City and County Participate in State Hurricane Drill

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – State emergency medical teams will hold a mock disaster exercise in Cumberland County this week to test the state's readiness to care for medically fragile home-bound residents following disasters. The Medical Support Shelter preparedness drill is sponsored by the Office of Emergency Medical Services, part of the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services.

Mock patients will arrive on Thursday, May 3 at 9 a.m. at the Medical Support Shelter (MSS) at the Smith Recreation Center. A team of evaluators will be checking setup operations and responses to mock patients.

The MSS is a shelter of last resort and is intended to serve only people who have nowhere else to go after other community resources have become overwhelmed. It is supported by local healthcare professionals, State Medical Response Teams, community hospitals, human services agencies, local law enforcement and staff from host facilities.

Local agencies participating in the drill include Emergency Management officials from the City of Fayetteville and Cumberland County; the Fayetteville Fire Department; Cape Fear Valley Emergency Medical Services; Fayetteville Cumberland Parks and Recreation; Cumberland County Department of Social Services; Department of Public Health; Mental Health Center and Animal Control. The Fayetteville Police Department will assist with security needs. The Fayetteville Area System of Transit (FAST) will provide a bus and driver to transport mock patients.

What: Exercise testing state medical response for mock hurricane
When: May 3, 2012
Where: Smith Recreation Center, 1520 Slater Ave., Fayetteville, May 3
Contact: Jim Jones, 919-855-4840 (work) or 919-880-2249 (cell) – Public Information Office with NC DHHS

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