

THE PROTECTOR

KENTUCKY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

A newsletter dedicated to emergency management in Kentucky.

2ND QUARTER 2012

IN THIS ISSUE

COMEX 2012

Prepare a Family Disaster
Kit and Emergency Plan

KYEM Earthquake Program 2012 Update

- Great US ShakeOut
- EQ Calendar & Coloring Book
- PSA Contest
- Historic KY EQ Map Update
- EQ Awareness & ShakeOut Posters

O'Neal Recognized as Bronze
Level Authorized Trainer

We're From FEMA...
We Want to Help

Magoffin Co. Housing Fair

KY DFI, Federal Agency
Coordination Key to Restoring
Storm-damaged Banks

Summer Heat:
Know the Risk and How to
Prevent Personal Tragedy!



KYEM

Kentucky Emergency Management

Unbridled Pursuit of Excellence

COMEX 2012

By: Charlie O'Neal, Deputy Director of Operations and Buddy Rogers, KYEM PIO

On May 1-2, hundreds upon hundreds of pieces of communication equipment and communication systems were tested across Kentucky as KYEM hosted and conducted a Statewide Communications Full Scale Exercise (COMEX). The exercise was conducted in all 120 counties across the Commonwealth and at various state agency locations, with 2,570 participants having confirmed receiving the start up notification.

Charlie O'Neal, deputy director of KYEM Operations, stated, "The COMEX provided an opportunity to document our progress toward achieving voice communications interoperability and to identify gaps that still need attention. We are very pleased with the result of the exercise and are already beginning the planning process for a similar exercise in 2013."

At the state level, there were eight (8) sessions consisting of two (2) hours of instruction including hands on exercising with communications assets. Each session provided education and instruction to KYEM staff on Division communications assets and required staff members to provide a return demonstration on the operation of basic communications equipment. All KYEM staff members participated in this exercise.

Local emergency managers were encouraged to work with their local emergency response community to conduct two basic processes: 1. Activation of their local EOC; and 2. Conduct a test of their local communication systems. Meanwhile, State agencies conducted tests of their communication assets both within their respective agencies and with other state and local agencies.

Amateur Radio operators conducted nets each evening during the Exercise with the May 1st net focusing on HF communications and the May 2nd net focusing on 2 meter, 70 cm and Echolink communications. In addition, Amateur and MARS personnel conducted tests of the MARS Winlink systems and airborne cross-band repeater systems.

Also as a part of the exercise, the Kentucky Department for Public Health conducted their quarterly satellite radio checks with all hospitals, health departments and other providers on May 23rd. Their quarterly communications check schedule is published well in advance so the decision was made to not disrupt their published schedule, but rather incorporate the test results from their scheduled date into the COMEX.

The COMEX was Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) compliant and meets the requirements for participation by Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) funded positions in a functional or full scale exercise as required.

ONE TEAM - ONE MISSION: PROTECT OUR COMMONWEALTH

KYEM Earthquake Program Spring 2012 Update

By: David Davis, KYEM Earthquake Program Manager

2011 was a big year for the KYEM Earthquake Program and 2012 is shaping up to be even bigger... more initiatives, more activities and loftier goals. Governor Steve Beshear once again signed a proclamation designating February as "Earthquake Awareness Month" in Kentucky. However, it is critical for the citizens of Kentucky to prepare year round for earthquakes, not just during February. This program update is in support of the "New Attitude" of year round earthquake awareness. I encourage you to involve yourself in any of the following activities and I applaud those that already participated. Emergency preparedness is essential to reducing the impact of disasters; together we can successfully prepare our children, our families and our communities for earthquakes.

For more information on the Earthquake Program, please visit www.kyem.ky.gov/programs/Pages/Earthquake.aspx.

2012 Great Central U.S. ShakeOut

Let's have a round of applause for everyone who participated in the 2012 Great Central U.S. ShakeOut on February 7th. This date was chosen because it coincided with the 200th anniversary of the February 7, 1812, earthquake near New Madrid, Missouri. That earthquake was part of a series of magnitude 7+ earthquakes in the winter of 1811-1812 and literally changed the landscape of the central United States. If similar earthquakes were to happen today, their effects could be disastrous.

