



**ARKANSAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

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Director's Message



The Arkansas Division of Emergency Management (ADEM) provides 24/7 coverage and is ready to respond to the state in the event of a natural or man-made emergency or disaster. We work daily with the 75 counties, state agencies, federal agencies, private sector, and volunteer agencies coordinating a myriad of programs, training, and activities to better prepare Arkansas in the event of an emergency. Planning and preparing for disasters or emergencies is a daily challenge.

The experiences and lessons learned in responding to natural and manmade disasters, is invaluable to our ongoing efforts to prepare Arkansas and Arkansans for future disasters. ADEM will utilize these lessons as we enhance our plans and procedures. We share Governor Sander's vision to coordinate resources, expertise, and leadership to respond to and recovery from disasters, while protecting the lives, environment, and property of the people of Arkansas.

We achieve and sustain resilience through preparedness, collaboration, and strong partnerships in the shared commitment to saving lives and protecting property.

We pledge our full support and consider it a privilege to serve the State of Arkansas.



A.J. Gary
Director and State Homeland Security Advisor

Motto

ADEM employees guarantee timely and compassionate service to the residents of Arkansas before, during, and after disaster. We will be there for you as "Your Partner in Preparedness."

MISSION

Arkansas Division of Emergency Management (ADEM) provides efficient state level leadership, resources, and coordination for a comprehensive all-hazards approach to emergencies and disasters impacting Arkansas.

VISION

ADEM will be a recognized partner in Arkansas' emergency management system for providing quality protection, prevention, mitigation, response, and recovery to individuals and communities across the State.

CORE VALUES

Leadership: Creating an environment for success among all of our partners.

Excellence: Providing the highest quality service to the citizens of Arkansas.

Teamwork: Working together for the good of all; ensuring public safety and public trust.

Compassion: Providing selfless service to the citizens of Arkansas before, during and after a disaster.





Tina Owens, Executive Deputy Director

Human Resources

The Human Resources (HR) branch spent significant energy and focus on our ongoing work with the Department of Public Safety's HR office and ADEM Finance on the reclassification of ADEM positions. This is consistent with ADEM's internal organization changes for the purpose of improving on services we provide to the citizens of Arkansas.

In addition, the HR Branch has processed the below Master Data changes:

- 6 Rehire actions
- 3 Transfer actions
- 13 Termination actions
- 4 Retirement actions
- 2 DROP actions
- 11 Hires
- 15 Promotions
- 3 Demotions

Public Information Office

The Public Information Officer (PIO) is charged with helping further the agency's mission. This is done by working with each program and being knowledgeable of the duties. As the spokesperson for the agency, the PIO works to make the public aware of the agency and how it affects them, especially during times of disaster and emergencies. The PIO is very integral during times of disaster or emergencies, whether working from the Emergency Operations Center, working collaboratively with other agencies from a Joint Information Center or out in the community, the PIO must provide alert, Public Service Announcements, warning and safety information in a timely and accurate manner.

- The PIO worked with ADEM Recovery & Mitigation and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for eight months after the March 31, 2023 tornado.
 - ◊ Worked out of the State Emergency Operations Center as the storm struck the area.
 - ◊ Provided the public with safety information leading up to, during, and after the storm.
 - ◊ Provided guidance to local jurisdictions on getting out information to the public.
 - ◊ PIO was on the ground with the Director, the Governor, ADEM Response and Recovery staff, and FEMA hours after the tornado.
 - ◊ Collected details and latest information to help develop talking points.
 - ◊ Helped to organize tours and visits of the affected area.
 - ◊ Helped get out pertinent information to the tornado survivors, the media and the public at large.
 - ◊ Conducted TV, phone, and virtual interviews with local, state, and national media.
 - ◊ Worked with FEMA External Affairs to make survivors aware of how they could apply for assistance, and provided information on clean-up, disposal and safety.
 - ◊ Joined ADEM and FEMA teams for damage assessments.



March 31 tornado damage in Wynne

- Served on and contributed to the Department of Public Safety (DPS) Communications team as the ADEM Public Information Officer.
- Took part in the Community Development Institute Conference at UCA to present on Crisis Communication Planning.
- Was the guest speaker for Arkansas Tech University Lunch and Learn series.
- Took part in emergency management and public information seminar at Arkansas Tech University.
- Worked closely with other agency program personnel; visited many events and conferences dealing with their program area.
- Spoke at several conferences, including the Interdepartmental Relations Committee (IRC) Conference for Administrative Professionals.
- The PIO continued management of the social media platforms providing content and information.
- Continued work to expand ADEM's presence across all social media platforms by using more videos.
- Involved in Eclipse Planning, served on a panel at Arkadelphia Chamber regarding eclipse.



Top left: Wynne field visit with FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell, ADEM Director A.J. Gary, and FEMA Regional Administrator Tony Robinson



Top right: Governor Sarah Sanders and ADEM Director A.J. Gary visit impact areas in Little Rock (Cantrell Road)



March 31 SEOC activation



dps.arkansas.gov/emergency-management/adem



AR_Emergencies



@ar_emergencies



@ARmanagesemergencies



ARemergencies

Preparedness & Response



Scott Bass, Deputy Director

Preparedness and Response coordinates with Emergency Management and other community partners to prepare for, coordinate with, respond to, and help recover from natural and manmade disasters/emergencies. This section oversees many programs that coordinate directly with local, state, federal, non-governmental organizations and private sector agencies.

Planning

ADEM Planning Branch staff provided technical assistance to develop and maintain continuity of operations plans for thirteen state agencies. Members of the ADEM Planning Branch have become certified assessors for the Emergency Management Accreditation Program to ensure that ADEM stays an accredited program and to assist other state agencies that may be interested in the accreditation process.

Each year, the Planning Branch reaches out to fifteen to seventeen local emergency management coordinators to offer technical assistance toward updating their emergency operations plans. Counties contacted for 2023 were Fulton, Randolph, Clay, Izard, Sharp, Lawrence, Greene, Independence, Jackson, Craighead, Mississippi, Poinsett, Woodruff, Cross, Crittenden, St. Francis, and Lee.

To increase Earthquake Awareness and Preparedness, the Earthquake Preparedness Planner reaches out to schools and businesses across the State to sign them up for the national ShakeOut earthquake drill that occurs every year on the third Thursday in October.

74,881 Arkansans participated in the ShakeOut drill in 2023.



Paris Hillman, ADEM Preparedness Planner, participating in the annual Shakeout drill.

Training & Exercise

Training Courses – 114 in total

- 46 Emergency Management - 888 participants
- 68 Hazardous Materials - 1,424 participants

State Exercises – 5 in total

- Active Shooter - 38 participants
- Amateur Radio Workshop - 9 participants
- Disaster Financial Management Workshop
 - ◇ 8/23/23 - 7 participants
 - ◇ 11/3/23 - 10 participants
- Winter Havoc - 44 participants

Exercise Trainings

- Exercise Training Class
 - ◇ 5 Classes - 53 participants
- IPPW Trainings
 - ◇ 6 Classes - 120 Participants
- L -146 HSEEP Trainings
 - ◇ Harrison - 10 participants
 - ◇ Batesville - 18 participants
 - ◇ Camden - 21 participants
 - ◇ Dardanelle - 22 participants

