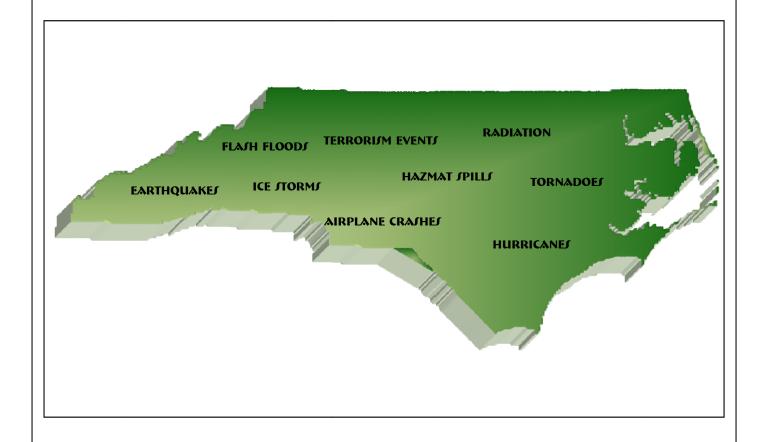
North Carolina Division of Emergency Management 24 Hour Operations Center

2008 Annual Report





EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

DEPARTMENT OF CRIME CONTROL & PUBLIC SAFETY



North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety Division of Emergency Management

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor Reuben F. Young, Secretary

H. Douglas Hoell, Jr., Director

March 1, 2009

Dear Colleague:

On behalf of Governor Beverly Perdue and Secretary Reuben Young, it is my pleasure to present the 2008 Annual Report of the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management.

As in 2007, drought remained a prominent weather feature in 2008. With the arrival of fall, however, rainfall brought significant improvement to most of the State. The mountains, however, remained in severe to extreme drought at the end of the year.

The tropical storm season brought us the remnants of Tropical Storm Fay combined with a passing frontal system to deliver 6 to 10 inches of rain in the mountains and western Piedmont. This event also resulted in several tornados, wind damage, and flooding. Tropical Storm Hanna made landfall between North and South Carolina and, once inland over North Carolina began to weaken but not without causing some minor beach erosion and some flooding in low-lying areas along the Pamlico River. Wind speeds were reported at 53kts and gusts of 63kts were reported in some areas.

It is also my pleasure to report that North Carolina Emergency Management achieved national accreditation under the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP). North Carolina joins fifteen other states and four American cities in this achievement. This is not just a reflection on the Division of Emergency Management, but of our partnership with our Local Emergency Management community and our State Emergency Response Team (SERT).

As we enter into 2009, it is my goal to continue to enforce the need for public awareness, disaster planning, increased response capabilities, as well as a strong exercise and evaluation program which focuses on the four key areas of preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation.

Sincerely,

H. Douglas Hoell, Jr.

Director

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STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE OVERVIEW

The North Carolina Division of Emergency Management is a part of the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety. Many of the state's primary emergency response agencies, such as the State Highway Patrol, Alcohol Law Enforcement, National Guard, and the Civil Air Patrol, are also in this department. Under North Carolina General Statute 166A, General Statute 143B-476, and Executive Order 18, the Secretary of the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety is responsible for direction and coordination of the state's response to emergencies and major disasters. The Director of the Emergency Management Division provides routine disaster management of this function.

When an emergency or disaster occurs and adequate response is beyond the capability of local government, the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) is activated. SERT is comprised of senior personnel representing state agencies, private non-profit agencies, and volunteer organizations who work together to coordinate and provide emergency response activities. The SERT works primarily in the state Emergency Operations Center (EOC), but also sends teams to the counties to assist in their response and recovery efforts.

The EOC provides a central location for the Governor, the Cabinet, SERT agencies, and federal agencies to efficiently coordinate requests for assistance and dispatch resources. It has a central situation room for large briefings about the event and smaller workrooms where the different parts of the disaster response are managed. The EOC is equipped with state-of-the-art communications and information systems and serves as the central clearinghouse for disaster event information.

The North Carolina emergency management system emphasizes planning for disasters, training staff on emergency equipment and procedures, and exercising the SERT members to respond quickly and professionally. The state and local agencies continually strive to achieve and maintain six principal tenants:

- 1 Develop and maintain emergency management plans;
- 2 Develop an organizational structure for response, recovery, and hazard mitigation;
- 3 Provide appropriate equipment;
- 4 Identify key personnel;
- 5 Properly train personnel on equipment and procedures;
- 6 Exercise and test all facets of organizational response.

The Emergency Management Division interacts daily with SERT, local governments, and the federal government in preparing for, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating losses from emergencies and disasters.

