



Arkansas Prepared

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Winter weather is here! Time to get your homes and vehicles ready

Before winter storms and extreme cold really start to make their presence known across our state, the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), remind citizens to add the following supplies to your disaster readiness kit.

- Rock salt to melt ice on walkways
- Sand to improve traction
- Snow shovels and other snow removal equipment.
- Also it is most prudent to prepare your home and family in the following ways:
 - Prepare for possible isolation in your home by having sufficient heating fuel; regular fuel sources may be cut off.
 - Winterize your home to extend the life of your fuel supply by insulating walls and attics, caulking and weather-stripping doors and windows, and installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic.
 - Winterize your house, barn, shed or any other structure that may provide shelter for your family, neighbors, livestock or equipment. Clear rain gutters; repair roof leaks and cut away tree branches that could fall on a house or other structure during a storm.
 - Insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic and allow faucets to drip a little during cold weather to avoid freezing.
 - Keep fire extinguishers on hand, and make sure everyone in your house knows how to use them. House fires pose an additional risk, as more people turn to alternate heating sources without taking the necessary safety precautions.
 - Learn how to shut off water valves (in case a pipe bursts).

Know ahead of time what you should do to help elderly or disabled friends, neighbors or employees.

Prepare your car by doing the following:

- Check or have a mechanic check the following items on your car:
 - Antifreeze levels - ensure they are sufficient to avoid freezing.
 - Battery and ignition system - should be in top condition and battery terminals should be clean.
 - Brakes - check for wear and fluid levels.

- Exhaust system - check for leaks and crimped pipes and repair or replace as necessary. *Carbon monoxide is deadly and usually gives no warning.*
- Fuel and air filters - replace and keep water out of the system by using additives and maintaining a full tank of gas.
- Heater and defroster - ensure they work properly.
- Lights and flashing hazard lights - check for serviceability.
- Oil - check for level and weight. Heavier oils congeal more at low temperatures and do not lubricate as well.
- Thermostat - ensure it works properly.
- Windshield wiper equipment - repair any problems and maintain proper washer fluid level.
- Install good winter tires. Make sure the tires have adequate tread. All-weather radials are usually adequate for most winter conditions
 - Maintain at least a half tank of gas during the winter season.

Place a winter emergency kit in each car that includes:

- A shovel
- Windshield scraper and small broom
- Flashlight
- Battery powered radio.
- Extra batteries
- Water
- Snack food
- Matches
- Extra hats, socks and mittens
- First aid kit with pocket knife
- Necessary medications
- Blanket(s)
- Tow chain or rope
- Road salt and sand
- Booster cables
- Emergency flares
- Fluorescent distress flag

Dress for the Weather

- Wear several layers of loose fitting, lightweight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing. The outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent.
- Wear mittens, which are warmer than gloves.

Burn tower dedicated to ADEM employee

Jacksonville Fire Department's new pride and joy, a 3,004-square-foot burn tower, was dedicated to retire battalion chief Kendall Snyder in a recent ceremony. Snyder is now Fire/EMS Coordinator at ADEM.

The tower is part of the city's \$8.8 million public-safety complex at the old Vertac plant site off Marshall Road. The complex was funded by money the city had set aside, a FEMA grant and a loan.

The facility already features a new firing range for police, a paved lot for emergency vehicle driving practice, a new street department building and the Jacksonville Recycling Center.

The city broke ground for a new police department, 911 center and safe room on the site in October. The safe room will also double as training classrooms.

Fire Chief John Vanderhoof said if he could describe Snyder with one phrase it would be *semper fidelis*, the motto of the Marine Corps and a Latin term meaning "always loyal."

Snyder said he wasn't good at speeches. He thanked everyone and said, "This is pretty humbling. There's a lot of other folks who did a lot."

Snyder joined the Marine Corps in 1979, when he was 17 years old. He said he was fortunate to have served in Hawaii and not in a war zone. After that, he worked as an automobile mechanic until he stumbled upon what he learned to love.

He became a volunteer firefighter with the Gravel Ridge Fire Department because he wanted to help his community. Snyder liked it so much, he said, that he thought it would make a good career.

He joined the Jacksonville Fire Department in 1987 and retired from there last June.

Snyder is married and has two sons. His oldest is a 27-year-old Iraqi war Army veteran, who now attends Pulaski Technical College. His youngest son is 22 and lived in Washington, where he works for USAID. His third son passed away after a motor vehicle accident five years ago.

Snyder like cooking and gardening. He's a little disappointed that he won't get to use the tower but laughed at the suggestion that he could tell the firemen it has his name on it when he wants to try it out.

