



# Issue Brief: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE



According to a national survey conducted by the National Association of Counties in 2018, 24 percent of counties had experienced at least one disaster in each of the last three previous years. These disasters showcase the need for government officials, particularly county governments, to renew their focus on planning and response readiness activities.

On August 14, 2021, NCACC President Frank Williams announced his presidential initiative, “100 Counties Prepared.” Drawing on his experience as Chair of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners during Hurricanes Florence, Dorian, and Isaias, President Williams will incorporate several lessons learned as part of his initiative.

The 100 Counties Prepared initiative is focused on equipping county commissioners with the tools they need to lead effectively during emergency situations.

- **Education:** the task force will develop a training program that guides commissioners through what they need to know and what they should and should not do during an emergency.
- **Resources:** the task force will develop a resource library to share best practices and lessons learned.
- **Relationships:** the task force will highlight the important relationships commissioners should develop prior to emergencies for smooth and effective communication.

President Williams appointed task force co-chairs Randy Thompson, Brunswick County Commissioner and Kay Cashion, Guilford County Commissioner, to lead 100 Counties Prepared. The task force is charged with developing a training and education program and compiling emergency readiness resources for county commissioners. It will also focus on helping county commissioners engage with key emergency management partners to foster strategic relationships. 100 Counties Prepared will encompass the full spectrum of emergencies that can occur anywhere in the state, including mudslides, earthquakes, tornados, flooding, hurricane, and pandemic response.