SUMMARY OF MAJOR EVENTS IN THE YEAR 2008

North Carolina experienced 3,881 reported emergency events in 2008. This was an increase of 13% over the previous year. Man-made/Technological Hazards and Natural Hazards continued to account for the largest number of events in 2008. The North Carolina Division of Emergency Management has also continued to take the lead role within the state for terrorism preparedness.

Terrorists Events

In 2008 there were no significant changes to the terrorist threat levels as issued by the Department of Homeland Security Advisory System and there were no terrorist related events. The U.S. Homeland Security threat level remains at Elevated (Yellow), and has not changed since Aug. 13, 2006. The aviation threat level remained at Orange for flights from the United Kingdom to the United States. No operational changes were made for domestic flights in the United States.

Man-made/Technological Hazards

2008 was another busy year for the North Carolina Hazardous Materials Regional Response Teams. The seven RRT teams positioned throughout the state responded to a wide variety of incidents ranging from overturned tankers and accidental releases of potentially lethal chemicals to containment and identification of suspicious powders delivered through the mail. In addition to emergency response activities, the RRT teams were also active in training and education demonstrations conducted and coordinated with local emergency response personnel. The RRT teams continue to prove to be a tremendous asset in ensuring the safety of citizens of our state from man-made and technological hazards and threats.

Significant RRT events in 2008 included the following events:

On June 10th, RRT 7 responded to an explosion of a two story house boat on Lake Norman in Lincoln County. The explosion resulted in multiple injuries, a death. RRT 7 was successful in containing the fuel spill which posed a threat to the drinking water intake and directed a decontamination operation for divers who were involved in the search and rescue for victims of the explosion

On July 16th, a tanker truck containing Silicone Tetraflouride travelling on Interstate 95 in Johnston County experienced an equipment failure resulted in an uncontrolled ongoing release of the chemical. The leak resulted shutdown of adjacent railway, and local evacuations and sheltering operations were launched. RRT 4 responded to the scene, located the source of the leak and determined that the release was caused by a faulty valve apparatus on the tanker. RRT 4 remained on the scene to conduct air monitoring for an extended period of time until a replacement valve could be flown in allowing repairs to be made to contain the release.

On August 20th, RRT 1 responded to Nash County to the United States Post Office in Sharpsburg after a report that an unidentified substance resulted in multiple victims suffering from serious breathing difficulty and other severe health problems. Three individuals were transported to a local hospital and one suffered from respiratory failure. RRT 1 made entry into the building and conducted monitoring, testing, and decontamination that allowed investigation by Public Health Regional Surveillance Teams and the FBI.

On November 11th, RRT 3 responded to Lee County to the scene of a motor vehicle collision involving a tractor trailer hauling Nitrogen, Oxygen, and Acetylene. Approximately 117 cylinder

containers were spilled to the roadway and closed Highway 421. The incident resulted in a multi agency response including local emergency officials, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Transportation, and Department of Agriculture. RRT 3 assessed the integrity of the damaged cylinders, conducted monitoring, and ensured that the cylinders could be safely moved.

Natural Hazards

There were 1,705 Weather Events reported to the State EOC during 2008. This represented a significant increase of 66% from the previous year. 2008 was a year in which North Carolina was fortunate to avoid any large scale catastrophic weather events. There were however, many weather events which caused damage on regional and local levels. While much of North Carolina received significant amounts of rainfall, drought continued to present western North Carolina with significant challenges. The North Carolina Drought Advisory is issued by the Drought Management Advisory Council on a weekly basis. At the close of 2008, 28 counties, all in western North Carolina were adversely affected by drought conditions. Ten counties were classified as experiencing severe drought conditions, 13 counties were classified as moderate drought, with the remaining five counties under an abnormally dry classification.

The 2008 Atlantic Hurricane Season produced a record number of storms to strike the United States and ranked as one of the more active seasons since comprehensive records have been maintained. There were 16 named storms, including eight hurricanes, five of which were major hurricanes at Category 3 strength or higher. Hurricane Hanna presented the greatest threat to North Carolina, making landfall in the early morning hours of September 6th near the North Carolina and South Carolina border. Although a State of Emergency was issued, North Carolina was fortunate and only experienced heavy rains and beach erosion and avoided any catastrophic damage as a result of Hurricane Hanna.

Severe weather across the state in 2008 created conditions in which tornadoes caused significant damage on multiple occasions. On May 9th, severe weather spawned a tornado whose path travelled across Interstate 40 in Guilford County resulting in one fatality and damaging multiple residences and businesses. In the early morning hours of November 15th, tornadoes touched down in Johnston and Wilson Counties resulting in two fatalities and a total of 66 homes that were destroyed.