Local Exercises – 75 in total

- 980 participants



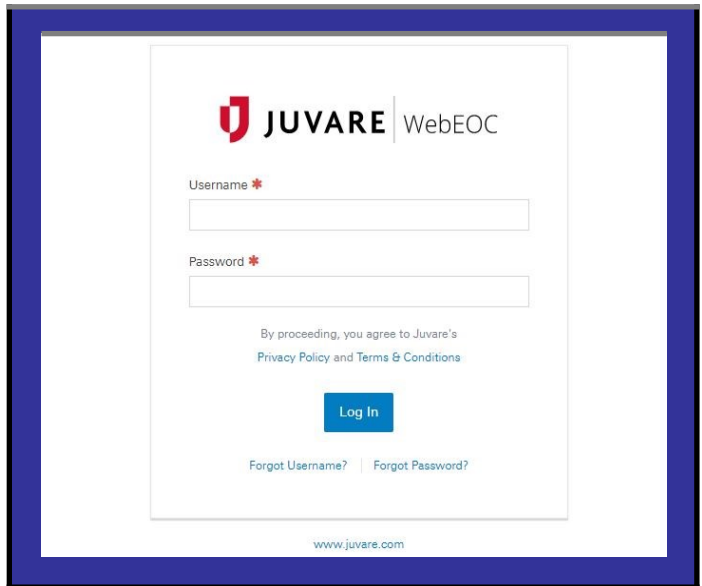
Hazardous Materials Training

Operations

This branch is dedicated to ensuring that the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) is ready to respond during times of disasters by conducting planning, training, exercising, and coordination to include acting as a liaison to various levels of government officials, non-governmental organizational representatives, and private sector partners. Part of the planning responsibilities include the development and maintenance of operational plans such as the SEOC Plan and annexes, the New Madrid Seismic Zone Earthquake Plan, Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) Plan and annexes, and Standard Operating Guidelines. The Operations Branch is also responsible for the oversight and development of incident management software like WebEOC and ArcGIS, as well as being over the EMAC for the state, which is a state-to-state mutual aid program.

The SEOC supports local jurisdictions by providing requested resources, information, advice, strategic assistance, and communication. The SEOC implores the use of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS) as the basic concept for operation and can be activated at one of three activation levels which allows for flexibility to match the manpower requirements commiserate with the mission requirements.

- SEOC Activity
 - ◊ 16 events created in WebEOC
 - ◊ 10 Increased Preparedness Activations
 - ◊ 3 Full Activations
 - * Governor's Inauguration
 - * 1/31/23 Winter Weather
 - * 3/31/23 Severe Weather
- Training
 - ◊ 29 SEOC training sessions
 - ◊ 290 personnel trained
- Planning
 - ◊ 2023 SEOC Plan and Annexes – updated May 2023
 - ◊ 2023 SEOC Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG) – updated May 2023
 - ◊ 2023 Alternate EOC SOG – updated May 2023
 - ◊ 2023 Blackout System/Procedures – updated May 2023
- WebEOC
 - ◊ Continued enhancement of WebEOC. Local Emergency Management training conducted August 2023





Emergency Management Assistance Compact

Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)

EMAC is a national mutual aid system, which was established in 1996. Fifty states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Mariana Islands have all put legislation in place to become members of the compact. The compact allows member states to share resources during a governor-declared emergency. Arkansas enacted Arkansas Code 12-49-402 in 1997 to become a member state of EMAC.

- EMAC Plan updated December 2022
- EMAC Advance Team (A-Team) – Arkansas has certified nine members as EMAC A-Team members, to include seven ADEM staff and two National Guard Representatives.
- EMAC Deployments – Louisiana, Wildfire Response: Two UH-60s and crew from Arkansas National Guard (Estimated \$670,000)



Arkansas National Guard - Louisiana Wildfire Response

Top left: 77th Combat Aviation Brigade (9/5/23)

Top right: Soldiers from the Brigade (9/6/23)

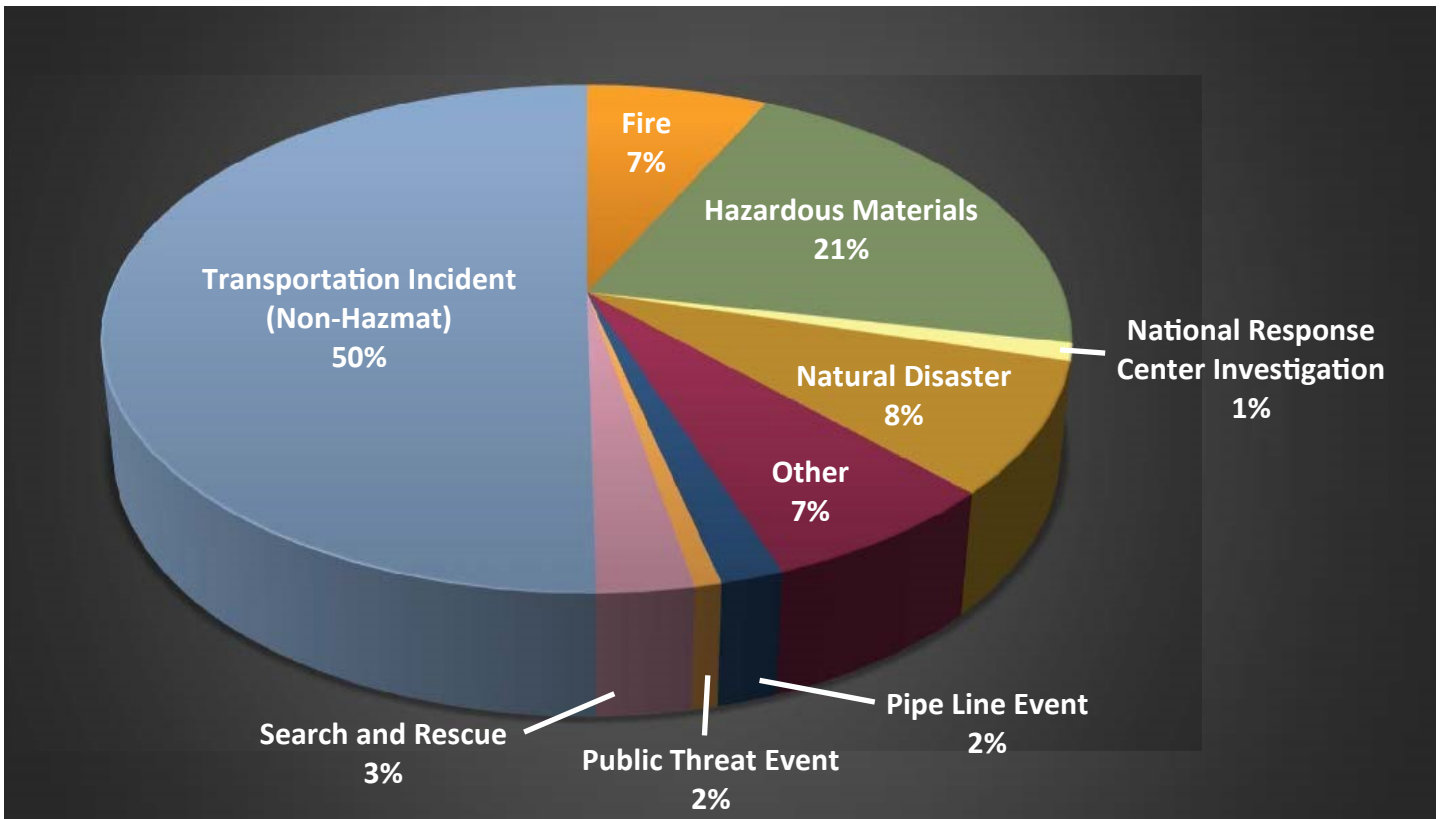
Bottom left: Two crews from the 77th Theater Aviation Brigade (9/1/23)



Arkansas State Watch Office (ASWO)

ASWO is the 24/7 state warning and notification point for the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). The ASWO is responsible for situation awareness, and providing critical notification and resource support to partner agencies during statewide incidents and emergencies. The ASWO is also responsible for mobilizing the ADEM Mobile Command Vehicle to support local emergency management and incident command for on-scene coordination and support.

