



October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025

2025 Annual Report

Tuscaloosa County Emergency Management Agency



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MISSION AND VISION

MISSION

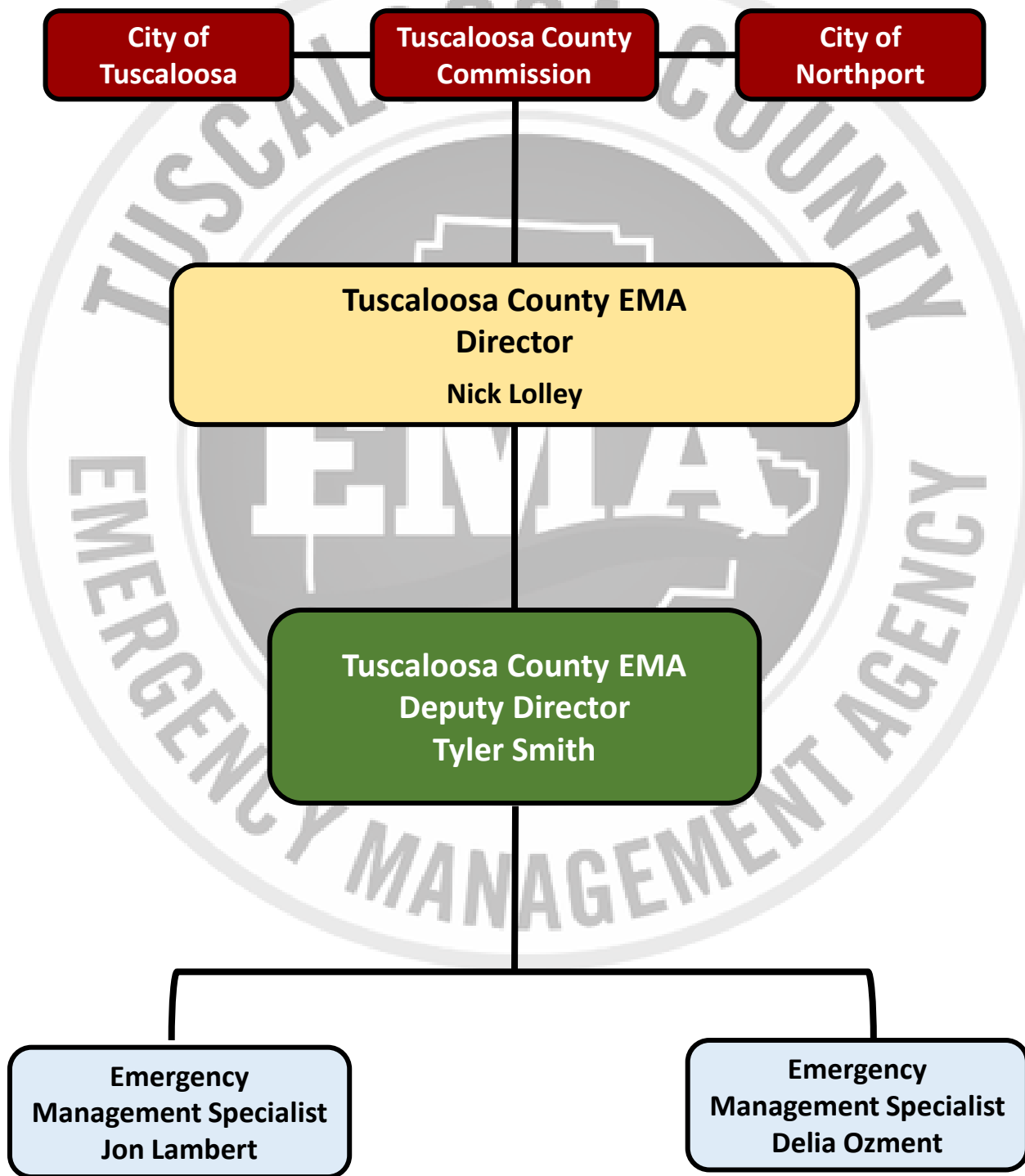
The mission of Tuscaloosa County Emergency Management Agency is to reduce the effects of all hazards through mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. We are committed to providing leadership, planning, education, and resources to all jurisdictions and stakeholders within Tuscaloosa County.



VISION

The vision of the Tuscaloosa County Emergency Management Agency is to empower and educate the community by fostering a culture of preparedness. Through ongoing education, proactive outreach, and comprehensive training, we aim to equip citizens and first responders in Tuscaloosa County with the knowledge and resources needed to respond effectively to emergencies, ensuring a safer, more resilient community for all.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

As the Director of Emergency Management for Tuscaloosa County, I want to take a moment to reflect on the important work being done in our community to keep us all safe in the face of potential disasters. The safety and well-being of our citizens remain our highest priority, and I want to update you on the efforts and goals we are currently focused on to ensure we are as prepared and resilient as possible.

As part of our mission to prioritize safety and readiness, we continue to collaborate closely with local, state, and federal agencies, volunteer organizations, and businesses to enhance emergency preparedness. In 2024, our efforts focused on providing robust support and training to first responders, enabling them to manage disasters efficiently and effectively. Additionally, our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) team stands ready to respond promptly to any community needs that may arise.

This year, we are expanding our team's training initiatives to further strengthen our preparedness for a wide range of scenarios. These

enhancements are designed to ensure that our community is better equipped to face emergencies with resilience and confidence. One notable improvement was the enhancement of situational awareness and training for the EOC through the addition of a large video wall.

A cornerstone of our efforts in 2024 is TuscALERT, a critical communication tool that delivers rapid notifications during crises. TuscALERT informs residents, staff, and emergency personnel about severe weather, fires, floods, and other emergencies through their preferred communication methods, including cell phones, text messages, home phones, email, and more. We strongly encourage all community members to sign up for TuscALERT to receive these real-time, potentially life-saving updates.

Additionally, in 2024, the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) and the Healthcare Coalition partnered with us to help purchase critical communication equipment for a Regional Communication Trailer. This will enhance the interoperability of emergency operations during times of crises, both locally and statewide.

Looking to the future, our overarching goal remains clear: to build a resilient, disaster-ready community in Tuscaloosa County. Together with our local stakeholders, we are committed to maintaining a robust and effective emergency management system that ensures the safety and well-being of our residents.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in making our community safer. Together, we can build a resilient and prepared community, ready to face whatever challenges come our way.