Search and Rescue Events

There were 244 Search and Rescue Events reported to the State EOC for 2008. These events consisted of missing persons, high risk rescues, and aircraft accidents. This represented a slight decrease from 2007 in which 271 events were reported. 2008 was also a year of firsts for North Carolina in regards to added roles and capabilities in Search and Rescue. The N.C. Helicopter and Aquatic Rescue Team (NCHART) was launched this year and performed six highly specialized rescues. NCHART executes urban and wilderness high risk rescues and provides a specialized resource for the Citizens of North Carolina that is second to none.

FNF events

There were no Fixed Nuclear Facilities emergencies during 2008. This State EOC does not include drills or communications tests in this report. The North Carolina Emergency Operations Center and the Nuclear Power Plants continue conducting exercises to maintain effective and efficient communication during times of disaster or emergencies. This mutual cooperation will continue into the 2009 calendar year.

Total Events From Jan 1, 1998 to Dec 31, 2008 is 41,300 Comparison Of Total Yearly Events

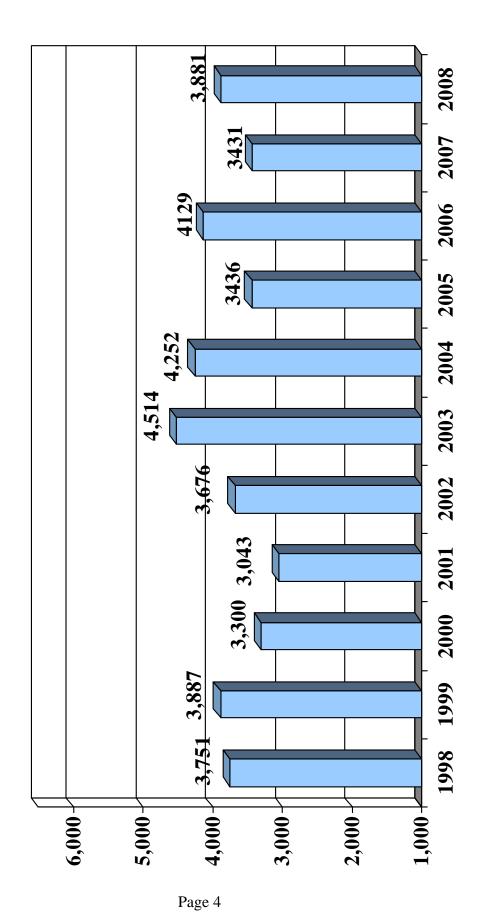


Figure 1

EVENTS DEFINED

The Emergency Management Division receives incident reports for many reasons. Counties report that an event has occurred, request state resources, or provide information regarding an agency's programmatic requirements. When receiving an event report, the communications duty officer assesses what happened and the severity of the event. Different procedures are implemented and different agencies are notified depending upon the incident. A large chemical spill is handled very differently from a search for a missing person.

Levels of Severity

The communications officer determines a level of severity based on the information received and standard operating procedures. The levels are defined as:

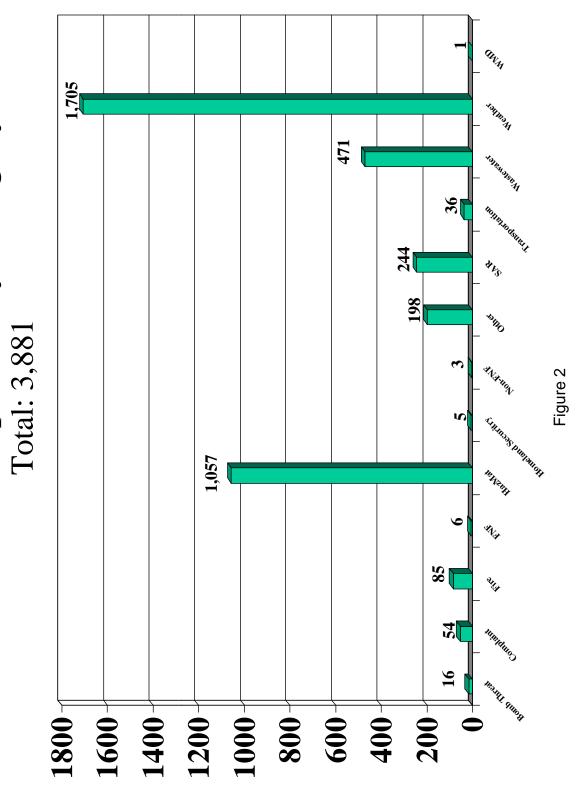
- **Level 4:** The event is handled at the local level with no evacuation.
- **Level 3:** A more serious event that involves some limited evacuations and/or injuries, but no fatalities.
- **Level 2:** A fairly large event that requires significant evacuation, may involve several injuries and possible fatalities.
- **Level 1:** A major event that requires large-scale evacuation and sheltering, and involves numerous injuries and deaths. In addition, the state EOC would be activated in support of the area offices and county EOCs.

