

MEMA NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2021



SPOTLIGHT: MEMA'S UAS PROGRAM

MEMA's 'Unmanned Aircraft Systems' (UAS) program led by David Battaly is taking off....literally! The state has been using drone technology since 2017, but the program has advanced exponentially under Battaly's leadership this past year. Drones have proven to be an essential part of emergency management particularly during the damage assessment process following a disaster. Although MEMA's Area Coordinators continue to utilize drones when assisting with damage assessments, they also work to integrate the evolving UAS capabilities with other response efforts. For example, the agency's nine drones are now being used to assist in search and rescue efforts, radiological mapping, providing on-site situational awareness following disasters and for GIS mapping.

MEMA's drones are equipped with thermal imaging, which is a feature that has been essential during nighttime search and rescue missions. Just a month ago, this technology proved to be lifesaving when a drone was used to locate a missing man in Jefferson Davis County.



Another recent example of MEMA's drone program in action was the response to the severe weather that impacted Yazoo County on May 2. The severe storms moved through that area in the evening, but by the time it was safe to begin response efforts it was already dark. To assist first responders in safely accessing and searching damaged homes at night, MEMA's UAS pilots provided emergency aerial lighting with their drones.

It has been exciting to see the drone program grow and evolve this past year. We'd like to acknowledge David Battaly and the Area Coordinators for all their hard work in making MEMA's UAS program a success and such an asset to the community!

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Carlos Martinez

Carlos is a valuable member of MEMA's Office of Individual Assistance. He's extremely diligent in his work and is always dependable. Not only does Carlos demonstrate professionalism while out in the field, but he also shows compassion and patience with disaster survivors and volunteers. He excels in his role and is constantly willing to go above and beyond. Thank you for all that you do, Carlos! Congratulations!

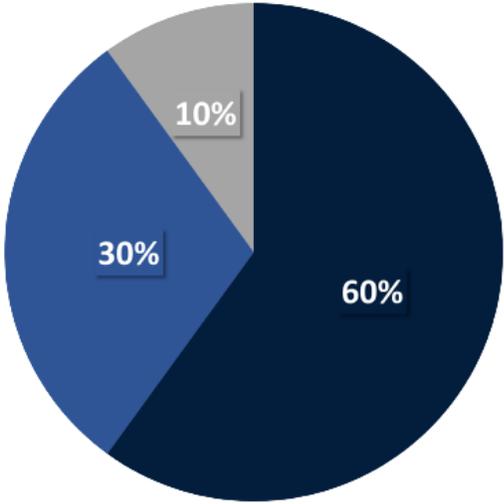


2021 HURRICANE SEASON

NOAA'S 2021 SEASON OUTLOOK

	FORECAST	AVERAGE
NAMED STORMS	13-20	14
HURRICANES	6-10	7
MAJOR HURRICANES	3-5	3

SEASON ACTIVITY PROBABILITY



2021 ATLANTIC TROPICAL CYCLONE NAMES

ANA	BILL	CLAUDETTE	DANNY	ELSA	
FRED	GRACE	HENRI	IDA	JULIAN	
KATE	LARRY	MINDY	NICHOLAS	ODETTE	
PETER	ROSE	SAM	TERESA	VICTOR	
				WANDA	

WATCH MEMA'S HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS DISASTER SUPPLY KIT VIDEO [HERE](#)

WELCOME *to the* TEAM

Latoya Lofton
Office of Information Technology

Griffin Sekul
Office of Logistics

John Michael Sledge
Office of Response

SOUTHERN REGIONAL DAMAGE ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

During the week of May 24, 2021 – May 28, 2021, twenty counties in MEMA’s Southern Region participated in the Southern Regional Damage Assessment Exercise. The exercise scenario focused on the recovery process after a major hurricane. The overall objectives were to have counties demonstrate the ability to complete the damage assessment process through Crisis Track, to identify capability gaps associated with the local damage assessment process and Crisis Track functionality, and to improve county personnel’s proficiency with Crisis Track.



JUNE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 HURRICANE SEASON BEGINS	2	3	4	5
		— G300 TRAINING COURSE —				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Happy Father's Day	21	22	23	24	25	26
			G400 TRAINING COURSE			
27	28	29	30			