Sincerely,

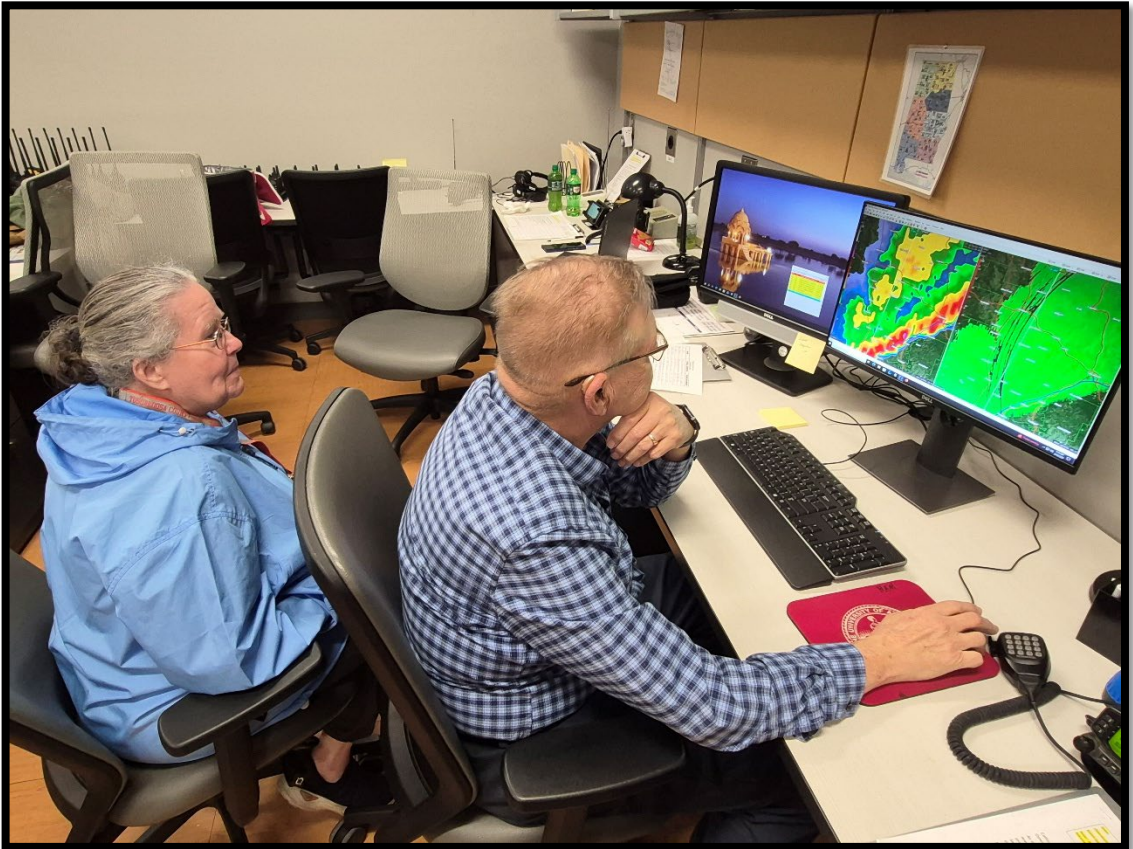


Nick Lolley
Tuscaloosa County EMA Director



**Sign up for
TuscALERT**



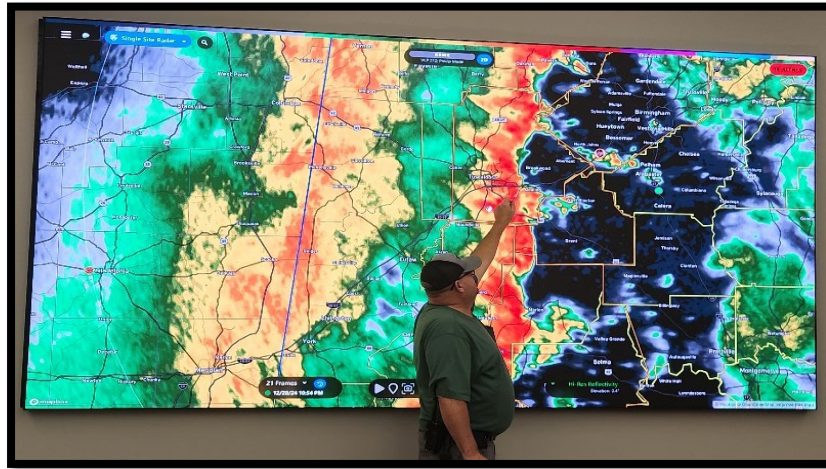


The Tuscaloosa County Emergency Management Agency (TCEMA) is committed to safeguarding the residents of Tuscaloosa County by maintaining a comprehensive state of readiness. This commitment focuses on mitigating the loss of life and property before, during, and after disasters, while facilitating an efficient and effective recovery process in the short, medium, and long term.

To address the broad spectrum of potential hazards, TCEMA maintains operational preparedness at all times. For anticipated events, such as severe weather, the agency employs proactive measures and pre-established response plans. For unanticipated incidents, including large-scale emergencies or acts of terrorism, TCEMA remains fully capable of delivering a rapid, coordinated, and effective response under any circumstances.

TCEMA's core responsibilities encompass hazard mitigation, life and property preservation, situational control, damage assessment, temporary support implementation, and the coordination of recovery and restoration efforts. These operations are carried out in collaboration with municipalities, non-governmental organizations, and private-sector partners, including both for-profit and non-profit entities, ensuring a unified and effective response.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER



The Tuscaloosa County Emergency Operations Center (TCEOC) serves as a centralized command and control facility, supporting emergency response by applying emergency preparedness and management principles in a strategic capacity during incidents.



SITREP



EOC Position Spotlight Situation Reporting and Social Media

The Communications Room supports many EOC functions, including Situation Reporting (SitReps) and Social Media. The SitRep function collects, analyzes, and shares critical information from sources such as power outages, damage reports, storm shelter status, citizen updates, and media coverage to maintain situational awareness and support decision-making. This information is then shared with elected officials, first responders, schools, and the public, ensuring everyone has an accurate understanding of the incident. By turning scattered updates into a clear, shared picture, EOC Situation Reporting enables a faster, smarter, and more coordinated response to better serve the citizens of Tuscaloosa County.