Event Classifications

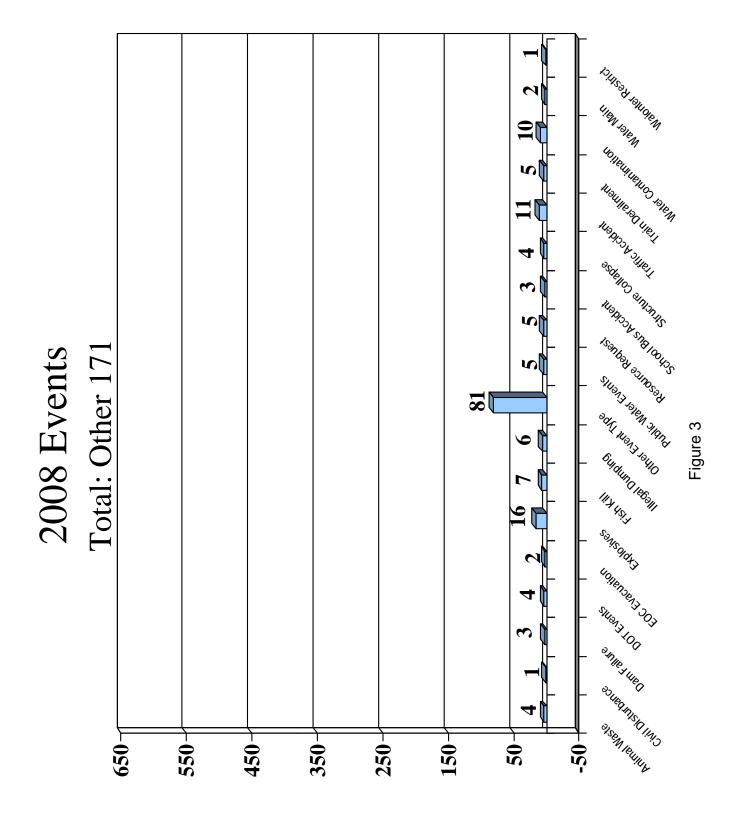
For reporting purposes, events are grouped into specific classifications as outlined below:

- A. Weather: Actual weather events or weather-related events (i.e., watches, warnings and storm
 - reports
- B. Hazmat: Events reported involving a hazardous material spill or fire. A chemical is then classified under the following sub-category:
 - 1. *SARA* (*Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act*) A hazardous material spill or release that exceeds the reportable quantity as outlined in SARA.
 - 2. *Petroleum Products* Any spill or mixture that is petroleum-based (gasoline, fuel oil, natural gas, etc.).
 - 3. *Other* Events that do not fall into any of the previous categories yet pose a risk to the population (such as explosives).
- C. FNF: Either a real event or an exercise at a **F**ixed **N**uclear **F**acility.
- D. Non-FNF: Events involving radiological materials unrelated to an on-site fixed nuclear facility.
- E. SAR: A Search And Rescue of an individual, aircraft, boat, etc.
- F. Fire: An event involving fire, structure fire, forest fire or tire fire
- G. Complaint: Citizen Complaint in any number of areas, such as illegal dumping, odors, etc
- H. Other: An event that does not apply to the above categories or relates to a resource request.

2008 Events Reported By Category



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2008 Hazardous Materials Events By Type Of Event Total: 1,057