Reported Emergency Management Incidents: 2,243



Other Incidents	
Animal Disease Emergency	5
Aviation Incident	14
Miscellaneous Impact	24
Pre-Disaster	3
Radioactive Material Movement	59
Special Event	28
Utility Failure	18
Water Shortage	3

Emergency Management Numbers by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Number of Incidents
Arkansas	21
Ashley	10
Baxter	22
Benton	76
Boone	31
Bradley	6
Calhoun	11
Carroll	65
Chicot	14
Clark	16
Clay	9
Cleburne	12
Cleveland	14
Columbia	11
Conway	18
Craighead	42
Crawford	37
Crittenden	57
Cross	6
Dallas	10
Desha	11
Drew	12
Faulkner	54
Franklin	30
Fulton	13
Garland	45

Jurisdiction	Number of Incidents
Grant	8
Greene	15
Hempstead	25
Hot Spring	33
Howard	14
Independence	71
Izard	10
Jackson	22
Jefferson	61
Johnson	15
Lafayette	9
Lawrence	44
Lee	5
Lincoln	13
Little River	13
Logan	10
Lonoke	60
Madison	15
Marion	6
Miller	48
Mississippi	55
Monroe	10
Montgomery	13
Nevada	15
Newton	7
Ouachita	23

Jurisdiction	Number of Incidents
Perry	5
Phillips	18
Pike	30
Poinsett	88
Polk	7
Pope	72
Prairie	14
Pulaski	245
Randolph	10
Saline	67
Scott	19
Searcy	7
Sebastian	39
Sevier	16
Sharp	12
St. Francis	24
Stone	13
Union	43
Van Buren	14
Washington	81
White	53
Woodruff	7
Yell	20
State of Arkansas	66



ADEM Duty Officers assisted ASP in support of Public Safety Officials with the 2023 State Fair

Field Operations

This branch is committed to assisting and supporting local jurisdictions in all five core components of a comprehensive emergency management program: Prevention, Protection, Response, Recovery, and Mitigation.

The ADEM Area Coordinator serves as a liaison to local jurisdictions representing ADEM to promote and expand the role of Emergency Management in the State of Arkansas.

Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs)

January 2-3 Severe Storms

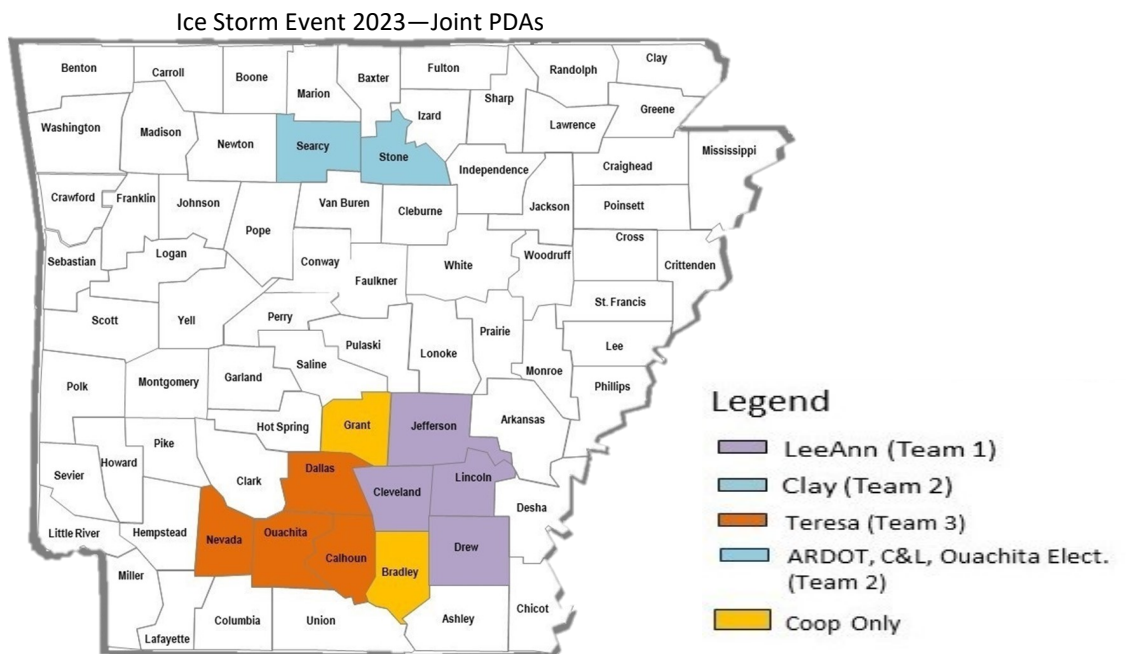
SE Area Coordinator conducted PDAs in Ashley, Phillips, Arkansas, and Lincoln counties. SW Area Coordinator conducted a PDA in Garland County for the tornado that hit the Jessieville School. There were four tornadoes confirmed by the National Weather Service (NWS) during this event.

January 31 Winter Storm

Area Coordinators conducted damage assessments in Drew, Cleveland, Jefferson, Lincoln, Stone, Searcy, Nevada, Ouachita, Calhoun, and Dallas Counties. Twenty-two jurisdictions participated in the damage assessments. This event resulted in a Federal disaster declaration.



Above (left and right): Courtesy of National Weather Service - Little Rock



February Severe Storms/Flooding

Area Coordinators performed damage assessments in Conway and Scott Counties. Drainage infrastructure was overwhelmed, creating washouts and issues at and around culverts and bridges.



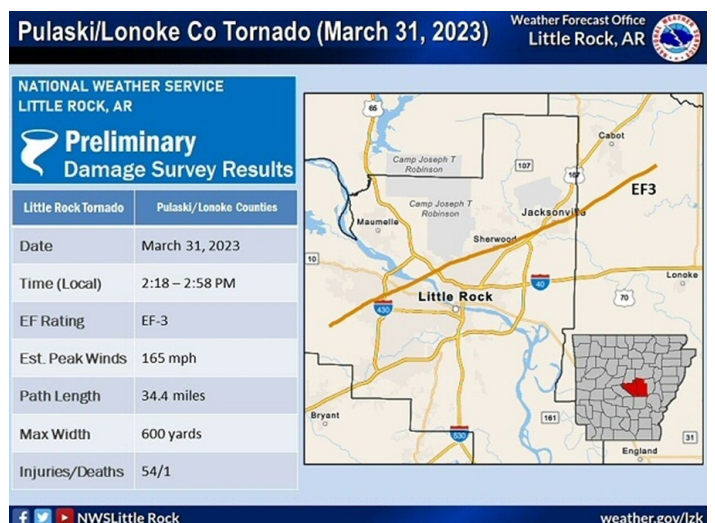
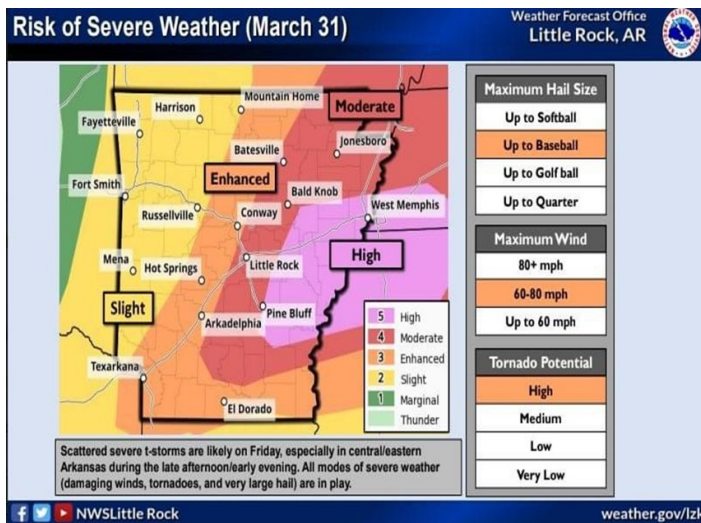
March 24 Severe Storms/Flooding

Damage assessments were conducted in Cross, Johnson, and Van Buren Counties as a result of flash flooding.