More than 2.4 million people participated in the ShakeOut across nine states - 429,922 were from Kentucky! Why did so many practice Drop, Cover, Hold On? Because it is the RIGHT thing to do during an earthquake and it could save your life! Special thanks to the 213 Kentucky schools who registered for the ShakeOut which comprised 412,997 students and staff; without the educational systems support, this great endeavor could not succeed. To all Kentuckians: Thank you for your commitment to disaster preparedness and building safe communities; your efforts to become better prepared are being recognized by many officials in this region and across the nation.

Remember, "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" gives you the best overall chance of quickly protecting yourself

during an earthquake. Mark your calendars now, the 2013 ShakeOut will be February 7, 2013, at 10:15 a.m. CST.

2012 Earthquake Calendar & Coloring Book

KYEM is proud to introduce "Shakey" the Squirrel. The newest member of the KYEM Earthquake Program has a brand new 2012 calendar/coloring book available for download and print. Each month Shakey will help children learn important things to do before, during, and after an earthquake; steps that are vital to keep them safe. Shakey would also like to invite all children to become honorary members of the KYEM Earthquake Program. It's really simple and KYEM will even send them a nice membership certificate that can be framed and hung at home!

Currently there are three different sizes available for download and print: 8.5" x 11", 11" x 17", & 4.25" x 5.5" booklet. A coloring book only version will also be available soon. The calendar is FREE; print as many copies as you like and please share the web address with friends and family. Download a calendar and get all the details on how to register your child for the honorary certificate at: <http://kyem.ky.gov/programs/Pages/Calendar.aspx>.

2012 Earthquake Program PSA Contest

The inaugural KYEM Earthquake Program Public Service Announcement (PSA) video contest was an enormous success. Students were challenged to produce one PSA, 30 seconds in length, which explained how to prepare for an earthquake or how to protect oneself during an earthquake. KYEM received many creative, artistic and sometimes ingenious videos from across Kentucky designed to inspire earthquake awareness and preparedness.

Congratulations to the 2012 winner: Samuel Stucky of Bryan Station High School in Fayette County. He won \$1,000.00! His video, plus several of the honorable mention videos, are available to view at <http://kyem.ky.gov/programs/Pages/2012videoContest.aspx>. Sam set the bar pretty high - can someone in your community eclipse it? Look for 2013 contest details late this summer.

Historic KY Earthquakes Map Update

One of the most common questions I address is 'Do we have earthquakes in Kentucky?' While most Kentuckians know about the earthquake threat we face from the New Madrid Seismic Zone (NMSZ) in

Missouri, many do not know the vast earthquake history found within our Commonwealth. KYEM's purpose for creating the map was to highlight the earthquake history and potential that many Kentuckians do not realize: an earthquake can happen in Kentucky, ANY time, ANY where! This map does not contain an all-inclusive list, but merely a sample of the many counties and regions within Kentucky that have experienced one or more documented earthquakes. A new version will be available soon, and surprising to some, it will identify forty-six of Kentucky's 120 counties that have experienced a documented earthquake. There are two sizes available: 8.5" x 11" and 34" x 22" Download for FREE at: www.kyem.ky.gov/map. Keep in mind that earthquakes outside of Kentucky borders can affect us as well: NMSZ, Wabash Valley Zone (Illinois), and the August 2011, Louisa, Virginia earthquake.

to promote Earthquake Awareness 2013. The contest is a small, but very popular part of the FREE five-lesson instructional unit available at <http://kyem.ky.gov/programs/Pages/Teachers.aspx> that provides students and teachers with the necessary tools to complete a learning unit during Kentucky Earthquake Awareness Month. Students across Kentucky create a classroom poster promoting earthquake awareness.

So as summer heats up, help the KYEM Earthquake Program support the "New Attitude" year-round earthquake awareness. If you have any questions about Earthquake programs, please contact the program manager at 502.607.5712 or KYEMEQ@gmail.com.

Earthquake Awareness & ShakeOut Poster Contest

By the time of this printing the winner of the 3rd annual poster contest will have been selected and soon after posted on the KYEM website. Three statewide winners, one (1) each for the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade winners, will receive an eReader from KYEM. Winning posters will be displayed on KYEM's website and used



Raylynn Overfield
4th Grade Jefferson Elementary



Rebekah Waddle 3rd Grade
Cub Run Elementary



Madison McCombs
5th Grade - Edmonson County
5th/6th Center

O'Neal Recognized as Bronze Level Authorized Trainer

Reprinted from FEMA Press Release dated April 23, 2012

Charles M. O'Neal, Assistant Director of Kentucky Emergency Management has been recognized as a Bronze Level Indirect Authorized Trainer for training members of the emergency response community last year. These training efforts are part of the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) indirect training program.