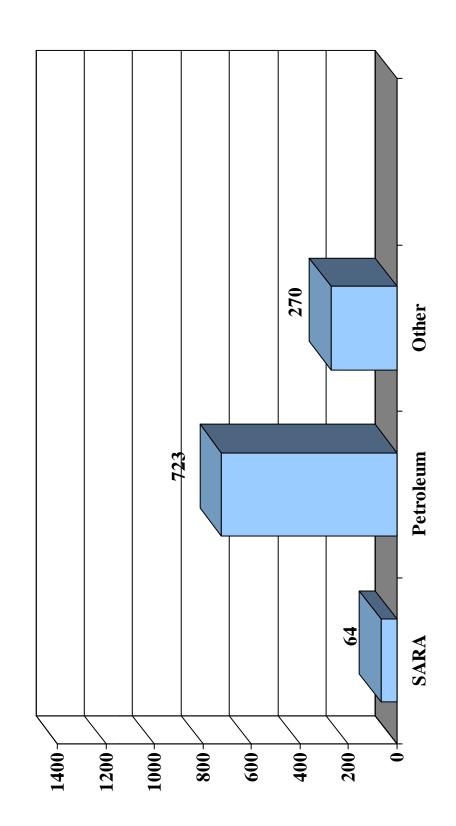
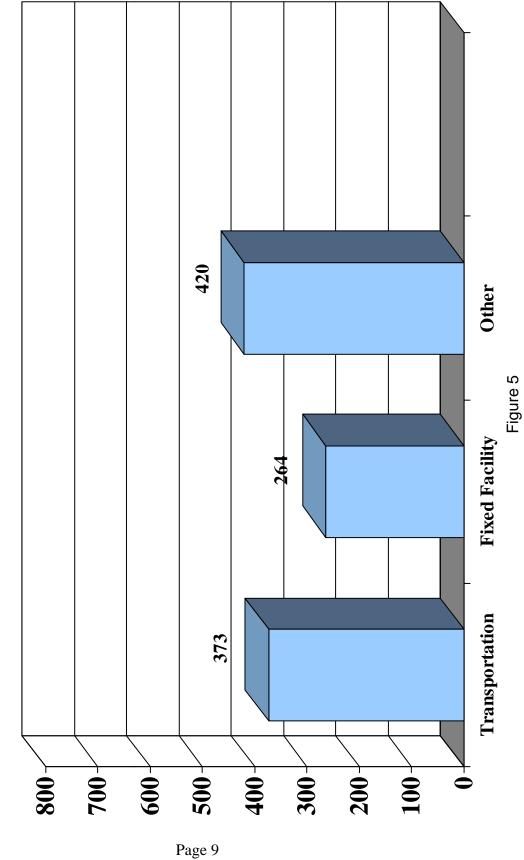
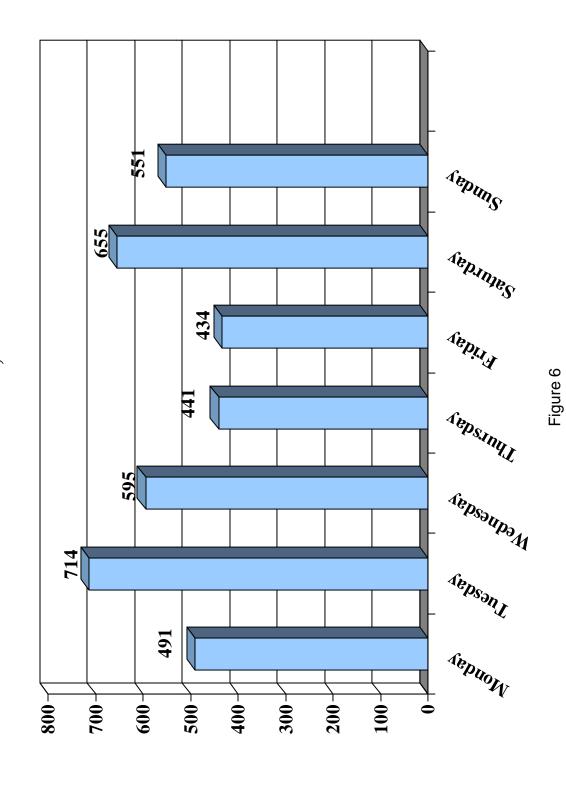


Figure 4

2008 Hazardous Materials Events By Cause Of Event Total: 1,098



2008 Day Of Week Events Occurred Total: 3,881



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2008 Events Reported By Month Total: 3,881

