

NC SEARCH AND RESCUE PROGRAM

Evolution in Response

By: NC Association of Fire Chiefs

12/14/2017



HURRICANE FLOYD 1999
VS.
HURRICANE MATTHEW 2016

IMPROVEMENTS IN RESPONSE



1999



2004



2016



WHAT MADE THE DIFFERENCE?



1999 Hurricane Floyd

- Chased flooding down stream with very limited resources
- Deployed local agencies to bring what they have to support disaster relief
- Resources lacked specialized training to deal with large scale disaster
- Resources were unable to be self-sufficient and support extended operations

2016 Hurricane Matthew

- Resources/teams were built in response to the gaps of Floyd
- Resources were able to be self-sufficient
- Resources had the equipment and training needed to safely work
- Synchronized effort across program to more efficiently respond to need

Success of Matthew was based on the lessons of Floyd that was addressed with federal preparedness dollars post 9/11.



FEDERAL GRANT IMPACT

- Federal preparedness grants post 9/11 used to build capability addressing shortcomings of Hurricane Floyd response
- Subsequent disasters tested and refined response model
- North Carolina's SAR Program is a national model
 - Mitigating disaster impacts by strengthening local capability through coordinated statewide program



FEDERAL GRANT IMPACT

- Federal preparedness grants declined pushing sustainment costs of State SAR Program on Local Governments
- Grant amounts have made sustainment untenable
- Local governments want to *partner* with state to ensure program is maintained in the future

SAR PROGRAM



- Snapshot of recent impacts
 - Rescues in 2016—
 - 2,336 Hurricane Matthew (2016)
 - 138 Tropical Storm Julia (2016)
 - Other impacts —
 - Logistical support for 2016 Wildfire response 500+ responders
 - Communications support to planned events as well as other responses across state



SAR PROGRAM

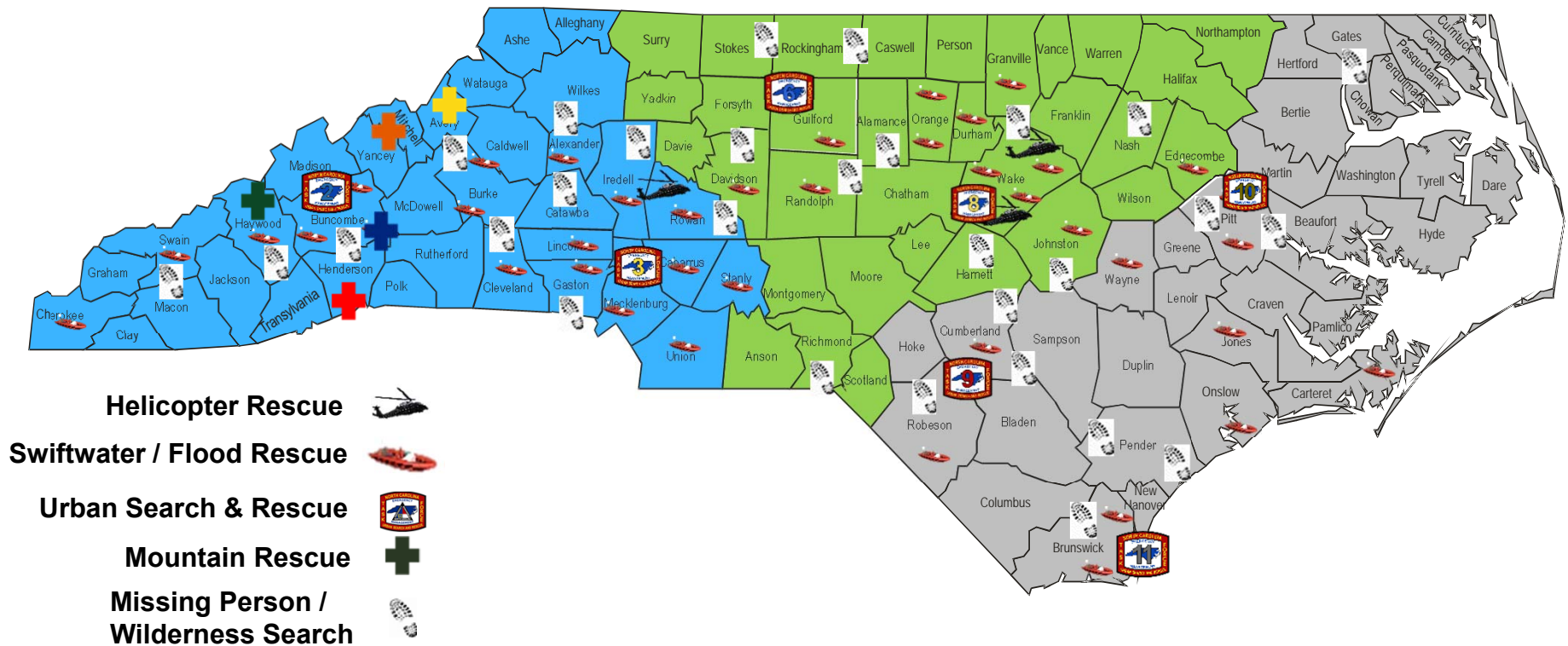


- Local and State partnership
 - Managed by NC Emergency Management
 - Supported by various other state agencies
 - State Highway Patrol, National Guard, Office of State Fire Marshal, ext.
 - Supported with numerous local agencies from across the State

STATE SEARCH AND RESCUE PROGRAM

5 disciplines, 1 mission... Leave no one behind.

Regional All-Hazard Capability



SAR PROGRAM



- Sustainment needs
 - Total program costs approximately \$4.8m annually
 - The program needs state support of \$2.39m annually
 - Training of responders
 - Maintenance of equipment
 - Exercises to maintain capabilities
 - Balance of annual costs to be absorbed by local supporting agencies

SAR PROGRAM



- Legislative Action
 - Session Law 2014-27 established State SAR Program in NCGS 166A
 - Program was never funded
 - 2017-2018 Session H189/S222 was introduced to fund program
 - H189/S222 was not included in final budget

KEY TAKE-A-WAYS



State Search and Rescue Program

- Local resources reinforced to respond across State
- Partnership between Local & State Government
- Program needs recurring state funding to fill gap left by federal grants
- *State SAR Program has resulted in lives saved.*