In order to become an Indirect Authorized Trainer for the CDP, a responder must successfully complete an intense Train-the-Trainer (TtT) course. Upon successful completion of that course, responders return to their home jurisdictions to train state, local, and tribal responders. Every community significantly benefits from the time, talent, and expertise of local trainers. While training materials are provided by the CDP, it is the initiative of each trainer that makes the classes a success.

O'Neal has a long career in emergency response training beginning as an American Red Cross CPR and First Aid Instructor in 1973 and Fire Service Training Instructor in Kentucky Region 2 in 1979. He is currently credentialed as a Level III EMS Instructor, certified to teach Paramedic, EMT and First Responder courses in the Commonwealth as well as a variety of Incident Specific position courses and various Emergency Management programs. O'Neal stated, "Serving as a CDP Instructor has been a great privilege. CDP has been of great assistance in providing high quality, professional instruction to the emergency response community in the Commonwealth". O'Neal further stated that he, "enjoys the opportunity to travel across the Commonwealth and train emergency responders from various disciplines. Meeting new faces and networking with other emergency response professionals offers me a tremendous opportunity to learn from them as they learn from me."

The CDP develops and delivers advanced training for emergency response providers, emergency managers, and other government officials from state, local, and tribal governments. The CDP offers more than 50 training courses focusing on incident management, mass casualty response, and emergency response to a catastrophic natural disaster or terrorist act. Training at the CDP campus is federally funded at no cost to state, local, and tribal emergency response professionals or their agency.

Resident training at the CDP includes healthcare and public health courses at the Noble Training Facility, the nation's only hospital dedicated to training healthcare professionals in disaster preparedness and response. A number of resident training courses culminate at the CDP's Chemical, Ordnance, Biological and Radiological Training Facility (COBRA). The COBRA is the nation's only facility featuring civilian training exercises in a true toxic environment using chemical agents. The advanced hands-on training enables responders to effectively prevent, respond to, and recover from real-world incidents involving acts of terrorism and other hazardous materials.

Responders participating in CDP training gain critical skills and confidence to respond effectively to local incidents or potential WMD events. Information about CDP training programs can be found at <http://cdp.dhs.gov>. Visit the "News & Media" tab at the top of the site to download images, share CDP training articles, and find out what others are saying about CDP training. For more information about the CDP, contact the CDP External Affairs Office, at (256) 847-2212/2316 or e-mail pao@cdpemail.dhs.gov.



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We're From FEMA... We Want to Help

Submitted by FEMA JFO - Disaster 4057

FEMA's Disaster Assistance Employees work all over the country helping communities recover from disasters. When a Presidential disaster is declared, these reservists pack their bags from homes throughout the U.S. and head to a disaster location.

FEMA specialists work in a wide variety of capacities, supporting citizens whose homes and businesses were damaged or destroyed by disaster get the help they need to get their lives, homes and towns back on track.

If you talk to FEMA reservists (or DAEs as they are known in the agency) about why they do what they do, the first thing they'll tell you is this, the disaster, is not about them. If pressed, it's likely all their stories would pretty much be the same--they all want to help folks who are hurting get through tough times and contribute to getting people back on their feet.

Working, in some cases thousands of miles from home and family, many DAEs are disaster survivors themselves. Some lost their homes in Hurricane Katrina or earlier hurricanes. Some are tornado or flood survivors. Others may have spent years in other occupations as observers but never actually worked consistently to help others in times of disasters. As FEMA DAEs, however, their common denominator is they all hope some contribution they make to the recovery process touches the hands that are outstretched for assistance.

For FEMA people who live in the Commonwealth, the motivation is more focused on neighbors and friends.

Bob Osborne, who lives in Danville, says, "As someone who has been involved in emergency management for much of my career, I am sensitive to the needs of disaster survivors and the sense of devastation and loss that accompany natural disasters. However, to see the damage brought by the tornadoes of late February to communities in my home state is especially saddening and heartbreaking."

Donita Wells grew up near Frenchburg and lives in Menifee County. For her, the tornado disaster has been especially hard.

