

Shelby County Office of Preparedness eNews

**March / April
2017
Issue**



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Director Lane's Message: Caution for Faith-Based Venues

Holy Week began with an unspeakable tragedy as chaos followed bomb blasts killing 44 and injuring 100 innocent worshippers in two Egyptian cities on Palm Sunday. The Islamic State claimed responsibility. "As we pray for these victims in Egypt, we urge our Shelby County faith-based organizations to be on high alert during Holy Week," said Dale Lane, Director Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP). "Communicate with your congregation to be aware of their surroundings at all times and to have a plan of escape if faced with an attack."



Safety tips for Faith-Based Partners:

- Develop an emergency operations plan for your faith-based venue.
- Reach out! Collaborate with law enforcement and emergency management.
- Plan for terrorism and all hazards (weather, outages, fires, earthquakes).
- Know how to shelter-in-place or evacuate at a moment's notice.
- Stay vigilant! Be aware of your surroundings.
- Have emergency notification plans in place.
- Have 2 escape routes out of each room.
- Practice the **Run, Hide, Fight Active Shooter maneuver:**
 - **RUN / ESCAPE:** Run! Leave belongings behind.
 - **HIDE:** If you cannot run, hide! Close, barricade the door. Silence phones.
 - **FIGHT:** Fight as a last resort. Incapacitate the shooter. Be aggressive!
 - Call 911 when safe to do so.
 - When law enforcement arrives: Be calm, follow instructions, raise hands with fingers spread apart. Provide information (location and description of the shooter, type of weapons, and location of victims).

SCOP offers free "Active Shooter Awareness" presentations. To schedule a class, call 901.222.6706, email Shelby Logan at Shelby.Logan@shelbycountyttn.gov or request a speaker at www.staysafeshelby.us.

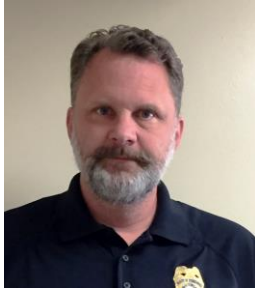
Remember... **If you see say something!** Report suspicious behavior immediately! Call local law enforcement or submit a tip on-line to the FBI at <https://tips.fbi.gov/>

Resources:

FEMA: Resources to Protect your House of Worship: www.fema.gov/faith-resources
Department of Homeland Security: www.dhs.gov

Caption: SCOP Director Dale Lane

Partner Spotlight: Tennessee Office of Homeland Security



The Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP) shares 1075 Mullins Station, on the Shelby County Government East campus, with several other partner agencies working hand-in-hand to keep our region safe. One such partner is Kevin Bebout, Tennessee Office of Homeland Security (TOHS) Special Agent. In charge of operations for District 11, the West Tennessee Office of Homeland Security, Agent Bebout's responsibilities include facilitating Tennessee's resources to local public safety partners. The TOHS directs actions to prevent terrorism in the state of Tennessee. The office serves as a link to federal, state and local agencies, as well as the private sector regarding the security of citizens. The TOSH promotes four missions: **awareness** (to identify terrorist's threats in Tennessee), **prevention** (to detect and deter terrorism), **protection** (to safeguard citizens from terrorism), and **respond** (to assist in coordinating the response to terrorism). Agency Bebout and the TOSH pride itself on "organization excellent" by putting the safety of citizens first.

Bebout, a strong advocate for public safety, advises Tennesseans to report any suspicious behavior to authorities.... "If you see something, say something." Suspicious activity can be reported on the TOSH website at http://www.tn.gov/safety/topic/report_susp_act.

Caption: TOHS Special Agent Kevin Bebout

Shelby Cares: Live at 9

Dale Lane, Director Shelby County Office of Preparedness, was a special guest on WREG's "Live at 9" morning program on April 4, 2017. Director Lane spoke on behalf of the 501(c)(3) mission, Shelby Cares, the county's faith-based sheltering initiative. During the interview with hosts Marybeth Conley and Alex Coleman, Director Lane explained the need for having emergency shelters quickly available to house disaster victims. Lane gave examples of local major flooding in 2010 and 2011 when Shelby Cares, along with the American Red Cross, welcomed hundreds of flood victims into community centers, schools, and churches converted into Shelby Cares shelters. When speaking of the generosity of faith-based organizations and individuals who stepped up to house citizens, Director Lane said, "In times of crisis, people just want to help!"



Shelby Cares is now actively recruiting for faith-based organizations to join the team. If you have a large public building that might be suitable as a shelter or want to donate or volunteer to help future sheltering efforts, please contact Terry Donald, Shelby Cares Coordinator, at 901.222.6700 or email terry.donald@shelbycountytg.gov.

