

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2007
Emergency Planning for Older Adults:
Why Planning for the Worst is Your Best Plan of Action

Annual Conference 2007 was the first time that Charlotte-Mecklenburg emergency response personnel and first responders have collaborated with the aging community to discuss emergency planning for older adults. Statistics identified include:

- More than 34,000 older adults in Mecklenburg County can be defined as frail and will be at risk should a disaster strike our area.
- Nearly 30% of the 65+ population in Mecklenburg County has a physical disability, which would make it difficult for them to evacuate in an emergency.
- Charlotte is the ONLY city in the world to have two nuclear power plants located within close proximity to the downtown center.
- Of the nursing and assisted living facilities who responded to the UNC Charlotte survey, sponsored by Council on Aging and MEDIC Mecklenburg EMS Agency, 100% have a facility emergency plan and mass evacuation plan.

One pressing need identified by participants of the Conference was a database for locating and assisting homebound and/or frail aging adults which would be used by first responders in the event of an emergency or disaster. Plans for a Senior Disaster Registry are being developed to provide that database. An additional outcome of the Annual Conference 2007 was the development by Council on Aging of a Personal Disaster Plan for aging adults in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community.