Gary Clements with Clements and Associates Architecture, Inc., said designing the tower was "a different animal."

He and his associates looked at facilities in Conway, North Little Rock, Black River Technical College, on Little Rock Air Force Base and at the Camden Fire Academy early in the design phase.

They sought to realize the department's goal of having a structure that could simulate multiple scenarios firefighters face.

The department has not set the tower on fire yet, but being able to do so will make training more applicable in real-life situations.

The tower is designed to contain blazes. It is also safe to set on fire because it is equipped with a sprinkler system and temperatures in the building will be monitored with 16 heat sensors.

The heat sensors are connected to a sophisticated temperature panel that tells fire department trainers how hot it is in each part of the building.

Trainers will use a smoke-generating machine in the tower. The machine simulates zero visibility conditions but the smoke is non-toxic and is one of several props and devices firefighters will use as training materials.

There are four burn rooms on three floors. The rooms are lined with firebricks, the type of brick that is used to line fireplaces. The firebricks and the ceiling tiles are heat-resistant and inexpensive to replace.

The top of the tower simulates both a flat roof and a slanted, or pitched, roof. Trainees can repel on the side of the tower from a stand-pipe system similar to those at some local factories.

Parking lots on each side were designed to resemble what a firefighter might see at an apartment complex or business.

Trainees can draw water from a large retention pond located near the tower. A small device that looks like a traffic signal displays a red light if they use too much water to put out the flames.

The pond will also allow the department to test pump operations.

The fire department had been conducting training using dry runs on houses condemned by the city council but they couldn't set those homes on fire because that could create unsafe conditions. In addition to the tower, firefighters will have an area where they can practice putting out vehicle fires, extricating accident victims from cars and rescuing those caught in fires from confined spaces. The department plans to invite firefighters from other localities to use the training complex.

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Congratulations Kerri!

ADEM wants to congratulate Kerri Phillips on being selected as Professional Assistant of the Year at the 2011 Conference for Professional Assistants. Kerri has served as Executive Assistant to several of ADEM's Directors, most recently, Director Maxwell.

Throughout her tenure she has aided elected officials, federal and state government leadership, as well as public citizens in the understanding of Arkansas emergency management. We are grateful for her service to our agency and proud to see her recognized for her hard work.

She is being congratulated by Director David Maxwell in the photo.

Director Re-elected to Council

Arkansas Homeland Security Advisor David Maxwell has been re-elected to the National Governors Association Homeland Security Advisors Council (GHSAC) Executive Leadership for 2011 – 2012. He is one of eight members from around the country named to the committee.

Maxwell is also Director of the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM).

The GHSAC was created by the National Governors Association Center in 2006 to provide a forum for homeland security advisors from each state, U.S. territory and the District of Columbia to identify common concerns, share information and best practices, and develop

a unified voice to inform governors of the impacts of federal homeland security legislation, regulations and policies on the states. The GHSAC works directly with federal agencies to inform the development of homeland security policies and strategies that impact the states and works through the National Governors Association to ensure the collective voice of the states' top homeland security officials is heard on Capitol Hill.

The GHSAC conducts its business through seven (7) operating committees:

- Border Security, Immigration and Personal Identification;

- Catastrophic Planning and Preparedness;
- Critical Infrastructure Protection;
- Grants and Funding;
- Information Sharing and Analysis;
- Information Technology, Cyber Security and Secure Communications and
- Interoperability.

The Council meets twice each year, once in Washington, D.C., and once in a select state and convenes regularly by conference calls throughout the year.

Arkansas CCP wins prestigious honor

The Arkansas Citizen Corps Program (CCP) has won the 2011 Outstanding State Citizen Corps Council Initiative.

The award is presented annually as a part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Individual and Community Preparedness Awards. Not only did Arkansas win outstanding state CCP, the Great Central United States Shakeout also won Outstanding Drill, Exercise or Event, and Arkansas played a major role in that event as well.

These annual awards recognize the innovative practices and achievements of organizations and individuals across the nation that work to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to manage any emergency situation, a FEMA spokesperson said. They cover the period of January 1, 2010, through June 1, 2011. The Arkansas Citizen Corps Program has been increasing its efforts in helping Arkansans prepare for all types of disaster.

Citizen Corps consists of five programs that include: Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), Volunteers in Police Service (ViPS), Neighborhood Watch, Fire-Corps, and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). These programs give Arkansans many opportu-

nities to be involved in preparing their communities. CCP is funded in part by grants from the US Department of Homeland Security. The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM) oversees the CCP in Arkansas.

