



## News Release



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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Emergency Services, Partners Hold Successful Haz-Mat Exercise**

FAYETTEVILLE – Cumberland County Emergency Services, Fayetteville Fire and Police departments and other partners held a full-scale hazardous materials training exercise July 22 at the junction of Bragg Boulevard and Interstate 295.

The multi-agency exercise tested operational coordination, mass care services, communications, situational assessment and public health and medical services. The exercise simulated exposure to a radiological agent contained inside highway construction equipment used to measure road density. Role players portrayed thieves who stole the equipment and unknowingly exposed themselves to radiation when they placed the equipment in their vehicle. Participants in the scenario had to coordinate a proper emergency response and decontamination procedures for the vehicle occupants and the first responders exposed to the radiological material in the vehicle.

“The full-scale exercise was very successful and helped us identify some areas we can improve,” said Cumberland County Emergency Management Coordinator Gene Booth. “We are always looking for ways to improve our process and procedures for the safety of the public we serve.”

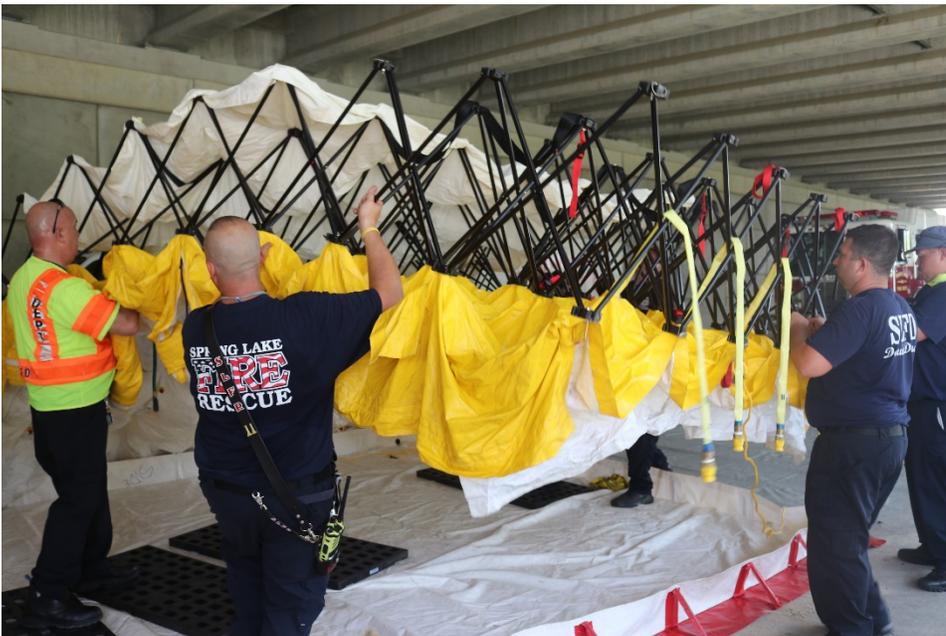
The Cumberland County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) sponsored the exercise. Participating partners included Cape Fear Valley Hospital and EMS, Spring Lake Fire Department, Fort Bragg Fire Department and the Fayetteville Area System of Transit.

The N.C. Department of Transportation granted the Local Emergency Planning Committee use of the area for the exercise and funding was provided through a U.S. Department of Transportation Hazardous Materials Preparedness Grant.

The Cumberland County LEPC serves as a liaison between industry and the community to ensure chemical emergency response planning and programs are in place.



First responders treat two role players portraying victims of radiological exposure during a full-scale hazardous materials training exercise July 22 at the junction of Bragg Boulevard and Interstate 295.



Fire and rescue personnel set up a decontamination tent during a full-scale hazardous materials training exercise July 22 at the junction of Bragg Boulevard and Interstate 295. The multi-agency exercise tested operational coordination, mass care services, communications, situational assessment and public health and medical services.

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