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Mutual Aid Teams deployed in weather damaged areas

Clanton –The Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) is coordinating teams being deployed during response to the devastation caused by the severe weather and tornadoes on April 27. The AEMA Mutual Aid Branch coordinates the efforts of 50 teams that form the core of the Alabama Mutual Aid System. The teams belong to local governments and have agreed to assist outside their home area during time of crisis.

Currently, 35 teams are deployed in DeKalb, Tuscaloosa, Calhoun, Franklin, Marion, Fayette and Madison Counties. These include:

- 10 heavy rescue teams
- 10 medium rescue teams
- 5 light rescue teams
- 1 urban search and rescue team
- 1 state mortuary team
- 8 law enforcement teams

The rescue teams range from basic rescue of trapped individuals to the location, rescue and initial medical stabilization of victims that may be trapped in a collapsed structure. The light, medium or heavy designation defines the increasing level of capability and self-sufficiency the team possesses.

The state mortuary team has the capability to perform mortuary services when local mortuaries are overwhelmed or unavailable.

The law enforcement teams deploy to assist when an extra law enforcement presence is required.

These teams are an important part of the coordinated effort to ensure the response to this disaster is as effective as possible and that Alabamians impacted by the destruction in their neighborhoods are not injured further.