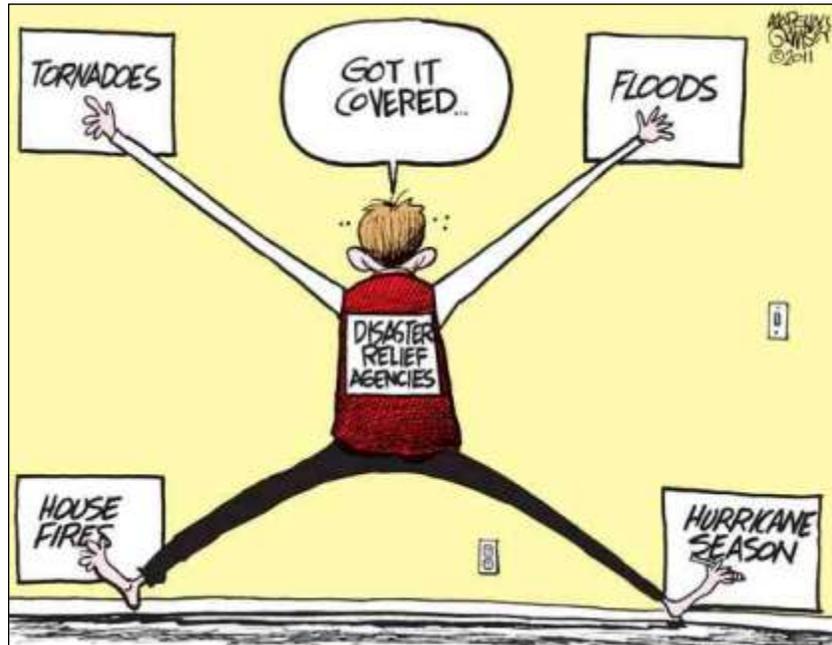
The military likes training, but the military doesn't hold a candle to emergency manager types.

Learn to love acronyms. Or don't.

For all the talk of crazy spending at the federal government level, ADEM's stringent rules and policies should make taxpayers proud.

Disaster response in this country would look much different were it not for volunteer organizations.

It's kinda neat working in the State



Emergency Operations Center because it's as close as most of us will ever get to Mission Control at NASA.

People in this line of work, almost all of them, are here because they want to help people and they want to make a difference. They certainly don't go into or stay in this line of work for the money or the pats on the back. Often, this job is thankless and difficult. It's a testimony to the people that they do what they do, day after day.

This is my last week at ADEM. I am moving back into the world of commercial media. Thanks to everyone who helped me along the way. It has been a pleasure to work with such a dedicated, knowledgeable group of public servants.

May your skies be blue, the temperature never drop below 32 degrees and the phone never ring with an EOC activation on the other end of the line.

At any rate, godspeed.

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.