March 31 Tornadoes

Area Coordinators responded to Central and Northeast Arkansas because of heavy damage to major metropolitan areas in Little Rock, North Little Rock, Sherwood, Jacksonville and the City of Wynne (Cross County). Ultimately, nine counties were impacted and reported damage to the State Watch Office. The Field Operations Branch was heavily involved in the response phase by assisting with making resource requests, being involved in local emergency operations centers, participating in briefings, conducting damage surveys and ongoing involvement in the recovery phase by working in conjunction with FEMA Public Assistance Staff and each applicant as they navigated getting projects written for reimbursement of eligible expenses as a result of their response to the event.



Courtesy of National Weather Service - Little Rock



Above: Drone footage captured in the City of Little Rock

Right: Baptist Disaster Relief team working with ADEM staff to off-load tarps and wood slats for installing the tarps. These resources were provided through ADEM and made available to jurisdictions, as requested, to cover damaged homes.



Bottom left: Debris contractor working in Burns Park, North Little Rock

Bottom right: US Senator John Boozman touring and visiting with senior leaders in the City of Jacksonville

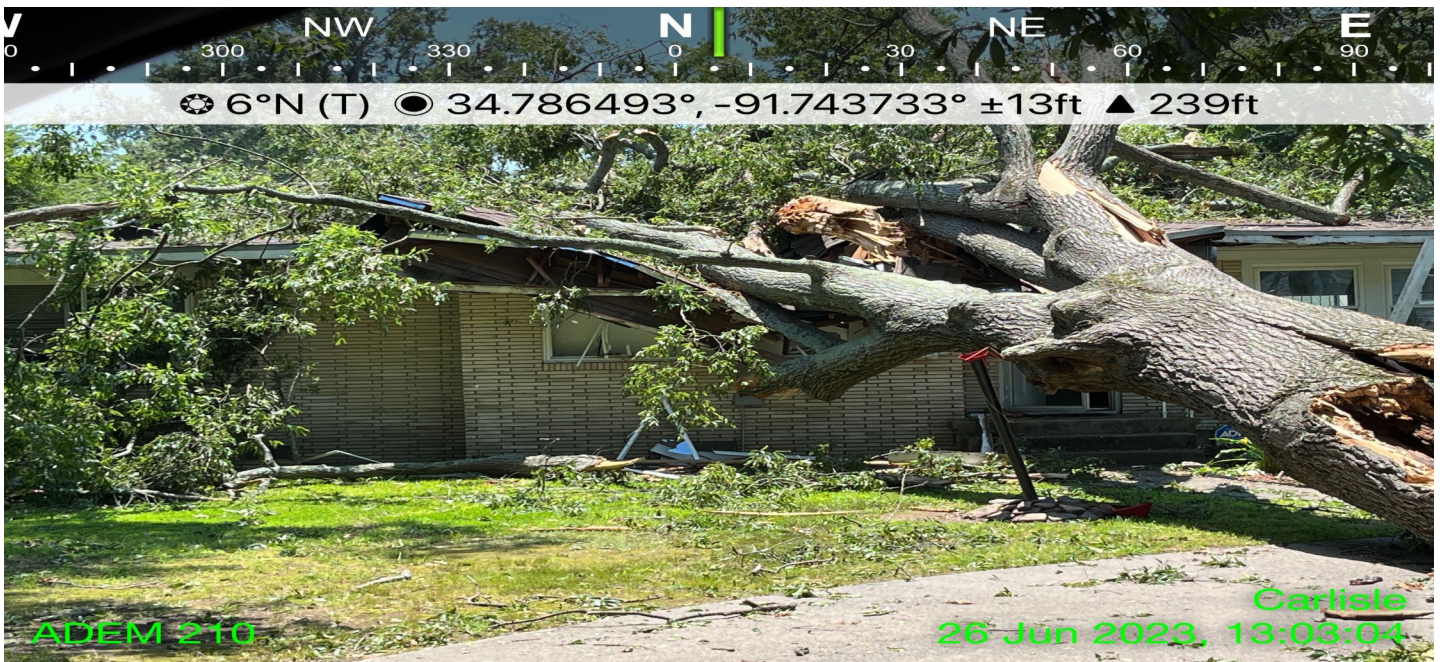


June 18 Severe Storms

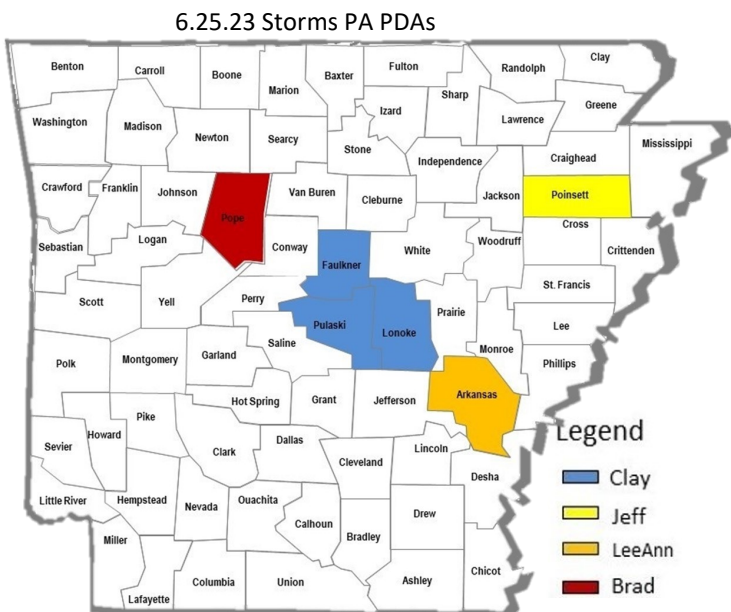
City of Crossett, City of Hamburg, and City of Wilmot were impacted by severe storms resulting in a State disaster declaration for assistance with debris cleanup as a result of the storms. The SE Area Coordinator conducted damage assessments and submitted information in order for Ashley County to receive the disaster designation.

June 25 Severe Storms

Damage assessments were conducted in Pope, Faulkner, Pulaski, Lonoke, Arkansas, and Poinsett Counties as a result of damages that occurred from this event. Straight line winds were responsible for widespread power outages and trees blown down across the state with the heaviest of impacts visible in Cities of Conway, Carlisle, Lonoke, Russellville and Marked Tree. Area Coordinators were assigned to conduct joint damage assessments with FEMA and Small Business Administration (SBA), which resulted in a Federal disaster declaration.



Above: Home in Carlisle. Below: Wynne High School



July 12 Severe Storms

Nevada County was impacted by severe storms and flash flooding across its road system resulting in culverts and roadways being washed out. The SW Area Coordinator performed damage inspections to capture the costs of the event to see if they qualified for disaster assistance to make the necessary repairs.



Large Project Inspections: Multiple project inspections were completed as requested by the Recovery Branch to ensure the repair work was in fact completed based upon the agreed scope of work before receiving their final reimbursement payments.

Area Meetings: Each Area Coordinator continued to have area meetings each quarter. These area meetings provide an opportunity for each local emergency manager in that region to collaborate, share best practices, and serve as relationship building opportunities with surrounding emergency managers and subject matter experts whom they may be called upon to assist or work with during an event. Guest speakers are brought in to share their products and or services as well to display the available resources and assets that may be of use during a time of need.

