



**Economic, Environment and Resiliency  
Commission (EERC)  
Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 3:00 PM  
Council Chambers, City Hall  
Regular Meeting  
AGENDA**

	Page
A. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL & ANNOUNCEMENTS:	
B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:	
B.1. <a href="#">2026 04 08 EERC Meeting Minutes</a>	3 - 7
C. PRESENTATIONS:	
1. Update from the Delaware Geological Survey's Dr. Robin Mattheus on research of Lewes Beach's coastal sand-transport system. <a href="#">Robin Mattheus - Lewes Beach's Coastal Sand Transport System</a>	9 - 17
2. Presentation by Tim Cooper, Sussex County's Deputy Director of Public Safety-Emergency Management, on their Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. This is a training program that prepares community members to help themselves, their families and neighbors in the event of a disaster. CERT training will provide skills to our citizens to help emergency responders save lives and property. <a href="#">Rim Cooper - Community Emergency Response Team</a>	19 - 29
D. UPDATE FROM THE MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE	
E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:	
F. PUBLIC COMMENT:	
G. ADJOURNMENT:	
<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83293992364?pwd=y0zEjOWCrT49DEt9w1cQlGXNsNf4ix.1">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83293992364?pwd=y0zEjOWCrT49DEt9w1cQlGXNsNf4ix.1</a>	

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**City Hall is located at 114 E. Third Street Lewes DE**

Posted: 5/6/2026 Posted By: BJ



**City of Lewes**  
**Economic, Environment and Resiliency Commission (EERC)**  
**Wednesday, April 8, 2026**  
**MINUTES**

The Economic, Environment and Resiliency Commission (EERC) met on **Wednesday, April 8, 2026 in Council Chambers at Lewes City Hall**, in accordance with proper notification, with the following members present: Chairperson Khalil Saliba, Jim Baker, and Rich Innes. Also in attendance were Ex-Officio members Preston Lee (BPW), and Brent Jett (GMB).

**A. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

*Chair Saliba called the April 8, 2026 meeting of the Economic Environment and Resiliency Commission to order at 3:00 PM.*

*Commissioner Rich Innes announced that the city had held a successful kickoff meeting the previous day for the comprehensive plan with consultants from Michael Baker International. The comprehensive plan process would focus initially on identifying topic areas with input from planning commissioners and establishing an advisory committee. Chair Saliba requested that all EERC members provide recommendations for people to populate the advisory committee, noting that he had already recommended several candidates.*

*Ex-officio Member Brent Jett announced an upcoming planning guidance session on the climate bill to be held in Dover the following Thursday, with both in-person and Zoom options available. Two sessions were scheduled at 10:00 AM and 1:30 or 2:00 PM. Commissioner Innes noted this related to the new state law requiring municipalities above 2,000 population to incorporate climate impacts into their comprehensive plans, with Lewes and Milton likely being the first communities to test these requirements. The seminar would focus primarily on counties but would have implications for municipalities as well.*

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

1. Chair Saliba asked for comments or edits to the March 11, 2026 meeting minutes. No comments were received from commission members.

**Motion:** Commissioner Jim Baker moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Innes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**C. UPDATE FROM THE MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE**

*Chair Saliba provided an update from the subcommittee meeting, which had received a robust presentation from Rodney Robinson. Two main issues were affecting implementation of the Fourth Street Forest preserve plan.*

*The primary challenge involved eagle nesting in the area, which created significant logistical and work schedule constraints. Federal regulations required no disturbances within 330 feet of eagle nests year-round, and during nesting season (December through June), no disturbances were permitted within 660 feet. This expanded restriction area affected both Mariners Retreat and Pallet Town Village properties. City Manager Janet Reeves was working with federal fish and wildlife authorities to obtain the necessary permits to proceed with implementation while understanding what constitutes a "disturbance" under the regulations. The second focus involved enhanced community outreach through improved signage and information sharing. The subcommittee was created to provide public forums, especially for neighboring residents, to have input on plan implementation. Current signage warned people against entering the preserve as it was not ready for pedestrian use due to safety concerns from tree removal and stump clearing operations. Plans included installing a message board in a case to provide more detailed information about ongoing work, habitat islands being created, trails, bridges, and other project components.*

*Chair Saliba confirmed that \$250,000 from the city's resiliency fund had been allocated to complete the Fourth Street Forest project, representing the final portion of the city's \$1 million*

*commitment. He emphasized the importance of using resiliency fund money for this project to demonstrate its classification as a resiliency initiative and justify the need for such a fund.*

**D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**1. Update and discussion regarding the City of Lewes Public Access Plan.**