6
TORNADO
WATCHES

2
FLASH FLOOD
WARNINGS

3
TORNADO
WARNINGS

3
FLOOD
WARNINGS

8
SEVERE
THUNDERSTORM
WATCHES

14
FLOOD
ADVISORIES

22
SEVERE
THUNDERSTORM
WARNINGS

1
WINTER
WEATHER
ADVISORIES

FY 2025 ACTIVATIONS

December 28, 2024: Tornado Watch

January 6, 2025: Winter Storm Warning

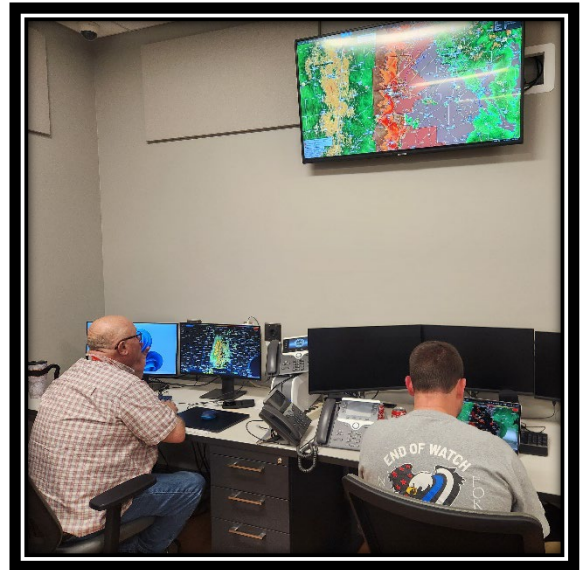
February 15-16, 2025: Tornado Warning

March 15, 2025: Tornado Warning

March 31, 2025: Tornado Warning

April 6, 2025: Tornado Watch

May 20, 2025: Tornado Watch



During Fiscal Year 2025 (October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025), the Tuscaloosa County Emergency Operations Center (TCEOC) was activated seven times, totaling seven activation days. An activation day is defined as any period, partial or full, during which the TCEOC is staffed and operational.

Whether an activation is full or partial, volunteers play a critical role in EOC operations. They assist staff by monitoring Amateur (ham) radio communications, weather radar, damage reports, and by answering phones during periods of high call volume. Volunteers also support post-event response efforts by conducting damage assessments, assisting with shelter operations, and performing other essential logistical functions.

Another key component of the TCEOC is the involvement of local first responders. During activations, multiple agencies, including fire services, law enforcement, emergency medical services, public health, and volunteer organizations, send representatives to the EOC. These personnel support coordination efforts, share real-time information, and assist with resource management to ensure an effective and unified response.

EOC DETAILED ACTIVATIONS

December 28, 2024, Tornado Watch:

- The National Weather Service in Birmingham (NWS BMX) issued Tornado Watch for Tuscaloosa County.
- The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated at Level II at 20:15 hours.
- Three EMA staff members and 8 Volunteers were on duty.
- A total of 18 storm shelters were opened in Tuscaloosa County.
- The county experienced heavy rain, thunderstorms, and strong winds throughout the event.
- No tornado warnings were issued during this event.

February 15-16, 2025, Tornado Watch and Warning

- The National Weather Service in Birmingham (NWS BMX) issued a Tornado Watch for Tuscaloosa County.
- The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated at Level II at 0920 hours.
- Four EMA staff members were on duty including seven volunteers.
- The county experienced heavy rain, thunderstorms and strong winds throughout the event.
- A total of 22 storm shelters were opened in Tuscaloosa County.
- A Tornado Warning was issued for the southern part of Tuscaloosa County on at 12:20 AM.
- Alabama Power reported 18,837 power outages at this time.
- There were 10 reports of trees down.



January 6-13, 2025 - Winter Storm Warning

- The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated at Level II at 9:30 AM on 1/9/2025.
- Four EMA staff members were on duty.
- At 4:22 AM, the National Weather Service (NWS) in Birmingham issued a Winter Storm Warning for several counties, including Tuscaloosa County.
- Governor Ivey proclaimed a State of Emergency for 37 counties, including Tuscaloosa County, in anticipation of the winter weather.
- The Compassion Coalition has opened warming stations for residents of Tuscaloosa County.
- Alabama Power reported 299 power outages at this time.

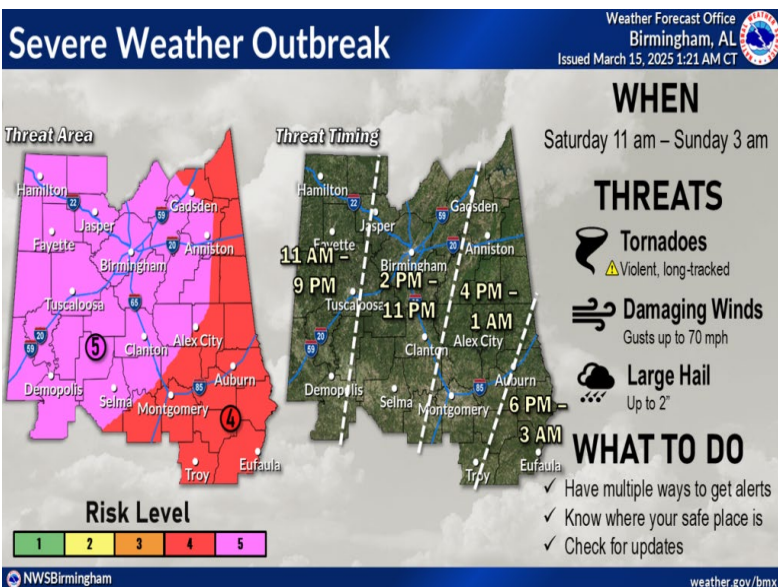
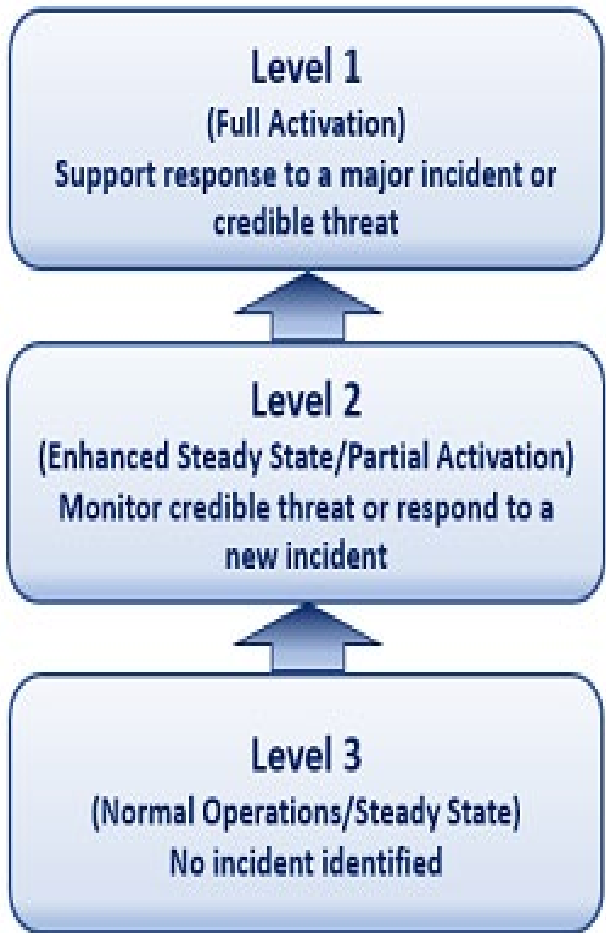
EOC DETAILED ACTIVATIONS CONT'D

