



**BOB RILEY**  
GOVERNOR

**STATE OF ALABAMA  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

5898 COUNTY ROAD 41 • P.O. DRAWER 2160 • CLANTON, ALABAMA 35046-2160

PHONE (205) 280-2200

FAX (205) 280-2495



**Brock Long**  
DIRECTOR

**FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ALABAMA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MAY 26, 2009

**Alabama Mutual Aid Teams to participate in a full scale exercise at Alabama Fire College**

CLANTON- The Alabama Emergency Management Agency and the Alabama Department of Homeland Security in conjunction with the Alabama Fire College to sponsor an Alabama Mutual Aid exercise for seven teams. The teams are Fire and Rescue units from Birmingham, Florence, Homewood, Moody, Montgomery, Mountain Brook and Vestavia Hills. The teams will be performing a series of capabilities based drills including, structural collapse and shoring, lifting and moving, cutting and breaching and high angle rescue and evacuation. These seven teams were chosen because they have not deployed to real-world disasters and this exercise will validate their readiness in the Alabama Mutual Aid System.

This exercise will determine if any additional planning, training or equipment is required for each of the teams, as well as testing their capability to mobilize and deploy as heavy or medium rescue teams. The Alabama Mutual Aid System (AMAS) was started in 2003 and there are a total of 54 teams.

**Who:** Seven Alabama Mutual Aid Teams

**What:** AMAS Exercise

**When:** Wednesday May 27<sup>th</sup> 4pm until 7pm (media availability)

*Note: Media will need to check-in room 110, and then they will be escorted through the exercise.*

**Where:** Alabama Fire College

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**For more information contact the AEMA Public Information Office  
(205)280-2275 or (205)280-2255  
Visit us online at [www.ema.alabama.gov](http://www.ema.alabama.gov).**