Recovery & Mitigation



Jodi Lee, Deputy Director

Recovery and Mitigation promote the short-term and long-term resilience of Arkansas' communities by supporting initiatives and managing the state and federal grant programs that fortify housing and infrastructure against disasters. These two areas of emergency management work hand in hand because the decisions and investments made in hazard mitigation directly contribute to overall disaster recovery.

The Recovery and Mitigation staff also make up the majority of the State staff deployed to a Joint Field Office with FEMA on federally declared emergencies and disasters.

Recovery

The Recovery Branch works with individuals as well as local governments, state agencies, and private non-profit organizations affected by an incident to recover effectively, including but not limited to: rebuilding infrastructure systems; providing assistance to individuals for repairs and replacement of personal belongings; restoring health, social, and community services; promoting economic development; and restoring natural and cultural resources. The Recovery Branch is on standby for any potential disaster that may occur in the state, which includes severe weather, severe winter weather, flooding, wildfires, pandemics, etc.

2023 Funds Disbursed for Eligible Recovery Grants

\$459,300.00	State Individual Assistance
\$19,284,557 .00	Federal Individual Assistance
\$193,452.77	State Public Assistance
<u>\$148,632,345.20</u>	Federal Public Assistance
\$168,569,654.97	Total disbursed in 2023

State Disasters

Individual Assistance

Arkansas, Ashley, Clay, Garland, Lincoln, and Phillips Counties – Severe Storms, Tornadoes, and Flooding – January 2, 2023



Arkansas, Ashley, Clay, Garland, Lincoln, and Phillips Counties were impacted by severe weather that caused widespread damage to residential property. The Governor issued a State disaster declaration, and the Individual Assistance Program was authorized. A call center was established to take Individual Assistance applications from January 30 through February 10, 2023. For this event, there were 175 Individual Assistance applications taken, and a total of \$459,300.00 paid to disaster survivors.

Arkansas, Faulkner, Lonoke, Mississippi, Poinsett, Pulaski, and Pope Counties – Severe Storms and Straight-Line Winds – June 25, 2023

Arkansas was impacted by severe storms and straight-line winds that caused widespread damage throughout the state in Arkansas, Faulkner, Lonoke, Mississippi, Poinsett, Pulaski, and Pope Counties. The storm produced up to grapefruit-sized hail, 60-100 mph winds and two tornados, one in Pope County and another in Pulaski County. Multiple counties reported downed utility poles, downed trees, and damage to homes from fallen trees. The Governor issued a State Disaster Declaration and the Individual Assistance Program was authorized.

A call center was established in partnership with Arkansas 211 to take Individual Assistance Applications from November 20 through December 1, 2023. For this event, there were 88 Individual Assistance applications taken, and the ADEM Individual Assistance staff continue to process these applications for the State Individual Assistance Program.



Public Assistance

Clay County – Severe Storms, Tornadoes, and Flooding – January 2, 2023

Clay County was impacted by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding that caused widespread damage throughout the county. This included damage to county roads, culverts, bridges, and water lines. The Governor issued that Clay County be declared a disaster area, and authorized the State Public Assistance Program to be activated. The damage estimated at \$387,589.46



Conway County – Severe Storms and Flooding – February 8, 2023

Conway County was impacted by severe storms and flooding that caused widespread damage throughout the county. The damage included multiple roads and culverts. The Governor issued that Conway County be declared a disaster area, and authorized the State Public Assistance Program to be activated. The damage estimated at \$149,288.68.

Scott County – Severe Storms, Tornadoes, and Flooding – March 1, 2023



Scott County was impacted by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding that caused widespread damage throughout the county. The damage included multiple roadways and water crossings throughout the county. The Governor issued that Scott County be declared a disaster area, and authorized the State Public Assistance Program to be activated. The damage estimated at \$119,307.00.

Ashley County – Severe Storms and Straight-Line Winds – June 17, 2023

Ashley County was impacted by severe storms and straight-line winds that caused widespread damage around the county and in the Cities of Hamburg, Crossett, and Wilmot. The damage included downed trees and power lines, and widespread debris. The Governor issued that Ashley County be declared a disaster area, and authorized the State Public Assistance Program to be activated. The damage estimated at \$222,431.92.

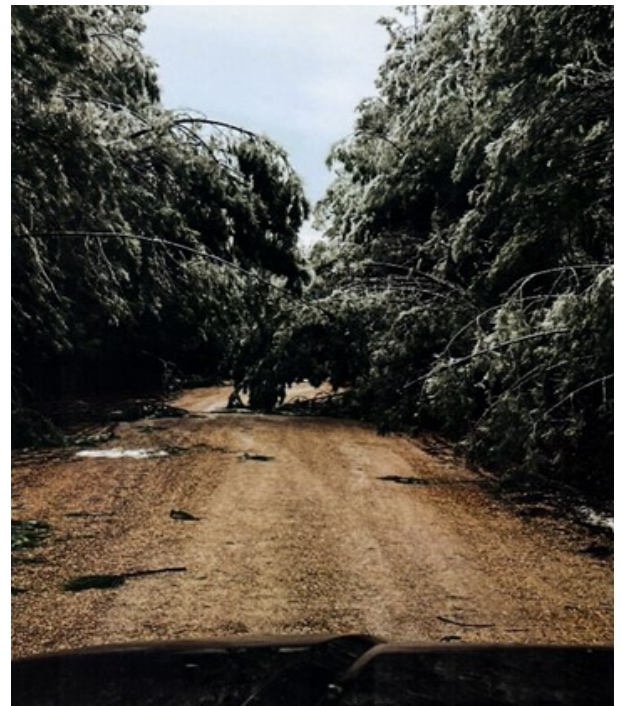
Pulaski County – Severe Storms and Straight-Line Winds – June 25, 2023

Pulaski County was impacted by severe storms and straight-line winds that caused widespread damage around the county and in the Cities of Jacksonville, Little Rock, North Little Rock, and Sherwood. Multiple counties reported downed utility poles and trees, and damage to homes from fallen trees. The Governor issued that Pulaski County be declared a disaster area, and authorized the State Public Assistance Program be activated. The damage estimated at \$1,424,010.00.

Federal Disasters

DR 4700 Severe Winter Weather – January 30 through February 2, 2023

The state was impacted with severe winter weather from January 30 through February 2 that resulted in sleet and freezing rain across the state. Up to two inches of sleet was reported across northern Arkansas with freezing rain amounts of at least a quarter inch to an inch across south/central Arkansas. This weather system caused hazardous travel conditions, 80,000 power outages, and property damage. Based upon the joint State and Federal damage assessments, a Federal declaration for Public Assistance was issued for Bradley, Calhoun, Cleveland, Dallas, Desha, Drew, Grant, Jefferson, Lincoln, Nevada, Ouachita, Searcy, and Stone Counties on April 4, 2023. To date, there have been 55 projects written totaling \$12,061,259.00.



DR 4698 Severe Storms, Tornadoes, and Flooding – March 31, 2023



The state was impacted by two EF-3 tornadoes that touched down in Pulaski County and carried on through Lonoke County. This tornado caused devastating damages to the Little Rock Metro area, which included the capital city. The second tornado tracked through Cross County devastating the city of Wynne. Five fatalities were reported. In total, nine counties were impacted by this severe storm system. The State Operation Center (SEOC) received 55 requests from the affected counties. Thirteen state agencies

and private sector organizations helped to fill requests. 150 Arkansas National Guard Troops were activated to assist local first responders. A Federal declaration for Individual Assistance and Public Assistance, as well as a declaration from the Small Business Administration, were issued for the affected counties on April 2, 2024. The initial Public Assistance estimate from this event was \$70 million, and later estimated at \$90 million in infrastructure damage. To date, there have been 129 projects written totaling \$45,142,202.04.



FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) were opened in the cities of Jacksonville, Little Rock, North Little Rock, Sherwood, and Wynne. Over 9,500 disaster survivors applied for FEMA and SBA programs. State and voluntary agencies also assisted in providing assistance to disaster survivors. To date, \$19,284,557.00 has been approved for the FEMA Individual and Household Program and the Other Needs Assistance Program for this disaster. The Small Business Administration (SBA) has also approved \$21,234,100.00 in low interest

disaster loans to homeowners and \$2,148,000.00 in business loans/Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL). In response to the tornado, the State of Arkansas participated in a non-congregate sheltering mission with the assistance of the American Red Cross. At its peak, 700 households comprised of 1,269 survivors were sheltered in 69 hotel rooms in the central and eastern parts of the state. This partnership began on April 10, 2023, but cities had been sheltering residents since the night of the storm. By the first week in September, all sheltered residents were able to exit non-congregate sheltering. The state also has an on-going Federal Direct Housing mission in Cross County. This housing mission helps provide temporary housing to residents that are in an area where non-congregate housing is not feasible. At its peak, there were 48 families eligible for the program and 45 housing units are still occupied.

In the aftermath of the March tornadoes, Cross and Pulaski Counties formed Long-Term Recovery Groups (LTRGs) with the assistance of the Arkansas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (ARVOAD). The focus of the two LTRGs is to identify and leverage



resources to cover the unmet needs of disaster survivors. LTRGs are working with case management, St. Vincent De Paul Disaster Services, and as of today they have approximately 45 clients registered. They will continue doing outreach to help disaster survivors fill their unmet needs.

DR 4748 Severe Storms and Straight-Line Winds – June 25 and 26, 2023

The state was impacted by severe storms and straight-line winds that resulted in grapefruit-sized hail, 60-100 mph straight-line winds, and two tornadoes on June 25-26. Based upon the joint State and Federal damage assessments, a Federal declaration for Public Assistance was issued for Arkansas, Faulkner, Lonoke, and Poinsett Counties on November 14, 2023. To date, there are 17 applicants for this federal disaster, and the State along with FEMA is currently working with the applicants to get projects written.



Wildfire Dangers

The Recovery Branch is on standby for any potential wildfire hazard in order to implement a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) with FEMA. This program assists in the reimbursement of equipment, supplies, and personnel, to any state, tribal, or local government for the mitigation, management, and control, within the incident period, of any declared fire on public or private forest land or grassland that threatens such destruction as would constitute a major disaster.

Mitigation

The Mitigation Branch is responsible for administering multiple state and federal mitigation grant programs. Hazard Mitigation is any action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural disasters. Hazard Mitigation planning is a process used by State and local governments to identify risks and vulnerabilities associated with natural disasters and develop mitigation strategies to reduce or eliminate long-term risks.

This year, five county mitigation plans have been approved by FEMA and several others are being developed or updated. In addition, the State of Arkansas Hazard Mitigation Plan was approved by FEMA on September 6, 2023. Approval of this plan ensures that the State will remain eligible to receive the following Stafford Act assistance and other grant programs:

- Public Assistance Categories C-G (PA C-G)
- Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAG)
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – Post Fire (HMGP – Post Fire)
- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)
- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)
- Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dam (HHPD) Grant Program

State Hazard Mitigation Grant Program assists local jurisdictions that have suffered repetitive disaster losses. This grant is a 75/25 match where the state reimburses the local jurisdiction 75% of the project cost up to \$300,000. The remaining project cost must come from local funds. This program increases the State’s resiliency by funding long-term solutions to reduce or eliminate disaster impacts.

There were 39 projects selected and awarded through the State program in 2023. These projects focused heavily on resilient infrastructure to include: large drainage improvements, critical facility generators, bridge upgrades/elevations, and pump station upgrades.



Pictures from infrastructure upgrade projects in Sheridan and Sherwood completed in 2023.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is authorized by Section 404 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. 5170c. The key purpose of HMGP is to reduce the risk of loss of life and property from future disasters by implementing critical mitigation measures during the reconstruction process following a disaster.

In 2023, Arkansas sustained three federally declared disasters, each of which provided the opportunity for impacted jurisdictions to receive grant funding. The current cumulative estimated funding amount is \$15,991,617.00, reserved for mitigation projects, planning, project scoping, and grant management.



Community safe room funded through the HMGP program used in North Little Rock during the March 31 tornado.

Projects that were awarded in 2023 from previous disaster declarations include:

- Crittenden County Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Greene County Hazard Mitigation Plan
- City of Fort Smith property acquisition and demolition project
- City of Van Buren flood control project



Jasper School District and Marshall School District community safe rooms funded through the HMGP program.

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) is an annual grant that makes non-disaster federal funds available to States, U.S territories, federally recognized tribal governments, and local communities for hazard mitigation activities. The grant consists of a state/tribal allocation as well as a competitive funding opportunity. The priorities for BRIC funding use this year were to: incentivize natural hazard risk reduction activities that mitigate risk to public infrastructure and disadvantaged communities, incorporate nature-based solutions with a focus on those designed to reduce carbon emissions, enhance climate resilience and adaptation, and increase funding for the adoption and enforcement of the latest published editions of building codes.

State allocation projects awarded in 2023 include:

- City of Greenwood property acquisition and demolition
- City of Van Buren advance assistance drainage scoping
- City of North Little Rock advance assistance drainage scoping
- Columbia County Mitigation Plan
- Dallas County Mitigation Plan
- Yell County Mitigation Plan

Additionally, the Danville School District was selected by FEMA to receive the state’s first competitive BRIC grant since the program started in 2020. The proposed multi-use safe room will have space for 1,126 occupants and include nature-based solutions such as permeable pavement. The project should also help improve storm water management and reduce future risk of flash flooding.

Governor’s Levee Grant is another state program that the Mitigation Branch administers. Sixteen projects were awarded to various jurisdictions along the Arkansas River that were impacted by the 2019 historic flooding event. Over \$10 million was disbursed for this grant program. All projects were completed and the grant closed in 2023.

Infrastructure & Support



Justin Vint, Deputy Director

Infrastructure and Support maintains the agency's equipment and resources necessary to meet the needs of the citizens of Arkansas in all types of disaster.

Critical Infrastructure

The Critical Infrastructure (CI) Branch provides assessment, information, and intel of our states critical infrastructure systems and assets to key decision makers vital to national security, public health, safety, and governance.

Intelligence Sharing and Dissemination

During 2023, progress continued on the Secure Room upgrades. The install of the sound masking system was completed and the space successfully completed sound attenuation testing. Installation of the intrusion detection system and duress alarm is almost complete. The room will then be ready for a physical security re-accreditation inspection. Upon re-accreditation, the information technology equipment installs can begin.

Fusion Center

The Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) analyst contributed to 9 Major Event Threat Assessments (METAs). In addition to the METAs, the analyst produced and distributed 25 informational bulletins to various CI stakeholders throughout the state.

