



George County Board of Supervisors
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George County selects new Emergency Management Director

The Board of Supervisors unanimously selected Rocky Creek's Nancy Smith as the County's new Emergency Management Director. Smith started fulltime on Dec. 3 and has already responded to three emergencies- diesel tank accident, Courthouse bomb threat, and Christmas Day tornados.

"It has been a busy first month, but that is emergency management," Smith explained.

Smith has been with the County for 12 years, including eight years as the County's Emergency Management Assistant. She has earned more than 60 certifications from FEMA and MEMA including: Hurrevac, Hazardous Materials Prevention, and Public Assistance Process. One of Smith's first goals is to grow the Local Emergency Preparedness Committee (LEPC).



"Preparing for local emergencies is not just a government responsibility. Everyone needs to think preparation. LEPC allows businesses, churches, and community leaders to work directly with County officials to prepare for disasters that may occur in George County," Smith said.

The County's long time EMA Director, Loraine Howell remains a vital part of the emergency management team. Howell has transferred positions and is now 911 Dispatch Director and remains the County's Fire Coordinator. Supervisor Kelly Wright says this reorganization is going to improve both departments.

"Loraine brings a tremendous amount of experience and management training into 911 Dispatch. Nancy has the background and skill to take over emergency management," Wright says.

The 911 Dispatch Center is staffed with eight full time and two part time employees which operates 24 hours a day. The center answers all 911 calls and dispatches county law enforcement, fire, first responders, ambulances, and transfers calls to the Lucedale Police Department.

"The Emergency Management office is responsible for response and recovery of both natural and man-made disasters," explains Smith. "The office works closely with local, state, and federal governments, businesses, industries, and volunteers. Hurricane preparation is just one small part of this job. We strive to be a well prepared agency."

For more information on the EMA office or to schedule training sessions, call 601-947-7557. The next LEPC meeting will be Friday, March 1 at 1:30 p.m. at the Administrative Office Building located at 329 Ratliff Street in Lucedale. The public is encouraged to attend.