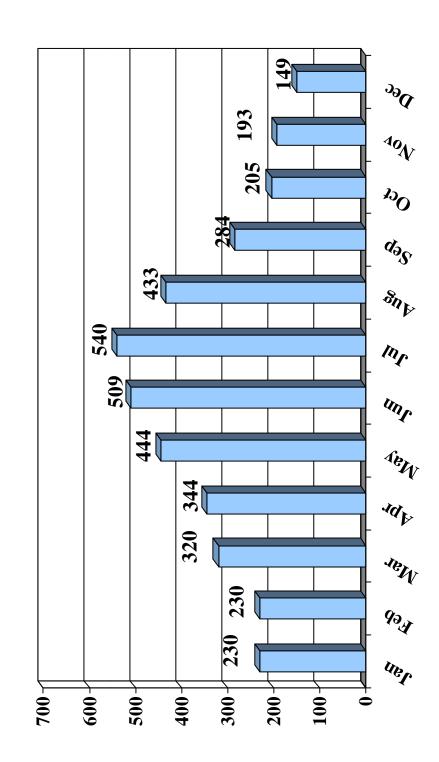
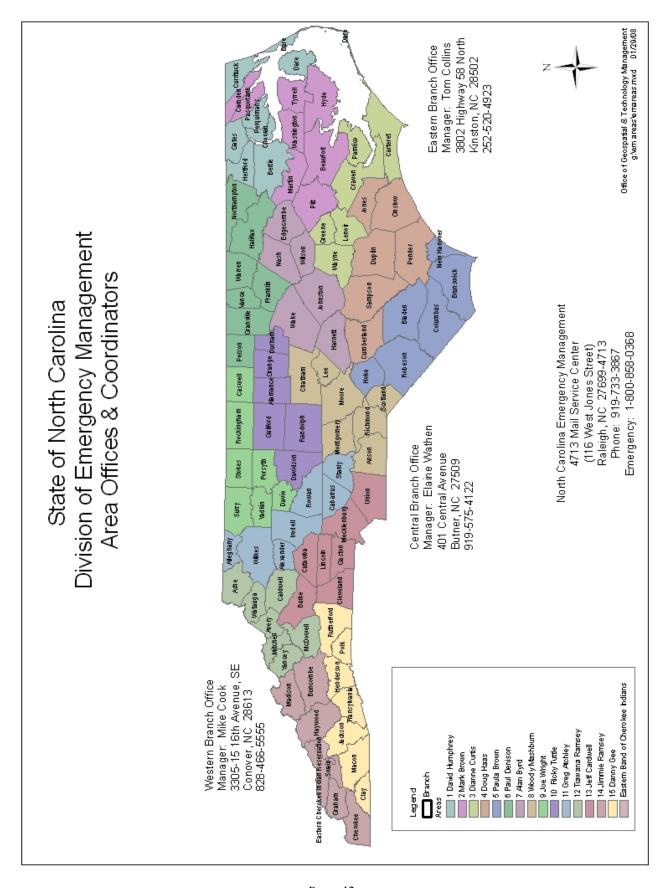
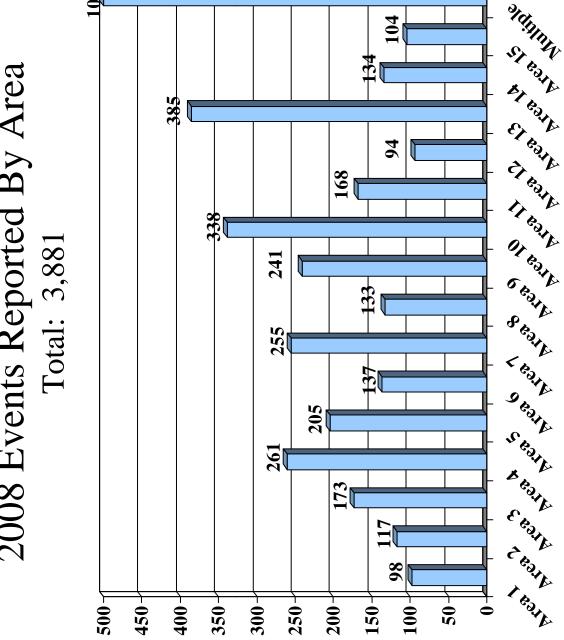


Figure 7





	Bomb Threat	Complaint	Fire	FNF	HazMat	Homeland Security	NON FNF	Other	SAR Tr	SAR Transportation	Wastewater	Weather WMD	WMD	Total
Central Branch														
Area 06														
Franklin	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	2	0	1	8	1	0	19
Granville	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	9	0	8
Halifax	0	0	1	0	18	0	0	1	1	0	3	28	0	52
Northampton	0	0	7	0	2	0	0	7	4	0	1	15	0	26
Person	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	7	0	0	2	6	0	15
Vance	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	0	6
Warren	0	0	0	0	က	0	0	0	_	0	-	က	0	∞
Area Totals	0	0	3	0	34	0	0	7	7	1	20	65	0	137
Area 07														
Edgecombe	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	0	11
Harnett	2	0	-	0	8	0	0	_	4	0	3	4	0	23
Johnston	0	0	က	0	6	0	0	0	7	7	4	12	0	32
Nash	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	7	7	7	2	4	0	24
Wake	0	7	0	0	81	0	0	21	7	0	31	12	0	154
Wilson	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	11
Area Totals	2	3	5	0	123	0	0	24	15	4	44	35	0	255
Area 08														
Anson	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	2	1	1	2	15	0	29
Chatham	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	1	2	1	5	8	0	26
	0	1	1	0	10	0	0	2	1	0	9	8	0	29
Moore	0	0	2	0	9	0	0	1	1	0	3	5	0	18
Richmond	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	3	0	0	7	0	12
Scotland	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	1	2	0	0	11	0	19
Area Totals	0	1	S	0	38	0	0	12	10	2	16	49	0	133
Area 09														
Caswell	0	0	0	0	ဗ	0	0	7	_	0	1	13	0	19
Davie	0	0	1	0	9	0	0	1	1	0	0	9	0	15
Forsyth	0	0	3	0	32	0	1	3	0	0	83	12	0	134
Rockingham	0	1	0	0	9	0	0	2	3	0	5	4	0	21
Stokes	0	1	7	0	2	0	0	7	7	0	0	က	0	14
Surry	0	0	1	0	10	0	0	0	7	0	1	11	0	25
Yadkin	0	0	2	0	9	0	0	0	_	0	0	4	0	13