Critical Infrastructure Protection

- Conducted 17 Security Assessments
- Facilitated/participated in 7 exercises
- Conducted 27 Civilian Active Shooter Trainings for a total of 755 attendees

Property & Maintenance

Help Desk Tickets

Problem = 45 (36%)

Task = 75 (60%)

Incident = 2 (2%)

Question = 2 (2%)

Information Technology (IT)

Help Desk Tickets

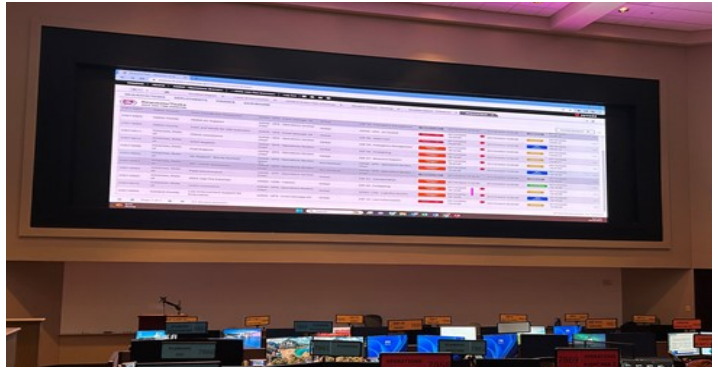
Problem = 712 (22%)

Task = 2,151(68%)

Other = 732 (12%)

Question = 43 (1%)

Incident = 277 (9%)



IT Projects

- SEOC rear projection system upgrade to LED panel 8K system
- SEOC upgrade from hardware control to software control
- Started transiting to PIV-1 cards for FEMA compliance
- Took over VOIP responsibility for ADEM assets from DIS
- Implemented Fire Marshal Computer and Licensing system to ADEM
- Modernizing the look and feel of the ADEM website
- Updating the State Fire Marshal's licensing portal for ease of access

IT Issue Resolution

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Software = 62 | • WEBEOC Changes = 17 | • Login = 133 |
| • Network = 31 | • Employee Separation = 19 | • Computer = 1,106 |
| • Camera = 5 | • Mobile device = 20 | • Email = 254 |
| • Duo = 16 | • Printers = 64 | • Hardware = 36 |
| • Group Change = 6 | • Badge = 46 | • Change of Position =5 |
| • MIFI = 1 | • Distro List = 141 | • Mobile email = 20 |
| • Network Drives = 22 | • File Restore = 107 | • Profile = 38 |
| • Spam = 180 | • IT Other = 757 | • Website Changes= 97 |

Total Tickets = 3,183





Arkansas Wireless Information Network (AWIN)

AWIN is responsible for operating and maintaining the State's public safety communications system. The AWIN objective is simple: ensure public safety personnel across all disciplines and jurisdictions can exchange information seamlessly, as authorized, on demand, and in real-time. The system is monitored 24x7x365 to carry out that objective. Issues with communications are addressed quickly; preventative maintenance is performed on each site four times a year to keep the system in top working order.

Upgrade

ADEM started a major upgrade in 2020 to ensure the AWIN system can continue to support the needs of the public safety community. Upgrade efforts include upgrading microwave infrastructure, upgrading repeater equipment, brings all repeater equipment on the system compliant with the P-25 Phase II standard, site refurbishment, and capacity and coverage enhancements.

Upgrade Activities to Date

This project began in July 2020 with the issuance of bonds to finance the upgrade. The bonds were successfully sold in December of 2020. Work on the project commenced in January of 2021.

Current status:

- **Microwave Backhaul Upgrade and Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS) Network:** The upgrade of the microwave network is being undertaken in segments, beginning in Northwest Arkansas. Evaluation and planning for the upgrade of the microwave network was completed in 2022. Equipment commenced in 2022 and continued through 2023.
- **AWIN 700/800 MHz Repeater Upgrades and the P-25 Phase II Upgrade:** These upgrades moved quickly during 2021 and were completed during the third quarter.
- **Dynamic System Resilience:** Planning and engineering analysis for this effort was finalized in 2023. Equipment installation is anticipated to begin in 2024.
- **Site Refurbishment:** Bid process underway.
- **Capacity and Coverage Enhancement:** Designs for new sites and relocation of existing sites are underway. Implementation of these changes is targeted for 2024.

Operational Statistics

- Average System Availability (uptime): 99.8%
- Average Grade of Service (completed calls): 98%
- Total number of System Tickets (January 1–December 21, 2021): 3,840
- Average number of tickets per day: 10.5
- Average time (days) to close a ticket: 1.7
- Total new talkgroups created: 22
- Total new user requests processed: 2,029

System Activity

- Voice Calls: 28,569,118
- Total Voice Call Duration: 89,728 hrs : 31 min : 26 sec
- Emergency Calls: 6,949
- Average Voice Call Duration: 11 sec
- Total Push-to-Talks: 58,722,572
- Monthly Utilization:
 - ◊ Highest - June - Voice Calls: 2,600,376
 - ◊ Lowest - February - Voice Calls: 2,056,108
- Busy Voice Calls: 20,706
 - ◊ Average Busy Wait Time: 3 sec



Finance & Grants



Kristen Robbins, Deputy Director

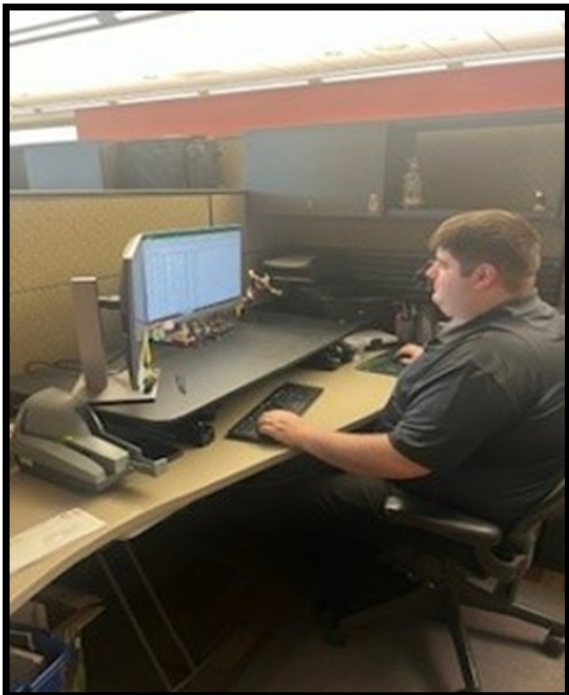
ADEM Finance and Grants is responsible for all agency financial functions including accounting, budget, procurement, and cash management.

In 2019, our division began receiving public safety fees collected by telephone service providers from commercial mobile radio service, VoIP, and prepaid wireless charges for deposit into the Public Safety Trust Fund per Act 660 of 2019.

Public Safety Trust Fund CY23

Total Disbursements	\$57,975,372.01
AR 911 Board	\$49,557,372.01
AWIN	\$8,000,000
CLEST	\$250,000
ADEM*	\$168,000

*Fund Administration



Jason Justice, Budget Specialist, works diligently to process Federal grant draws.



Marie Bjork, Purchasing Manager, works hard to process purchase orders.

During calendar year 2023, ADEM spent \$236,818,276.65 on numerous Federal and State programs.

ADEM CY23 Expenditures

Total Expenditures	\$236,818,276.65
State Operations	\$3,736,805.76
Federal Operations	\$8,662,080.02
Disaster Relief Grants	\$149,821,110.50
Federal Surplus Property Program	\$1,433,707.29
Hazardous Materials	\$713,438.40
Disaster Relief	\$50,000
Radiological Emergency Response	\$52,311.17
911 Rural Enhancements	\$2,964,096.48
Public Safety Trust	\$49,614,646.31
Public Safety Trust Administration	\$67,712.71
AWIN-Cash	\$11,007,134.31
Immediate Disaster Response	\$118,972.06
Levee Mitigation	\$1,025,467.01
EMPG-ARPA	\$506,190.17
Fire Services	\$68,686.78
Fire Prevention Services Board	\$8,000
ADEM-AWIN	\$6,830,770.72

During Calendar Year 2023, a total of \$139,697,648 was processed in grant payments to a variety of sub-recipients, through numerous programs at ADEM.

