



# News Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – May 18, 2012

*City of Fayetteville*

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*Cumberland County*

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## **County Hosts Weapons of Mass Destruction Training Exercise Media Invited to May 22 Event**

(Fayetteville, N.C.) – Cumberland County Emergency Services is hosting a full-scale training exercise regarding weapons of mass destruction on May 22 from 9:30 a.m. – noon at the Crown Expo Center on East Mountain Drive.

Emergency Services received a \$45,000 grant from North Carolina Emergency Management to conduct both tabletop and full-scale exercises. Agencies participating include Cumberland County Emergency Services; Sheriff's Office; Fayetteville Fire and Police Departments; Cape Fear Valley Hospital System Emergency Medical Services; Spring Lake, Cotton and Stedman Fire Departments; Public Health Department; Social Services and the Crown Center.

The county contracted with EnviroSafe, a training and consulting company based out of Graham, N.C., to conduct the exercise that will test a coordinated response by local agencies, particularly the city's hazardous materials unit and the county's bomb squad. It will also include hazardous materials decontamination. Spring Lake, Cotton and Stedman Fire Departments have mass decontamination units, which will be called upon during the event.

Gene Booth, the county's Emergency Management Officer, says that to his knowledge this is the first time a full-scale exercise has been conducted by a county in the state involving WMD to this extent.

"We are looking forward to working with the county and municipal agencies to test our coordination and response during a large-scale event involving a terrorist threat," Booth said.

### **MEDIA INVITE**

Media are invited to cover the exercise and should report to the Dining Room located between the Expo Center and the Agriculture Building between 9:30-11 a.m. Public information representatives from the city and county will be available to escort media.

To set up a visit during the exercise, call 910-437-1921 prior to May 22 or call 910-624-0839 on that day.

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