"It's definitely been an emotional time -- one of my cousins was killed and several family members lost their homes," she says. "As reports came in describing

the devastation of my county and community, I had to hold back the tears and keep on working."

When DAEs go home to Danville or Menifee County or other hometowns like Atlanta, Chattanooga, or Huntsville, they all hope they have helped and touched one of those hands reaching out to them. And, they trust that everyone in Kentucky knows if the Commonwealth needs them again, they'll be back and glad to help.

Magoffin Co. Housing Fair Offers Hope

Submitted by Nancy Price, KYEM Governmental Liaison

On Wednesday, February 29, 2012, Kentucky was pounded by as many as 20 confirmed tornadoes, causing thousands of dollars in damage and leaving many families displaced. As bad as it was, that day's events would pale when compared to what awaited two days later, Friday, March 2.

In fact, the National Weather Service and Kentucky Emergency Management began warning Kentuckians of the potential for even stronger storms and threats of tornadoes on Friday while Wednesday's weather event was unfolding. Those warnings proved accurate. Deadly accurate!

As predicted, beginning early Friday morning severe thunderstorms and powerful tornadoes swept across the Commonwealth, killing 25 Kentuckians, injuring dozens, destroying hundreds of homes and businesses while leaving hundreds homeless.

Eastern Kentucky was not spared. Hardest hit were Morgan, Magoffin, Johnson and Menifee Counties. Officials immediately began cleaning and removing debris from the roadways to allow rescue workers access and scrambled to open shelters and establish long-term housing solutions for those whose homes



were destroyed or heavily damaged. Over three months later, the effort is still going.

A housing/business fair was held at the Magoffin County Health Department on May 2, 2012. This fair provided resources concerning home and business repair, rebuilding or establishment. The event was well attended. One resident who talked with Christian Appalachian Project (CAP) stated that without the fair they would not have known who to turn to for assistance.

State Treasurer Todd Hollenbach was also at the fair promoting the program "Treasure Finders" and highlighted \$160,000 in unclaimed cash due to various Magoffin County businesses. Treasurer Hollenbach stated on his website, www.treasury.ky.gov, "This is Treasury's way of helping out the folks here in Magoffin and the rest of the storm ravaged counties. Our goal is to return every dollar possible and quickly so that this money will find its way into the local economies and help the communities rebuild. "

County Judge Executive Charles 'Doc' Hardin, MD stated, "Magoffin County residents are resilient and are striving to return to a pre-disaster quality of life." He continued, "Many have never faced this type of devastation and had no idea who to contact for help. The fair was a one stop shop for residents and business owners." Hardin concluded, "Our goal was to ensure that all possible avenues of assistance were provided to the residents of Magoffin County to help them achieve their goal of recovery."

Nancy Price, KYEM Governmental Liaison stated, "Governor Beshear and Kentucky Emergency Management Director John Heltzel remain committed to assisting the affected counties with all possible state and federal assistance. This fair is one example of how state and federal agencies are working with public sector partners to achieve long-term recovery."

Kentucky DFI, Federal Agency Coordination Key to Restoring Storm- Damaged Banks

*Submitted by Kelly May, KY Dept of Financial Institutions
(reprinted with permission from KDFI)*

On March 2, a Friday afternoon, a deadly EF-3 tornado ravaged West Liberty, Ky., destroying several homes and businesses in its path, including three state-chartered bank branches.

"It basically destroyed the entire town," said Charles Vice, Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Financial Institutions (DFI). "Assessments indicate only about 10 to 15 percent of the buildings are salvageable. And I think that estimate is high."

Despite the destruction, all three banks were able to assist their customers with deposits and withdrawals as quickly as Monday, March 5, with the help of DFI, the Kentucky Bankers Association, the Federal Reserve and surrounding area banks.

Commercial Bank's sole location in downtown West Liberty was destroyed. The top floor, stairwell and drive through were blown away, in addition to other damage throughout the building. Yet Commercial Bank had a temporary facility open Monday at the Morehead State University Technology Center and library building. Later they added a second location in a mobile facility.

Bank of the Mountains also is headquartered in West Liberty, and a branch office was completely destroyed. Other branches remain open as usual. The Citizens Bank, headquartered in Morehead, Ky., operated a branch in West Liberty that also was destroyed. They quickly established a temporary branch in the IGA in Index.