	Disaster Public Assistance	Disaster Hazard Mitigation	EMPG	Crisis Counseling	Homeland Security	911 Rural Enhancement	Levee Mitigation	Total
Cities	32,594,286	67,919	0	0	664,105	0	0	33,326,310
Counties	3,578,309	417,777	2,219,954	0	2,216,653	2,000,000	0	10,432,694
State	0	0	0	58,652	0	0	0	58,652
Schools	89,945	0	0	0	0	0	0	89,945
Levee Districts	718,980	0	0	0	0	0	1,025,467	1,744,447
Utilities	10,367,968	0	0	0	0	0	0	10,367,968
Medical Entities	82,976,879	0	0	0	0	0	0	82,976,879
Other	177,634	523,121	0	0	0	0	0	700,755
	130,504,001	1,008,817	2,219,954	58,652	2,880,757	2,000,000	1,025,467	139,697,648

Fire Protection Services



Dennis Free, State Fire Marshal

Per Act 841 of 2023, the Arkansas State Fire Marshal's Office was transferred from the Arkansas State Police to the Division of Emergency Management on July 1, 2023. At that time, the Fire Protection Services Office was formed. This office works closely with the Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board, as well as other fire agencies. The Fire Protection Services Office oversees the fire inspections for all State buildings, as well as assisting local jurisdictions with inspections and construction plan reviews. We also administer the Community Fire Prevention Grant Program and Act 833 funding for fire departments within the state.

During the six months that this office has been in place, we have completed 87 fire inspections, 127 construction plan reviews, 8 State building fire drills. The Community Fire Prevention Grant has received 8 applications for grants, with \$15,408.00 sent to 4 fire departments for fire prevention projects. Among those projects, 650 residential fire alarms were issued to 4 fire departments for distribution. Fire Protection Services issued 50 Fireworks Display permits, 65 K-12 Fireworks Display permits, 2 Importer licenses, 2 Retail Year-Round permits, and 36 Above Ground Storage Tanks permits.

In 2023, the Act 833 program certified 878 fire departments and disbursed \$18,616,927.92 to those departments.

The Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board is revamping the Community Fire Prevention Grant Program, developing a Fire Protection Service Grant per Arkansas Code 19-6-468, promulgating rules for certification and decertification of firefighters.

The Fire Protection Services Office is currently staffed with the State Fire Marshal, 2 ADEM Fire Inspectors, a Grants Analyst and a Plans Examiner.



Arkansas Federal Surplus Property



Chris Reynolds, Program Director

The Arkansas Federal Surplus Property (ARFSP) Program is governed by the General Services Administration (GSA). This unique program has the ability to acquire property that has been declared surplus by the federal government. Property is brought in from all over the world, to the State of Arkansas, and made available to eligible organizations, including: public agencies, non-profit health and education, museums, providers to the impoverished, programs for the elderly, veteran organizations, service educational activities, and organizations that qualify through the Small Business Administration.

Warehouse

Surplus Property Donations (January 1 - December 1, 2023)

Total Service Charge:	\$ 1,449,532.05
Total Acquisition Cost:	\$23,757,209.69
Fair Market Value:	\$ 5,544,932.74
Savings to Donees:	\$ 4,095,400.69
Delivery Fees:	\$ 18,227.70
Auction Loading Fees:	\$ 2,540.00

Property Numbers

Property was received from 41 different states.

Items requested: 49,628

Items approved: 41,565

Approval Rating for Items requested: 85.26%

Other Notable Activities and Benchmarks

- 2% Increase in Donees
- 5% Increase in Active Donees
- 47% Increase in Veteran Owned Small Businesses
- 25% Increase in Facebook Follows
- Donee-base increased to 1,490 accounts with 829 active participants.
 - ◊ Break-out numbers
 - ◊ Volunteer Fire Departments: 304, with 127 active
 - ◊ Veteran Owned Small Businesses: 34
- Held four webinars during the year in conjunction with SBA to present the ARFSP
- Program to Veteran Owned Small Businesses (VOSB). This collaboration helps inform and educate veterans about the benefits they have by utilizing the ARFSP Program.

National Association of State Agencies for Surplus Property (NASASP)

Arkansas is an active participant in NASASP, a non-profit organization promoting conscientious acquisition and distribution of surplus federal property through information exchange and coordination with the 56 participating agencies (U.S. States and Territories).

The 2023 NASASP Conference was held in Boise, ID, and once again the ARFSP program received “*Top Donee Partner Participation*” — our 14th year in a row! This remarkable accomplishment is a good reflection on the ARFSP Program, acknowledging our efforts on behalf of the public agencies and other eligible entities in Arkansas.

During the conference, several members of ARFSP staff were elected to leadership positions in NASASP:

- ◆ Butch Campbell, Warehouse Branch Manager, was re-elected as National Nominating Committee Chairperson.
- ◆ Gabe Horn, Acquisitions and Logistics Branch Manager, was selected as a member of the Property Oversight Committee, as well as to the Rules, Resolutions and Credentials Committee.
- ◆ Brian Jones, Compliance and Eligibility Branch Manager, was elected as Sargent-At-Arms, and as a member for the Property Oversight Committee.
- ◆ Chris Reynolds, ARFSP Program Director, was elected as National Vice President.




*Left: Chris accepting the NASASP Top Donee Partner Participation Plaque
Above: Swearing in of new National NASASP Officers. Left to right: Outgoing President Sam Sibert, ID; Secretary Nicole Alexander, MS; Vice President Chris Reynolds, AR; President Tim Bolles, MI; Treasure Kristy Fierro, TX.*



NASASP

ARFSP Donee Appreciation Day October 12, 2023

This was our 18th annual Donee Appreciation Day. We hosted 135 donees, with sales generating over \$77,000 and donation of 1,671 individual items.



Arkansas Federal Surplus Property
8700 Remount Road, North Little Rock, AR 72118
Office: (501) 835-3111 Fax: (501) 992-1008
Email: federal surplus@adem.arkansas.gov
www.dps.arkansas.gov
Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

2023 Refurbishment Contest 1st Place

Van Buren County Rescue (80915)
Award: \$500 account credit

Mobile Command Trailer

- Spent \$14,000 on refurbishment
- Stripped and repainted; added decals; installed awning over door; replaced generator; added LED scene lights; updated and repaired internal communication wiring; installed radios and computers; replaced interior lights; cleaned carpets and walls.
- Estimated cost in its current configuration \$200,000+
- Savings after donation \$186,000



2023 Refurbishment Contest 2nd Place

Turtle Creek VFD (85890)
Award \$250 account credit

High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV)

- Spent \$7,500 on refurbishment
- Converted into a brush truck.
- Sanded and repainted with Rhino Lining; fabricated a new roof; added LED lights, siren, toolboxes, water tank, pump, and accessories.
- Estimated cost in its current configuration \$85,000
- Savings after donation \$77,500



2023 Refurbishment Contest 3rd Place

University of Arkansas - Cossatot (30780)
Award \$100 account credit

Provost Coach Bus

- Spent \$25,000 on refurbishment
- Wrapped exterior with college logo; replaced tires; drained and replaced fluids; serviced engine; repaired storage compartments; steam-cleaned interior.
- Estimated cost in its current configuration \$125,000
- Savings after donation \$100,000



Summary

We reaffirm ADEM’s commitment to serving the people of Arkansas through a wealth of human capital, enhanced through partnerships, with a common mission to provide “efficient state level leadership, resources, and coordination for a comprehensive all-hazards approach to emergencies and disasters impacting Arkansas.”