Caption: Live at 9: Left: SCOP Director Dale Lane, Center: Marybeth Conley, Right: Alex Coleman

Outreach: International Paper



Safety and business continuity are engrained in the culture of International Paper (IP). They created and practice emergency plans for earthquake and tornado, have designated alternative sites in case their campus is damaged, and test an Emergency Notification System regularly.



In addition to workplace safety, IP is working to ensure their employees are prepared at home. **“Disasters Happen. Are you Ready?”** was the theme of the IP Global Financial Services safety event on March 22. IP’s Tower IV Finance Safety Team, headed by Kristi Britt and organizer, Sally Balzar, gathered 180 employees to learn about personal preparedness. The Safety Team performed a humorous skit of a tornado event – with some employees prepared and some not. Following the skit, the Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP) presented safety information on flooding,



severe temperatures, thunderstorms, and earthquakes. The IP employees were game to dive under tables during an impromptu earthquake drill. SCOP also showed IP employees how to create a disaster kit and the personal preparedness equipment needed to have on hand. All who attended received an orange IP Preparedness Readiness Emergency Pack that included bottled water, a first-aid



kit, an emergency blanket, fruit snack, and emergency contact cards and a SCOP bag with a HELP / OK sign, preparedness literature, and a disaster kit shopping list.

Captions: Top Left: IP safety event. **Top Right:** IP’s PREP survival bag, **Bottom Left:** IP’s Robert Clark, financial analyst, models PPE’s. **Bottom Right:** IP employees DROP, COVER and HOLD ON during an earthquake drill lead by SCOP.

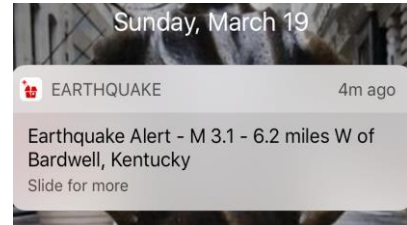
FEMA Coloring Book



FEMA invites you and your children to explore the world of preparedness with the “Disaster Preparedness Coloring Book.” Children learn about fire, earthquakes, floods, tornados and other disasters and how to stay safe while coloring! Sit down with your children and talk with them about each safety message and how to take actions to survive. To print off your FEMA coloring book, visit <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/2983>.

Monitor Earthquakes

Earthquakes can occur anytime, any location. Do you know when and where the latest earthquakes occurred? To monitor the latest earthquake activity in the Mid-South and around the world or to receive earthquake notifications, please visit the United States Geological Survey (USGS) earthquake notification service at <https://earthquake.usgs.gov/ens/> or download the free American Red Cross mobile Earthquake App from www.redcross.org.



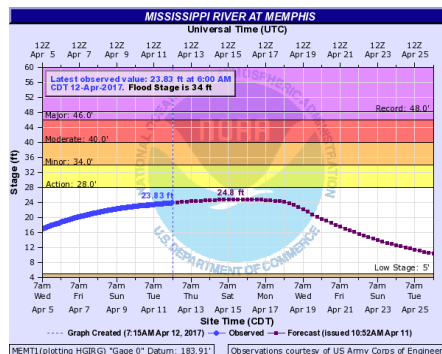
Shelter Training



Reserves and staff from the Shelby County Office of Preparedness and the Memphis Office of Emergency Management attended **Disaster Shelter Fundamentals** training on April 1st at the American Red Cross Mid-South Chapter. Students learned the basics of housing and feeding disaster victims in both an evacuation and general population shelter. Ken Brown, Instructor, reviewed the steps to identify a dwelling as a potential shelter, the inspection process, and setting up the shelter. Students learned about the food, hygiene and medication requirements as well as the need for security. Instructor Brown reviewed the specific responsibilities for a shelter volunteer. Following the lecture, the students learned how to unpack and assemble two different types of cots that may be used in a shelter.

Caption: Left to right: Danny Allen, Jasina Winton, Michael Ward, Shannon Washington, and Ken Brown, Instructor, during ARC Shelter training. Not pictured: Roxie Nunnally, Sandra Mathias, and Shelby Logan.

Mississippi River at Memphis



The Mississippi River at Memphis measures 23.83 feet on April 12, 2017 according to the National Weather Service (NWS) Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service. For the latest river level information, please visit www.weather.gov

Captions: Left: Mississippi River at Memphis April 10, 2017. **Right:** NWS river stage graph for April 12.

SKYWARN



Citizens are encouraged to learn about inclement weather by becoming a volunteer SKYWARN weather spotter. Classes are free and the training is conducted by the National Weather Service (NWS) or local meteorologists, and it is available on line.

Shelby County Office of Preparedness Reserves attended the March 23 SKYWARN training presented by Gary Woodall, NWS Warning Meteorologist, and Shelby County ARRES. The class, “Working Together to Save Lives,” offered spotters helpful information about how to best report severe thunderstorms, hail, tornadoes, and flash flooding. Information provided by spotters can be helpful to the National Weather service because radar cannot show what is on the ground. Stressing the importance of spotter safety, it is suggested that spotters report from a fixed location and stay east or southeast of the storm area and a few miles away to observe and report.