March 14-15, 2025 Tornado Watch and Warning

- At 2:38 AM, the National Weather Service in Birmingham (NWS BMX) issued a Tornado Watch for Tuscaloosa County on 3/14/25
- At 12:26 PM, the National Weather Service issued a Particularly Dangerous Situation (PDS) Tornado Watch.
- The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated at Level II at 2:40 AM.
- Four EMA staff members and eight volunteers were on duty.
- A total of 31 storm shelters were opened in Tuscaloosa County.
- A tornado warning was issued for Tuscaloosa County.

April 6, 2025 Tornado Watch

- At 3:00 AM, the National Weather Service in Birmingham (NWS BMX) issued a Tornado Watch for Tuscaloosa County
- The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated at Level II at 3:00 AM
- There were no tornado warnings issued during this event.





In 2025, Tuscaloosa County made targeted improvements to public safety by upgrading six outdoor warning siren poles. Aging poles were replaced with concrete to better withstand the elements and extend the lifespan of the sirens, reinforcing the County’s ongoing commitment to community safety and preparedness.

Outdoor warning siren systems are designed to be heard outdoors, providing essential alerts that prompt individuals to seek shelter and stay informed. These systems are especially beneficial for parks, trails, and outdoor events.



Location	Count of Sirens
City of Brookwood	4
City of Lake View	2
City of Northport	5
City of Tuscaloosa	30
Nucor	1
Town of Coaling	1
Town of Coker	2
Town of Vance	2
Tuscaloosa County	25
University of Alabama	1
Grand Total	73

Tips:

- There is no “All Clear” sound that the sirens make, nor does the National Weather Service (NWS) issue an all-clear message.
- Discuss your severe weather plan with your family, using the monthly siren test as a reminder.
- To stay updated on weather alerts and other critical community updates, sign up for Tuscaloosa County’s Community Alert System, TuscALERT. Stay prepared and stay safe!

FY 2025 NEW TOOLS & UPGRADES

FY 2025 emphasized strengthening resilient and redundant communications capabilities to support emergency operations during large-scale incidents. TCEMA made significant improvements to the State's Communications Trailer through nearly \$500,000 in funding provided by the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH). These enhancements included the acquisition of radios operating across multiple frequency bands, two RAT telescoping antennas, a repeater system, and multiple handheld radios.



Collectively, these upgrades allow the Communications Trailer to function as a self-sustaining communications platform in the event of widespread infrastructure failure. The system can be rapidly deployed to establish stand-alone communications, distribute radios to responding agencies, and restore critical coordination capabilities when traditional systems are unavailable. These investments further enhance regional interoperability and ensure TCEMA remains prepared to support responders and the community during complex emergencies.



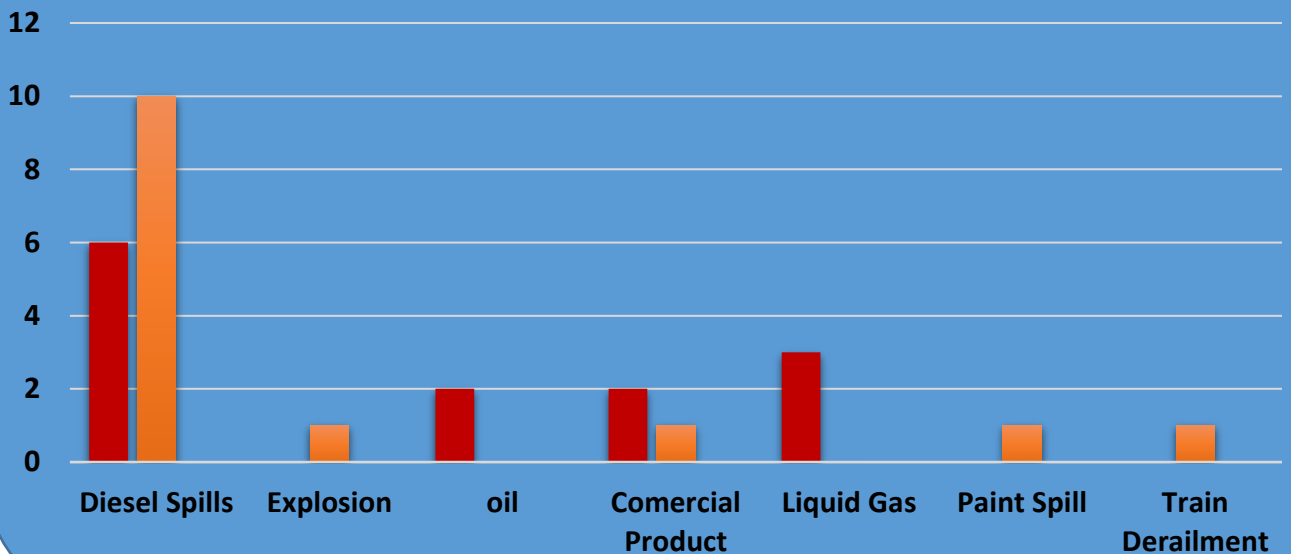
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

Hazardous materials are commonly referred to as HAZMAT or Dangerous Goods by industry and the U.S. government. During Fiscal Year 2025, Tuscaloosa County EMA responded to 15 HAZMAT incidents.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), under 29 CFR 1910.1200, and the General Services Administration (GSA), under FED-STD-313, define a hazardous material as any item or chemical that presents a health hazard or physical hazard. These materials may include toxins, irritants, corrosives, combustible liquids, compressed gases, radioactive materials, explosives, and flammable liquids.