"I offer my sincere congratulations to all who were involved in this program, not only the top-notch employees at ADEM, but also the many citizen volunteers who have been so re-

sponsive and eager to help their fellow citizens in their respective communities," said ADEM Director David Maxwell. "With the tremendous efforts of our 13 local Citizen Corps Councils and the State Council, we've been able to reach more Arkansans than ever before.

we can now reach many more Arkansans. "I'm proud of our councils and local groups. Our partners around the state help to make this program possible. I'm confident that our efforts will continue to prepare Arkansans for disasters and emergencies and that, will save lives," Stover concluded

Leadership from National Emergency Management Association (NEMA), the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), and FEMA selected this year's winners from applicants among 36 states, as well as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Award winners will receive their awards and be honored guests at a community preparedness roundtable event in Washington, D.C.

This event will also offer them the opportunity to share their experiences, ideas, and solutions on community preparedness with other award winners, Citizen Corps program managers, and selected officials.

One winner will also be selected to attend the 2011 International Association of Emergency Managers Conference in Las Vegas, NV, and to participate as a guest on FEMA's panel on community preparedness.



Ready Arkansas
A State of Preparedness

"This national recognition certainly makes us proud and shows that Arkansas is a leader in community preparedness," said Chad Stover, chair of the Arkansas State Citizens Corps Council. "With the launch of the Ready Arkansas program and the Ready Arkansas website in September,



Current and former ADEM employees enjoy a Thanksgiving feast.



Pam Hudson and Judy McDowell visit during the event



It's all smiles for, left to right, Theresa Lear, Chad Stover and Kathy Wright.



IT'S CHRISTMAS: ADEM employees have fun at the annual holiday event. Shown are top left, l to r, Clay Bewley, Kathy Wright, Joyce Anderson, Doug Anderson; middle left, Carol Walton, Joseph Hightower, Jodi Lee, Christie Minner, and Clay Bewley; below left, Tommy Jackson, Teresa Smith Anthony Coy, Ken Ouellette; top right, Mark Hooker, Danita Kelley; second right (Ugly Sweater contestants), Doug Anderson, Karen Cumming and winner Alan Grubbs; third right, Jennifer Turner, Ken Gibson, Karen Cumming, and LeeAnn Smith; bottom right, Donna Tetley, Theresa Lear and Pam Hudson.

A number of ADEM employees recently participated in an American Heart Association Heartsaver AED course. The participants learned basic life support skills for an adult, child and infant that are experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. The training consisted of approximately 4 hours of hands on skills training and video lecture. The participants received training in the use of an Automated Electronic Defibrillator (AED). Early CPR and early defibrillation has proven to increase the chances of survival for victims suffering from sudden cardiac arrest. Pictured is Carl Bishop of ADEM practicing infant CPR skills.

(The picture is of Carl Bishop practicing infant CPR skills)



TIER II Announcement

The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM) is proud to announce that for the 2011 reporting year TIER II submittals and payments will be accepted on-line. Hazardous Materials Program Manager for ADEM, Kenny Harmon, is excited about being able to offer this service to facilities who submit TIER II Reports. Along with the on-line submittals, we are offering a one-stop shop for facilities that file. Now instead of sending reports to the State, LEPC and local fire departments, submittals only have to be made to the State. ADEM will forward the reports to the LEPCs and local fire departments; thus, removing the burden from the facility filing. Along with on-line submittals, the option of paying fees on-line will also be added.

Until now, there has been no increase in fees since the program's inception in 1998 as ADEM has absorbed

inflationary costs over the years. The on-line submittal and one-stop shop will result in an increase in fees. Current TIER II fees of \$25 for the first three chemicals and \$5 for each additional three chemicals will increase to \$50 for the first three chemicals and \$10 for each additional three chemicals. TRI Reporting fees will also increase from \$150 for the first chemical and \$25 for each additional chemical to \$300 for the first chemical and \$50 for each additional chemical. While our state has enjoyed the lower TIER II fees for more than twenty years, we recognize the benefit these increased revenues will provide by sustaining both the Office of Hazardous Materials and the Training Program for Emergency Responders throughout the State. For more information or questions contact Kenny Harmon Hazardous Materials Program Manager (501) 683-6700.

Annual Fall Picnic again a success



Next issue: We will profile our Coordinators of the Year along with the winner of the Joe Halsey Award.

ADEM employees enjoyed their annual fall picnic with a potluck luncheon at the pavilion at Camp Robison.,

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