To find a SKYWARN class near you, visit www.weather.gov. Or visit Comet MetEd for online training at https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_course.php?id=23.

Caption: Top Left: SKYWARN volunteer students learn about look alike cloud patterns from Gary Woodall, Instructor.

“Build a Kit” with Ready Kids!

Gayle and her friends from FEMA’s Ready Kids invite you to learn how to create a “go kit” by playing the Build a Kit game at <https://www.ready.gov/kids/games/data/bak-english/index.html>.



The game includes 5 levels of asking you to choose which items to put into your go kit. **Level 1:** choose clothing items. **Level 2:** choose food and beverage items. **Level 3:** choose items from the family room. **Level 4:** choose toiletry items. **Level 5:** shop for other items. Once you have passed Level 5 and chosen all the items you need to build a great go kit, you can print your disaster kit check list. Play the Build a Kit game with your family today!

Swim Safe!

Learn to keep everyone safe in and around the water this summer with the new American Red Cross app, “Swim.” The app contains information about drowning prevention and emergency response, as well as educational games and videos. It also has a swim lesson progress tracker. Visit www.redcross.org or text swim to 90999.



Significant Weather / Power Outages

National Weather Service 7-Day Hazardous Weather Outlook: No hazardous weather is expected at this time. The probability for widespread hazardous weather is low.



Captions: Left: Downed trees on Highland March 10, Center: Collierville downed power lines March 29, Right: Dusting of snow downtown March 12.

- **March 1, 9:** Severe Thunderstorm Warning.
- **March 1:** Tornado Watch
- **March 7, 9:** Severe Thunderstorm Watch. Downed trees Central and Highland.
- **March 8:** Outage for 1,024 Midtowners. Multiple signal lights out in Binghamton. Power surge sparking 3 house fires in East Memphis.
- **March 9:** Severe Thunderstorm Watch / Warning. Downed trees Central and South Highland. Transformer on fire on Craigmont.
- **March 11:** Frost Advisory
- **March 11, 12, 14, 15, 16:** Freeze Warning.
- **March 13, 14:** Freeze Watch.
- **March 16:** Increased Wildfire Danger.
- **March 27:** Severe Thunderstorm Watch / Warning
- **March 28:** Dense fog advisory.
- **March 29:** Power outages for 5,000 customers. Collierville outages for 1,600 customers. Collierville Middle and Sycamore Elementary schools were included.
- **March 30:** Signal lights out on Poplar. Downed trees in High Point Terrace.

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness reminds citizens to stay weather-ready! Have at least two ways to receive watches and warnings from the National Weather Service. Upload free weather apps to mobile devices. Have a NOAA all-hazards radio with battery back-up. Make sure everyone knows where your “safe place” for severe weather is located.

Amateur “Ham” Radio:

- **Technician (beginner) Class:** There will be FREE Technician class beginning after July 4th for 6 weeks (Mondays or Thursdays) 6:15 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. If interested, please send an email to Joe Lowenthal, Instructor, at wa4ovo@gmail.com with subject line “Tech Class” and name, email address and cell phone in text area.
- **Check-In:** SCOPERNET on Mondays, 6:00 p.m., 147.09 repeater, tone 107.2.

Emergency Operations Center Activation (EOC) Status: April 12, 2017

- The **Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP)** is at **Level 5**, Normal Operations.
- The **Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA)** is at **Level 5**, Normal Operations.

Flag Status: Full staff.

Shelby County Office of Preparedness:

- **Visit us!** www.staysafeshelby.us.
- **Follow us!** SCOP@SCOP_HLS_EMA
- **Like us!** <https://www.facebook.com/StaySafeShelby/>
- **CERT:** Contact Eugene Jones at Eugene.jones@shelbycountytn.gov
- **Storm Shelter Registry:** Contact Kimberlyn Bouler at kimberlyn.bouler@shelbycountytn.gov
- **Join us!** Information about becoming a volunteer:
 - **Reserves:** Contact Shelby Logan at shelby.logan@shelbycountytn.gov
 - **Shelby Cares:** Contact Terry Donald at terry.donald@shelbycountytn.tn.gov

Preparedness Resources:

- **American Red Cross (ARC):** www.redcross.org
- **Department Homeland Security (DHS):** www.dhs.gov
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):** www.fema.gov, www.ready.gov
- **MLGW:** www.mlgw.com
 - Outage Map: www.azimuth.mlgw.org/OutageSummary.php
- **National Weather Service (NWS):** www.weather.gov
 - NWS Mobile: www.mobile.weather.gov
- **Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT):** www.tn.gov/tdot
- **Tennessee Emergency Management Agency / ReadyTN Mobile App:** www.tnema.org

Emergency: call 911