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	Bomb Threat (Bomb Threat Complaint Fire	Fire	FNF	HazMat	Homeland Security	NON FNF	Other	SAR Tra	nsportation	Other SAR Transportation Wastewater Weather WMD	Weather	WMD	Total
Central Branch														
Area 10														
Alamance	0	0	0	0	56	0	0	0	-	0	3	11	0	41
Davidson	0	0	_	0	7	0	0	4	2	-	9	5	0	30
Durham	0	1	0	0	16	0	0	2	2	-	13	က	0	38
Guilford	0	0	1	0	89	0	0	9	7	0	47	12	0	156
Montgomery	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	1	9	0	7	9	0	18
Orange	0	1	0	0	7	0	0	1	1	0	10	9	0	26
Randolph	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	7	1	13	2	0	29
Area Totals	0	4	2	0	159	0	0	13	15	3	93	49	0	338
Branch Totals	2	10	23	•	422	0	1	65	57	10	263	251	•	1,104

North Carolina Emergency Management - Communications Group

Events Reported By Branch/County/Area

	Bomb Threat (Complaint	Fire	FNF	HazMat	Homeland Security	NON FNF	Other	SAR Tr	SAR Transportation Wastewater	Wastewater	Weather WMD	WMD	Total
Eastern Branch														
Area 01														
Bertie	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	10	0	15
Chowan	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	2	0	6
Currituck	1	0	1	0	7	0	0	1	1	0	0	7	0	15
Dare	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	က	7	_	_	16	0	30
Gates	0	0	_	0	7	0	0	0	7	_	0	5	0	11
Hertford	0	0	-	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Perquimans	0	0	4	0	က	0	0	_	7	0	0	5	0	15
Area Totals	1	0	10	0	21	0	0	7	∞	7	1	48	0	86
Area 02													-	
Beaufort	-	7	-	0	6	0	0	0	-	0	0	7	0	21
Camden	0	0	-	0	7	0	0	7	_	0	0	_	0	7
Hyde	0	1	_	0	10	0	_	7	0	0	0	က	0	18
Martin	0	0	0	0	œ	0	0	_	0	0	0	7	0	16
Pasquotank	0	0	-	0	10	0	0	က	7	0	~	_	0	18
Pitt	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	3	2	0	4	2	0	25
Tyrrell	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	9
Washington	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	9
Area Totals	1	3	7	0	47	0	_	12	12	0	ß	29	0	117
Area 03														
Carteret	_	1	-	0	29	0	0	4	_	0	~	11	0	49
Craven	0	2	2	0	11	0	0	3	4	1	16	7	0	52
Greene	0	•	0	0	4	0	0	7	_	0	0	က	0	10
Lenoir	0	0	က	0	9	_	0	_	က	7	~	8	0	25
Pamlico	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	12
Wayne	1	0	0	0	8	0	0	2	3	0	0	16	0	25
Area Totals	2	3	9	0	89	1	0	13	12	3	18	47	0	173
Area 04														
Cumberland	0	3	0	0	44	0	0	1	2	2	4	13	0	69
Duplin	0	1	4	0	13	0	0	2	1	2	1	28	0	52
Jones	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	9	0	10
Onslow	0	1	7	0	32	0	0	7	7	7	4	18	0	63
Pender	0	1	0	0	9	0	0	2	3	0	0	11	0	23
Sampson	0		_	0	7	0	0	_	7	0	_	27	0	4
- L - Y Y														

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35 205 854 20 24 27 5 Total 0 0 Weather WMD 12 12 22 22 22 279 279 Other SAR Transportation Wastewater 57 23 0 0 16 58 10 0 2 0 NON FNF 0 0 0 Homeland Security 0 က 0 0 0 87 331 HazMat 1 9 53 Ä 0 0 0 33 Fire Bomb Threat Complaint 9 **Area Totals Eastern Branch Branch Totals** New Hanover Brunswick Columbus Area 05 Robeson Bladen

	Romb					Homeland								
	Threat C	Threat Complaint Fire	Fire	FNF	HazMat	Security	NON FNF	Other	SAR Tra	nsportation	Other SAR Transportation Wastewater Weather WMD	Weather	WMD	Total
Multiple Branch														
Area Multiple														
Multiple	0	0	7	2	-	0	0	4	က	0	_	1,022	0	1,038
Area Totals	0	0	2	5	1	0	0	4	3	0	1	1,022	0	1,038
Branch Totals	0	0	2	5	1	0	0	4	3	0	1	1.022	0	1.038