2024 vs 2025 HAZMAT INCIDENTS FY24 FY25



County-Level Emergency Management (CLEM) Funding

Provided annually by the Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) to support local emergency management operations, these funds help the Tuscaloosa County Emergency Management Agency maintain readiness through activities such as training, planning, equipment, and day-to-day operational support. CLEM funding is intended to strengthen the County's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters that may impact our community.

\$17,000
CLEM Awarded Funds

State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)

The State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) grant aims to support the National Preparedness System by funding deployable equipment and training. In FY 2024, SHSP funds were allocated to purchase equipment and conduct training for Tuscaloosa Fire Rescue, ensuring enhanced support for Tuscaloosa County first responders.

\$76,675.68
SHSP Awarded Funds

Alabama Department of Public Health Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)

The Alabama Department of Public Health, through the federal Strategic National Stockpile grant, works to strengthen the state's preparedness for bioterrorism and public health emergencies. The program ensures access to vital supplies, medicines, and lifesaving equipment as a short-term buffer when regular resources fall short. This year, the grant funded a much-needed overhaul of the warehouse forklift to enhance operational efficiency.

\$7,240.16
SNS Awarded Funds

STAFF DEPLOYMENTS

June 4-8, 2025 2025 Hydrofest

Tuscaloosa County EMA, along with Cullman County EMA and the Mobile County 911 District, assisted the Alabama EMA and Marshall County EMA during Hydrofest 2025 on Lake Guntersville.



March 15-16, 2025 Tornado in Gordo mutual aid



March 15-16, 2025 Damage Assessments in Tuscaloosa County



March 31, 2025 Damage Assessments in Tuscaloosa County



May 17-18, 2025 Hwy 69 North and Tierce Patton Road



STAFF TRAINING

Staff training at TCEMA emphasizes four key areas: professional emergency management, incident management and command, hazardous materials handling, and emergency response. Between October 2024 and September 2025, TCEMA staff actively participated in **80** specialized emergency management trainings and courses, enhancing their expertise and readiness to respond to diverse challenges.

Amateur Radio License Class

Tuscaloosa County EMA staff and volunteers actively engaged with community members, offering guidance and resources to help them obtain their ham radio licenses. Amateur radio, widely known as ham radio, stands out as the most reliable form of long-range communication, functioning independently of the internet and cellular networks. With greater power and privileges than other radio services, ham radio provides unmatched reliability and equips users with essential communication skills. Ham radio also plays a crucial role in emergency preparedness. Volunteer amateur radio operators, known as "hams," often assist in disaster response by relaying critical information when traditional communication systems fail.



MGT-404 Sports and Special Events Incident Management

This course emphasizes the unique aspects of response to an incident occurring during a sports/special event, including considerations for business continuity and after-action activities. You will learn the skills necessary to effectively manage an incident by applying and implementing a multi-disciplinary management team approach as described in the National Incident Management System (NIMS).



A Few Emergency Management Courses Taken By TCEMA Staff in FY 2025

- IS-200: ICS for Single and Initial Action Incidents
- IS-317.a: Introduction to Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)
- IS-2901: Introduction to Community Lifelines
- IS-241.c: Decision Making and Problem Solving
- IS-2000: National Preparedness Goal and System Overview
- ICS 300: NIMS ICS Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents
- ICS 400: NIMS ICS Advanced ICS Command and General Staff - Complex Incidents
- IS-5: An Introduction to Hazardous Materials
- IS-230.d: Fundamentals of Emergency Management
- IS-235.c: Emergency Planning
- IS-242.c: Effective Communication
- IS-244.b: Developing and Managing Volunteers
- IS-2500: National Prevention Framework, an Introduction
- IS-2600: National Protection Framework, an Introduction
- IS-2700: National Mitigation Framework, an Introduction
- IS-2900.a: National Disaster Recovery Framework, an Introduction
- IS-403: Introduction to Individual Assistance
- IS-10. a: Animals in Disasters: Awareness and Preparedness
- IS-13: EMI Conduct and Behavior
- IS-130: Exercise Evaluation & Improvement Planning
- IS-201: Forms Used for the Development of the Incident Action Plan
- IS-288: The Role of Volunteer Agencies in Emergency Management
- IS-559: Local Damage Assessment
- IS-26: Guide to Points of Distribution
- IS-42. a: Social Media in Emergency Management
- IS-362: Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Schools
- IS-366.a: Planning for the Needs of Children in Disasters
- IS-368.a: Including People with Disabilities & Others with Access & Functional Needs in Disaster Operations
- IS-1000: Public Assistance Program & Eligibility
- IS-29. a: Public Information Officer Awareness
- IS-271: Anticamping Hazardous Weather & Community Risk
- IS-393: Introduction to Mitigation
- IS-1006: Documenting Disaster Damage & Developing Project Files
- IS-1009: Conditions for Public Assistance Grant
- IS-1010: Emergency Protective Measures
- IS-75: Military Resources in Emergency Management
- IS-552: The Public Works Role in Emergency Management
- E0101: Foundations of Emergency Management
- Advanced Severe Storm Spotting course
- VRC training from the Governor's Office of Volunteer Services
- AWR- 358 dL: Hazardous Materials Awareness Distance Learning
- Community Emergency Response Team Training (CERT)
- Community Emergency Response Team Training
- Hazardous Materials Awareness Distance Learning
- IS-328: Plan Review for Local Mitigation Plans
- 2025 Emergency Management Summit and Training Sessions
- IS- 247. c: Integrated Public Alert and Warning System for Alert Originators
- IS-251. b: Integrated Public Alert and Warning System for Alerting Administrators
- National Traffic Incident Management Advanced Workshop Course
- Mass Notification- IPAWS Alert Sender
- Alabama Healthcare Coalitions Annual Medical Response Surge Exercise
- Norfolk Southern Corporation Railroad 101
- 25R- 0322 HMO: Hazardous Materials Operations
- APACT Pipeline Awareness Program
- AWR 401: THIRA & SPR
- IS-11.a: Animals in Disasters: Community Planning Pipeline Awareness Program
- G0557: Rapid Needs Assessment
- AWR 421: Demystifying Cyber Attacks
- ACS Stop the Bleed
- Surveillance Detection Principles
- Alabama Ready: A Dam Safety Workshop
- AWR 310: THIRA & SPR
- All Hazards Incident Management Training
- APCO 2025 Conference
- National Health Care Coalition Conference
- Southern Grants Forum
- Alabama Association of Emergency Managers Conference
- IAEM Conference
- ACCA Conference