"When I learned the magnitude of damage the banks had experienced, I contacted the St. Louis Federal Reserve and had them send out a message through their Emergency Contact System to let other banks in all of Kentucky know that West Liberty had been hit hard and we need help," Vice said. "Within two hours of the message going out I got calls from 30 banks in the area asking how they could help."

DFI coordinated with several banks in the region to help the damaged banks get back to serving the community. "We had about three banks lined up with \$2 million in cash reserves ready to go in the event of high withdrawals. And several others were on stand-by to deliver equipment. The overwhelming support was amazing," Vice said.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and the Kentucky Bankers Association (KBA) also played a significant role in helping banks quickly reopen for business. The FDIC amended the branch application process to allow banks to set up temporary locations after the storm and the KBA made a commitment to purchase \$250,000 in certificates of deposit in each bank to provide additional liquidity.

“Getting the banks opened quickly gave a lot of comfort to the surrounding community and provided some stability to an area that was completely unstable,” Vice said.

As the town of West Liberty continues to recover, the local banks will help them along the way. Each bank has committed to rebuilding in the community and to working with local residents as they recover from financial hardships due to the storm.

The FDIC has announced a series of steps intended to provide regulatory relief to financial institutions and facilitate recovery in areas of Kentucky affected by severe storms. The Financial Institution Letter is available at <http://www.fdic.gov/news/news/financial/2012/fil12012.html>.

Summer Heat - Know the Risk and How to Prevent Personal Tragedy!

Submitted by Buddy Rogers, KYEM PIO

With summer just under way, things are heating up in the Bluegrass! Kentucky has been experiencing record heat for this time of year, with weather forecasts indicating little relief in the near future. Already there have been deaths, and near deaths, blamed on this latest heat wave. Tragically, some may have been avoided if proper heat safety measures were followed.

In an earlier news release, KYEM Director John Heltzel said, “With temperatures expected to reach dangerous levels, people should be aware of the risks and symptoms of heat stroke and heat exhaustion.” Heltzel continued, “Kentuckians should use caution during outdoor activity (avoiding prolonged outdoor exposure), stay hydrated (drink plenty of water), check on the elderly and very young and don’t forget your outdoor pets and animals (provide plenty of shade and fresh water)!”

Sadly some choose to ignore these simple words of safety advice and may pay a devastating price.

Following are heat safety tips offered by the National Weather Service:

Child Safety Tips

- Make sure your child’s safety seat and safety belt buckles aren’t too hot before securing your child in a safety restraint system, especially when your car has been parked in the heat.

- Never leave your child unattended in a vehicle, even with the windows down.
- Immediately dial 911 if you see an unattended child in a car. EMS professionals are trained to determine if a child is in trouble. The body temperature of children rises three to five times faster than adults. As a result, children are much more vulnerable to heat stroke.
- Teach children not to play in, on, or around cars.
- Always lock car doors and trunks--even at home--and keep keys out of children’s reach.
- Always make sure all children have left the car when you reach your destination. Don’t leave sleeping infants in the car...ever!

Adult Heat Wave Safety Tips

- Slow down. Reduce, eliminate or reschedule strenuous activities until the coolest time of the day. Children, seniors and anyone with health problems should stay in the coolest available place, not necessarily indoors.
- Dress for summer. Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing to reflect heat and sunlight.
- Put less fuel on your inner fires. Foods, like meat and other proteins that increase metabolic heat production also increase water loss.
- Drink plenty of water, non-alcoholic and decaffeinated fluids. Your body needs water to keep cool. Drink plenty of fluids even if you don’t feel thirsty. Persons who have epilepsy or heart, kidney or liver disease, are on fluid restrictive diets or have a problem with fluid retention should consult a physician before increasing their consumption of fluids. Do not drink alcoholic beverages and limit caffeinated beverages.
- During excessive heat periods, spend more time in air-conditioned places. Air conditioning in homes and other buildings markedly reduces danger from the heat. If you cannot afford an air conditioner, go to a library, store or other location with air conditioning for part of the day.
- Don’t get too much sun. Sunburn reduces your body’s ability to dissipate heat.
- Do not take salt tablets unless specified by a physician.

These heat safety tips, additional resources and related links, can be found at: kyem.ky.gov, nws.noaa.gov/om/heat/index.shtml and chfs.ky.gov/dph/.