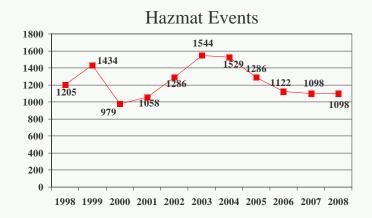
North Carolina Emergency Management - Communications Group Events Reported By Branch/County/Area

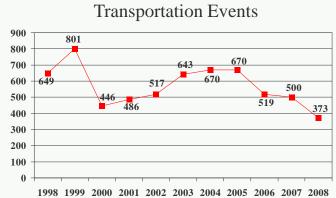
Total 22 41 41 55 20 20 9 7 9 19 7 45 43 30 ∞ 31 22 5 17 **2** 48 48 0000 0 0 -0000000 0000000 Other SAR Transportation Wastewater Weather WMD 2 8 6 2 2 8 5 5 6 0 2 7 2 2 3 00048-8 7 0 0 0 0000 0000 00000 00000 დ **0** ← 2 0 0 0 0 0 7 4 4 2 7 2 0 9 1 0 % O 70 4 0 0 6 -၂၀ ၁ စ က 9 0 -2 8 NON FNF 000000 0000000 Homeland Security 00000 00 2 0 6 7 0 1 8 72 HazMat 2 2 2 4 2 4 63 2 2 25 63 26 10 0 74 11 0 0 0 0 0 0 00 00 0 0 000 0 0 00000 00 % 000 7 0 0 Fire Threat Complaint 0 0 0 4 0 0 0 7 ~ 0 0 4 0 0 0 0 0000000 **Area Totals** Area Totals Area Totals **Area Totals** Western Branch Mecklenburg Buncombe McDowell Mitchell Cherokee Alexander Alleghany Cleveland Watauga Area 13 Catawba Haywood Cabarrus Graham Caldwell Madison Yancey Gaston Rowan Iredell Stanly Ashe Avery Swain

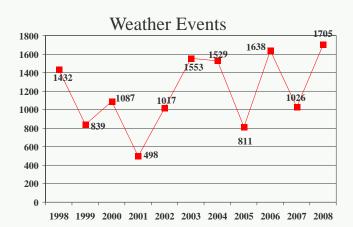
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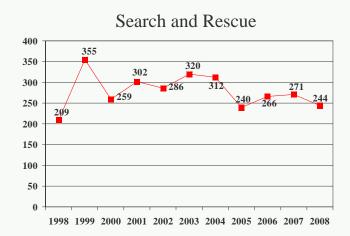
	Bomb Threat	Bomb Threat Complaint Fire	Fire	A N	HazMat	Homeland Security	NON FNF	Other	SAR Tra	insportation	Other SAR Transportation Wastewater Weather WMD	Weather	WMD	Total
Western Branch														
Area 15														
Clay	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	2
Henderson	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	7	0	0	0	_	0	10
Jackson	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	-	4	~	0	2	0	11
Macon	_	0	9	0	8	0	0	3	2	~	-	3	0	28
Polk	0	0	2	0	9	0	0	7	-	0	0	4	0	15
Rutherford	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	3	1	0	1	0	10
Transylvania	0	2	2	0	9	0	0	2	1	1	7	4	0	28
Area Totals	1	9	10	0	38	0	0	11	14	4	8	15	0	104
Branch Totals	10	25	27	0	303	0	0	77	126	13	150	153	1	885
Year-To-Date Totals	16	54	85	9	1,057	w	3	198 244	244	36	471	1,705	1	3,881

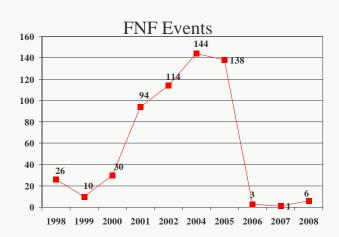
Yearly Trends in Key Areas

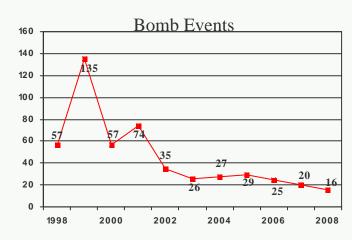












Emergency Management Contact Numbers

Directors Office 919-733-3825 FAX 919-733-5406 24-Hour Communications 800-858-0368 Local Phone 919-733-3942 Secure Phone 919-715-4949 FAX 919-733-7554 SARA Hotline 800-451-1403 E-Mail nceoc@ncem.org Website www.nccrimecontrol.org