FACILITATED TRAINING

Tuscaloosa County EMA held or facilitated 13 sessions to 254 participants during FY 2025, including:

66

Tuscaloosa County Personnel

16

City of Tuscaloosa Personnel

27

City of Northport Personnel

101

**Federal, State, or Agencies from
Other Jurisdictions' Personnel**

72

Tuscaloosa County Citizens



TRAINING COURSES OFFERED

TCEMA organizes training and exercises to support emergency response, relief, and recovery efforts in preparation for natural and manmade disasters. These include tornadoes, storms, earthquakes, floods, hazardous material incidents, and acts of terrorism involving weapons of mass destruction. The following is a selection of training courses provided to personnel from the City of Tuscaloosa, the City of Northport, and other jurisdictions.



Classes offered for October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025

- ICS-300, Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents (two offerings, each 24 hours)
- ICS-400, Command and General Staff -Complex Incidents (two offerings, each 16 hours)
- MGT 404- Sports and Special Events Incident Management
- Everbridge/ TusCALERT/ IPAWS
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Basic Training
- CERT Team Continuing Education Trainings
- Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) Agency Refresher Training
- NWS Storm Spotter Class
- APERI Pipeline Training
- AWR 421- Demystifying Cyber Attacks
- Go557- Rapid Needs Assessment
- Futurity/ Orion Refresher Trainings
- ACS Stop the Bleed



The Tuscaloosa County Emergency Management Agency operates a robust alert and notification system using a multi-pronged approach. This includes leveraging social media, issuing press releases, and utilizing Everbridge and TuscALERT. (www.TuscALERT.com) to keep the community informed, prepared, and safe.

TuscALERT is a free, voluntary notification service available to all jurisdictions in Tuscaloosa County. Subscribers can receive alerts for severe weather, major traffic and roadway issues, utility and service disruptions, health and environmental notices, and general community information. Notifications can be filtered by location, ensuring residents only receive updates relevant to the areas where they live, work, or spend time. Alerts are delivered via phone (voice), text messaging, and email. Currently, TuscALERT boasts **18,499** subscribers, reflecting a **17.26%** increase from FY 2024.

Additionally, the Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) is utilized by federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial public safety agencies to disseminate critical emergency and public safety information to the public during disasters.

Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)

- 6 IPAWS Notifications (WEA, EAS, and NOAA Radio)
- 3 missing people located (1 fugitive, 1 elderly adult, and 1 juvenile) because of IPAWS messaging

Everbridge Internal Notifications

- 189 Tuscaloosa County Operations Notifications
- 516 City of Northport Operations Notifications
- 52 City of Tuscaloosa Operations Notifications
- 88 Tuscaloosa Area Local Organizations Alliance (TALOA)

TuscALERT Notifications

- 97 Notifications

**Sign up for
TuscALERT**



FY 2025 EXERCISES

Exercises play an important part in the emergency management planning process. Collaborating with partner agencies, we develop plans to mitigate the various hazards that could impact the county and its residents. While having a plan is essential, it serves little value unless it is tested and evaluated through exercises. Each year, TCEMA works with our partners to test our plans and theirs through a variety of exercises that identify areas for improvement prior to an actual emergency. Exercises come in all types, from smaller drills and tabletop exercises to the larger, more hands-on approaches found in functional and full-scale exercises. TCEMA often requests evaluators from our partners and neighboring EMAs to provide feedback and insight on how we can better prepare.

Hale County Emergency Management Agency Full-Scale Exercise (FSE)

Health Care Coalition Medical Response Surge Exercise (MRSE)

City of Northport Table- Top Exercise

University of Alabama Full- Scale Exercise (FSE)

Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) Winter Weather Table- Top Exercise

Smith Lake Dam Drill Exercise

Smith Lake Dam Table- Top Exercise

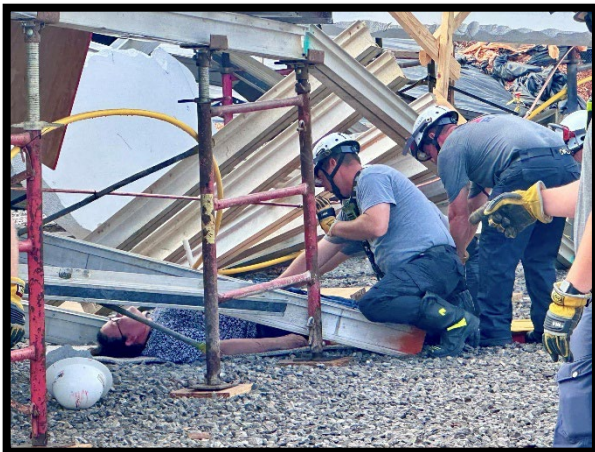
AARL HAM Radio Exercise

CERT Functional Exercise

Norfolk Southern Railroad Table- Top Exercise

Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) Exercise

DLX Tent Functional Exercise

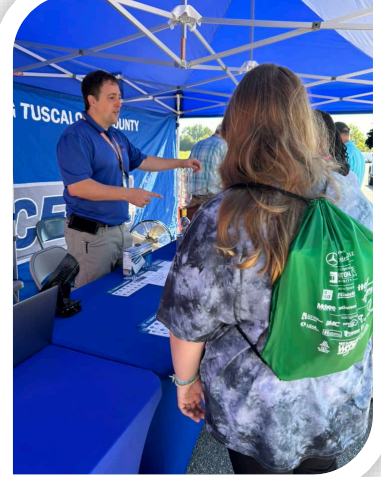


COMMUNITY OUTREACH



West Alabama Works “Worlds of Work”

TCEMA staff and volunteers engaged with students from across West Alabama about careers in emergency management, amateur (ham) radio, and ways to build safer and more resilient communities.



