

RC/PIO News & Notes 11-7-2025



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News and Notes

Today we'll highlight a statewide meeting for health and medical emergency preparedness workgroups, cold weather, and the power of good nutrition, among other topics.

ESF-8 Workgroups

Emergency Support Function-8 workgroups met Monday and worked toward meeting statewide objectives. There are 10 workgroups including the latest addition, Tactical Communications. This group is working on redundant communication plans and determining how to report communication assets and how they can be deployed. This includes plum cases, ham radios, Starlink, and possibly drones. The workgroups met collectively at the beginning and end of the session with breakout room discussions occurring in between. A second day of workgroup activities occurred Tuesday at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center. Thanks to KT McKnight for the images below from Day Two.



Construction Workers Mental Health

Thanks to Kalie Burke for the update and images from Thursday's Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities event in Atlanta, that focused on the mental health of the state's construction industry. There was a keynote address from My Steady Mind, which addressed stress reduction techniques. **Georgia's 988 website** has a page dedicated to the construction industry: <https://988ga.org/construction>

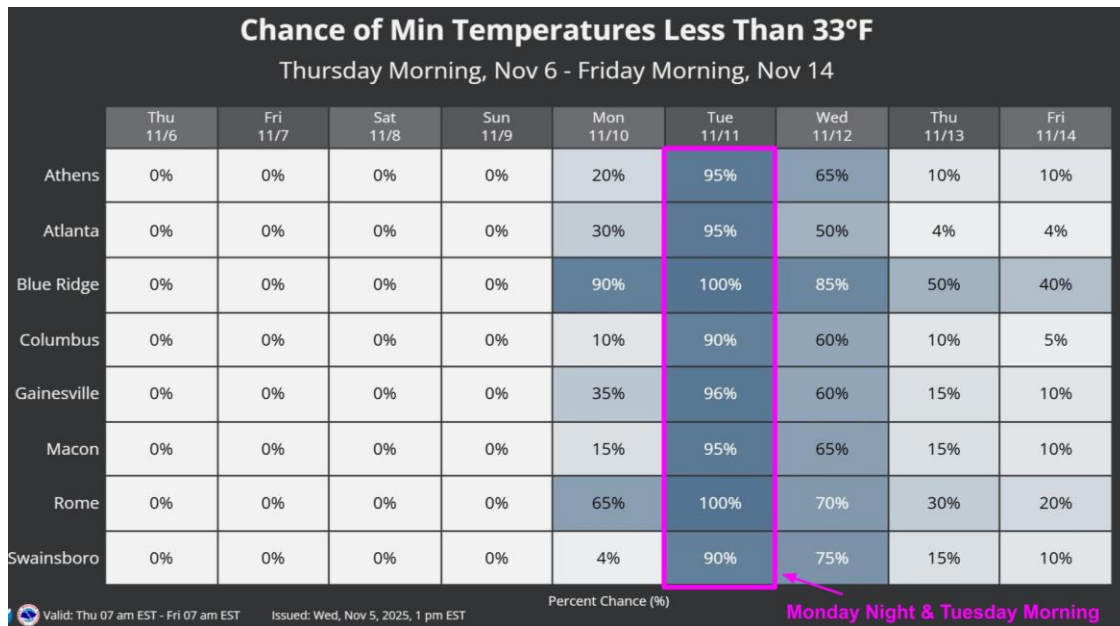


Quarterly Risk Communicators meeting

The final 2025 quarterly meeting for DPH risk communicators is tentatively scheduled for December 10. Invites to the virtual meeting will go out soon. If anyone has ideas for topics or speakers or anything they would like to present or share with the group, please reach out.

Cold

Thanks to Sheri Russo for the graphic letting us know how cold and when the temperatures will get on the other side of this weekend.



Protect People, Pets, Pipes, & Plants from cold weather



People

- Minimize time outdoors.
- Prepare for power outages.
- Check on elderly & other vulnerable people to make sure they're ok.



Pets

- Keep your pets warm, dry & indoors as much as possible.
- Ensure their food & water doesn't freeze.
- Limit outside time & keep them bundled up.



Pipes

- Insulate pipes if possible.
- Open up sink cabinets to expose pipes to heated air.
- Disconnect hoses & turn off water to sprinklers.



Plants

- Know their temperature thresholds.
- If possible, cover them before the cold weather sets in to help retain some heat.

weather.gov 

Nutrition Power

The Georgia Public Health Association Nutrition Section hosted a webinar Thursday entitled, 'Unleash the Power of Nutrition for Healthy Smiles in Childhood.' Pediatric Dentist Dr. Sara Karlin said sugary substances that stick to kids' teeth are most detrimental to current and future oral health. She said it is important that schools don't disrupt healthy eating habits. Nutritionist Dr. Ellen Karlin (Sara's mother) said grandparents also need to be cognitive of such early diet impacts as well. Both recommended young kids receive milk and other dairy products to promote good oral health and strong growth overall.



Next Week Preview

Next Tuesday is the Veterans Day holiday. The monthly district Public Health Analysts meeting is one week from today. There are other meetings and webinars to be held throughout the week.

About "News & Notes"

"News & Notes" is a weekly communication aimed at risk communicators and public information officers within Georgia's 18 public health districts. The goal of the communication is to increase preparedness through the exchange of information about significant events, training and other planned activities. Some information herein may be considered FYUO or For Your Use Only. Please be judicious when forwarding. For questions, comments or to submit information for inclusion, contact Eric Jens at Eric.Jens@dph.ga.gov