



# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Central Maintenance Observes Severe Weather Week By Practicing Disaster Preparedness During Power Outage**

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – Cumberland County’s Central Maintenance Facility is turning a scheduled power outage into an opportunity to rehearse disaster preparedness during North Carolina Severe Weather Awareness Week March 3-9. The Central Maintenance Facility is conducting fleet vehicle maintenance operations without electricity while upgraded wiring is installed for a new heating and air conditioning system. The power will be out until at least Friday, March 8.

In the event of a real disaster and power outage, Central Maintenance’s eight employees would still be responsible for keeping all county vehicles on the road. County government has 533 vehicles, including the 325 public safety and sheriff’s office vehicles, in its fleet. Fleet Supervisor Ronald Cooper said the event simulates conditions during a disaster. With the exception of vehicle lifts powered by a generator, all other vehicle maintenance will be accomplished without power tools and all work orders will be done with a pencil and paper instead of computer. Work in the garage is being done with natural lighting provided by open bays and skylights.

“This is a good lesson and good training opportunity for central maintenance,” Cooper said. “In a real disaster, we would still have to work around the clock without power, or until the disaster is over.”

Cumberland County Emergency Services encourages citizens to learn about severe weather preparedness at their webpage, [http://www.co.cumberland.nc.us/emergency\\_mgmt/](http://www.co.cumberland.nc.us/emergency_mgmt/) or the National Weather Service page at <http://www.weather.gov/rah/2013ncswaw>.

You can sign up for CodeRED, a free emergency notification system, to receive severe weather alerts. Go to the county’s homepage at [www.co.cumberland.nc.us](http://www.co.cumberland.nc.us) and click on the CodeRED icon.

You can also keep up with weather advisories on the Emergency Services’ Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CumberlandCountyNC911>.

The Central Maintenance Facility is at 426 Mayview St. For more information about the department, go to [http://www.co.cumberland.nc.us/central\\_maintenance.aspx](http://www.co.cumberland.nc.us/central_maintenance.aspx).

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Cumberland County Central Maintenance mechanic David Cameron changes the motor oil in an Animal Control truck March 6 in the county's garage at 426 Mayview St.

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