Stillman College’s National Night Out

At Stillman’s National Night Out, TCEMA engaged with students and community members of all ages to discuss the role of emergency management and assisted individuals and families with signing up for TuscALERT. Attendees also interacted with various public safety agencies and gained a clearer understanding of each agency’s role within the community.



Myrtlewood Elementary School School Career Exploration Day

Staff members and students were excited as TCEMA spent time at Myrtlewood Elementary introducing students to the work of emergency management and practical ways they can support household preparedness for disasters and severe weather. The visit also highlighted amateur (ham) radio, giving students a hands-on opportunity to connect with local radio operators within Tuscaloosa County.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH CONT'D

Northport Police Department's Fall Festival

Tuscaloosa County EMA featured LEPC's Wally Wise Guy at the event, where he interacted with children, handed out candy, and shared age-appropriate safety tips on what to do if a chemical emergency were to occur.



Tuscaloosa County Veterans Weather Radio Giveaway

Tuscaloosa County EMA partnered with WBRC 6 News, Midland Radio, and the Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center to host a NOAA weather radio giveaway for local veterans. The event, held at the McAbee Center in Tuscaloosa, provided 136 pre-programmed weather radios to veterans across the county. TCEMA is honored to support and recognize the veterans of Tuscaloosa County for their service and sacrifice.



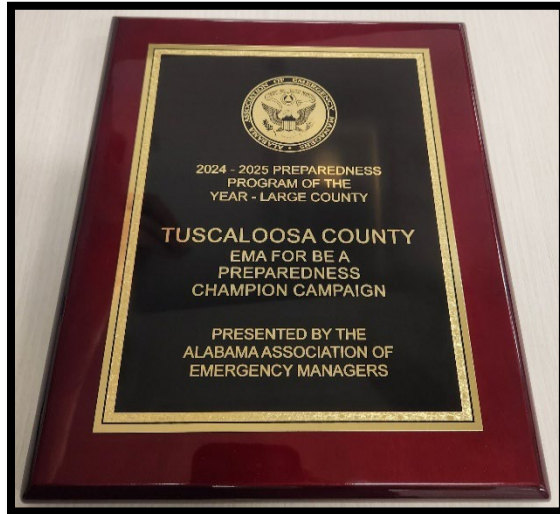
United Way's Ready, Set, Grow

TCEMA was invited to share and distribute valuable resources for parents and caregivers, including expectant parents and those with children up to age five. Parents also signed up for TuscALERT and asked questions about how to stay safe during severe weather.



Be a Preparedness Champion and Weather Safety Wednesdays Award!

We received an award for our "Be a Preparedness Champion and Weather Safety Wednesdays" campaign from the Alabama Association of Emergency Managers. The award recognized us as the 2024–2025 Preparedness Program of the Year – Large County. This campaign featured a new mascot each week, shared valuable preparedness tips, highlighted community shelters, and distributed weather radios to citizens.



Leadership Tuscaloosa

TCEMA, along with 911, hosted the group, which learned about each agency's role and how they serve the citizens of our county. Additional government agencies participated in a panel discussion covering a variety of related topics.

Tuscaloosa County Cub Scouts Troop 88

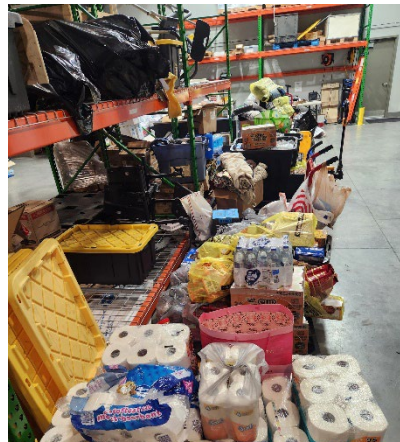
TCEMA welcomed Tuscaloosa County Cub Scouts Troop 88 to the Emergency Operations Center to learn about emergency management and ways to help during emergencies. The group asked thoughtful questions, and one scout expressed interest in pursuing a career in the field.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH CONT'D

Warming Station Donations

Tuscaloosa County EMA collected donations of food, blankets, and jackets from Tuscaloosa County citizens for several weeks of activation of the Compassion Coalition warming stations. Giving individuals and families a warm place to sleep and eat. Compassion works tirelessly every year along with others to provide a warm place for the unhoused in our County.



City of Northport's Touch a Truck and City of Lake View's Lake View Day

The City of Northport's Touch-A-Truck event brought families together for fun and education. Attendees enjoyed interactive experiences with vehicles and equipment, including Amateur (Ham) radio, learning how it operates, and even sitting behind the wheel of many of the vehicles. At Lake View Day, community members signed up for TuscALERT and entered a drawing for a free weather radio. At both events, participants learned about severe weather preparedness, met Wally the Shelter-in-Place Turtle, and received an LEPC fan that demonstrates how to shelter in place.



Vance Elementary School Career Day

Tuscaloosa County EMA staff had the privilege of engaging with enthusiastic students, sharing insights about emergency management and the importance of community preparedness.



Tax-Free Preparedness Weekend

EMA staff and volunteers were invited to the City of Tuscaloosa’s Farmers Market at the Tuscaloosa River Market to promote Tax-Free Preparedness Weekend, assist residents with signing up for TuscALERT, and host a weather radio drawing. Congratulations to our weather radio winners! We enjoyed hearing your stories and sharing preparedness tips to help keep you and your loved ones safe when disaster strikes.



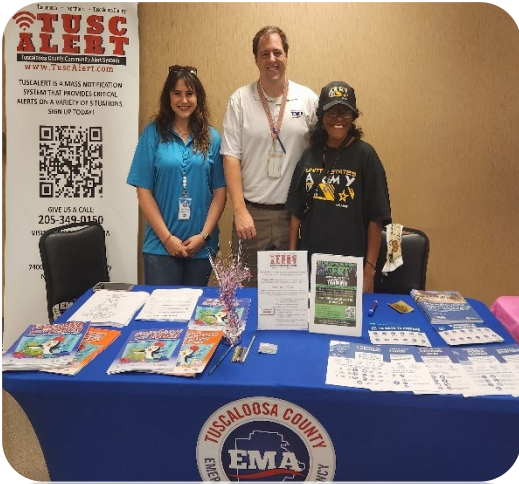
National Weather Service Storm Spotter Class

In conjunction with the Tuscaloosa County CERT Team, TCEMA, Northport Police, and the National Weather Service in Birmingham hosted a Storm Spotter class to educate citizens and CERT members on what to look for during severe weather. Topics included the fundamentals of storm structure, what information to report, how to report it, and safety considerations.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH CONT'D

Safe Kids Safety Fair

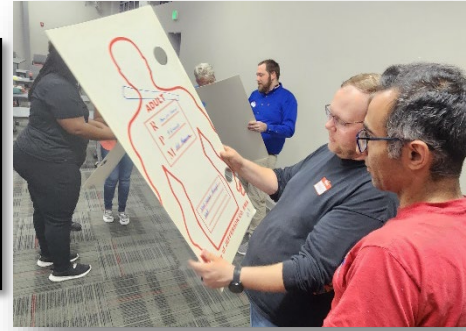
The Safe Kids Safety Fair featured educational games, free giveaways, and more for children of all ages. TCEMA shared information with parents on preventing toddlers from accessing hazardous household materials, how to respond to various emergencies, and the importance of having an all-hazards plan in place for their families.



Hazard Mitigation Plan Meetings

TCEMA hosted three Hazard Mitigation Plan update meetings at the Tuscaloosa County Annex Auditorium. During the meetings, TCEMA staff, local leaders, first responders, and community members worked together to review existing strategies, identify areas needing updates, and discuss ways to reduce future risks while protecting families, neighborhoods, and future generations.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)



The Tuscaloosa County CERT program equips individuals with essential skills to prepare for disasters that may impact their community. Participants receive training in areas such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and basic disaster medical operations. Through classroom instruction led by local first responders and hands-on exercises, CERT volunteers are empowered to assist their neighbors following a disaster, particularly when professional responders are not immediately available.

Class of 2025 CERT Graduates



Please join us in congratulating the 2025 CERT graduates! Tuscaloosa County residents interested in participating in CERT can visit the TCEMA website at www.tuscaloosacountyema.org to learn more and sign up for the next class. Classes begin in March and are held two evenings per week over a five-week period. After graduation, participants may choose to use the knowledge gained to better prepare their own families or to serve the community by joining the Tuscaloosa County CERT team.

TCEMA VOLUNTEERS

We couldn't do it without them! Volunteers are the heart and backbone of TCEMA, offering invaluable support in countless ways. Our success is a direct reflection of the dedication of our **24** incredible volunteers, who collectively contributed over **575.5** hours in FY 2025. Whether it's answering phones, coordinating severe weather activations, setting up and staffing events, conducting damage assessments, maintaining equipment, or handling other critical tasks, their dedication and diverse expertise are essential to our organization's ability to respond effectively and serve our community.



New Volunteers

This year, we welcomed four new volunteers. Please help us welcome Doug and Valerie Webb, Eric Williams, and Cole Vick. All four have played a crucial role in supporting phone operations, assisting with community outreach efforts, and supporting Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activities.



STAFF ACCOLADES

Tuscaloosa County EMA Staff Reaching New Heights



Tuscaloosa County EMA Director Lolley was sworn in again as the Alabama Association of Emergency Manager's Area 3 Director.



During FY 2025, Emergency Management Specialist Tyler Smith was promoted to the position of Deputy Director.

New Staff

Emergency Management Specialist Delia Ozment joined the TCEMA team on March 1st and has quickly made an impact. Since coming on board, she has hit the ground running by completing CERT and Hazmat Operations level training, undertaking several large plans, and creating some new programs.



Emergency Management Planner Grant Hickman became a temporary part-time employee right after his internship on July 28, 2025. It was perfect timing as he was able to help staff with critical emergency plans that were due in 2025. He also played a crucial role in logistics and asset management. As of 2026, Grant has accepted a full-time position with Jefferson County EMA.



Internships

Internships are a valuable experience not only for the interns but also for TCEMA. They provide interns with real-world experience, help develop professional skills, expand networks in the EMA field, and can increase the likelihood of future employment. At the same time, TCEMA benefits from fresh ideas and support with daily operations, allowing staff to better serve the citizens of Tuscaloosa County.



TCEMA was pleased to welcome two highly motivated interns in 2025. They contributed to updating first responder and utility contact information, county-wide plans, and public storm shelter data. In addition, they assisted with general office tasks, warehouse management, and the maintenance of outdoor warning sirens.



Tyberius Windham – Master of Science for Emergency Management at Jacksonville State University. He is currently working with the Alabama Department of Corrections and plans to explore becoming a state trooper in Tennessee soon.

Grant Hickman - Graduate student from Auburn University at Montgomery and will graduate with his Master's in Homeland Security and Emergency Management.



Tuscaloosa County EMA GOALS

The Tuscaloosa County Emergency Management Agency (TCEMA) remains committed to building a safer, more prepared community. In 2026, we will continue engaging and educating residents about their vital role in emergency preparedness while advancing key initiatives to strengthen countywide resilience.

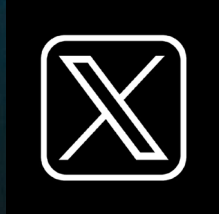
Our priorities for the year include expanding our volunteer network, completing updates to the Communications Trailer, and equipping it with Starlink satellite internet for enhanced connectivity during emergencies. We will continue replacing aging wooden siren poles with durable concrete poles, acquire a new staff vehicle to support on-call hazmat response, and deepen community partnerships to increase public awareness of EMA services. Promoting TuscALERT, the County's emergency alert system, remains a central focus to ensure residents are informed and prepared when it matters most.

We will also utilize the county's Synergic Center to host training programs, providing first responders with a space to participate in exercises and courses that prepare them for a wide range of emergency scenarios both locally and regionally. Additionally, TCEMA will pursue grants totaling \$200,000 to further enhance support for first responders and the community.

These goals reflect our commitment to adapting to evolving needs, improving operational readiness, and fostering a culture of preparedness that keeps Tuscaloosa County safe and resilient.



CONNECT WITH US!



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