Chair Saliba reported that he, Mr. Jett, Commissioner Marylou Wellbrock-Reeves, and others were working on addressing DNREC's public access requirements for beach communities. This plan was necessary to maintain eligibility for federal beach replenishment funding. The team had been developing a plan for submission but was waiting for City Manager Janet Reeves to return from vacation to finalize the submission. The plan would designate 397 parking spots on Lewes Beach to satisfy DNREC's requirement for ample parking. The approach, which DNREC had informally indicated was acceptable, would use signage to indicate where parking was prohibited, with all other areas available for parking. Color-coded maps would be placed on the city website and in map holders on poles along Cedar, Johnnie Walker, and Savannah Beach roads to clearly show the 397 designated spots.

Mr. Jett confirmed the 397-space count, noting initial surprise at the high number but explaining that spots accumulated across the mile-and-half road with 25 beach access points, some having as few as three spaces and others as many as 25. DNREC had reviewed preliminary information and was satisfied with the proposal.

Chair Saliba noted the plan included 14 mobi mats for handicap access among the 25 beach access points, with three additional mats coming. Quest, the beach vendor operating from Roosevelt Inlet, provided five handicap beach access chairs that were frequently used according to reports from Matt Carter from Quest.

Regarding enforcement, Chair Saliba confirmed that residents placing unauthorized "no parking" signs and cones in public parking areas would face enforcement action. Parking enforcement had previously removed cones that were repeatedly replaced, and unauthorized resident signs would also need removal as they lacked authority and improperly reserved public parking for private use.

The team planned to submit the plan by May 1st, well ahead of the July 1st deadline, to allow time for DNREC review and any necessary revisions. Following DNREC approval, the city would need to resubmit plans every three years with any updates.

**2. Update and discussion regarding the New Road farm field.**

Chair Saliba introduced Mardi Thompson to provide an update on her work with Delaware Forestry, followed by his report on the Sam Russell Preserve naming process. Ms. Thompson reported that Delaware Forest Service Stewardship Coordinator Laura Upham conducted a site visit on March 16th with Rodney Robinson, Barry Duncan, Giulia Kirsch, Strohm Edwards, and herself in attendance. Ms. Upham expressed satisfaction with the field condition and, based on natural grass die-back over winter and heavy snow cover, recommended postponing mowing until June. Tree planting could proceed in current conditions, with possible additional mowing in October depending on conditions.

Ms. Upham requested clear markings showing tree planting locations to guide crews. Ms. Thompson and Rodney Robinson completed this task the previous week, placing flags at all tree planting locations and marking a track path where no trees would be planted. The project now awaited a planting date within the next month.

Regarding the 90-10 cost share arrangement, Ms. Thompson explained that for mowing, the city would hire contractors and pay bills, then Parks & Marina Supervisor Guilia Kirsch would submit costs to the state for 90% reimbursement. For trees and planting crews, the state forest service would pay upfront costs and the city would reimburse 10%

of the total. Ms. Kirsch handled the financial paperwork details.

Commissioner Baker asked about planting timing, expressing preference for earlier planting. Ms. Thompson noted she had successfully planted as late as June, though earlier was preferable. The original mid-April timeline had shifted to late April or May due to the state's management of multiple projects statewide.

Commissioner Baker inquired about watering plans for newly planted trees. Ms. Thompson reported that Ms. Upham indicated no watering would be necessary due to tree tubes that would be installed. The tubes, set slightly into the ground to prevent airflow underneath, would retain moisture through condensation to help water seedlings. While tree tubes could attract insects, netting over the tops would exclude larger pests, and Ms. Upham reported good survival rates even during severe droughts using this method.

The trees would be 12-18 inch bare root seedlings planted on approximately 10-foot spacing. The concept involved dense initial planting to quickly create canopy cover for weed suppression, with mowing for approximately two years until canopy development allowed natural selection to determine final forest composition.

Ms. Thompson noted the sandy loam soil and full sun conditions were favorable for tree survival and growth, with several thousand trees planned for the multi-acre project.

Chair Saliba provided an update on the Sam Russell Preserve naming process. The commission had previously voted unanimously to recommend this naming to honor Sam Russell's contributions to the city, including his personal discovery of Native American artifacts on the property. Chair Saliba had recently learned from Russell's grandson that when Russell sold the property to the University of Delaware, he included a contingency requiring educational use of the land, reflecting his vision for educational mission on the former farmland.

The naming had been deferred three months due to questions about indigenous people recognition in Lewes. Chair Saliba had conducted extensive research to address these concerns, contacting Dr. Bonnie Hall, historian for the Nanticoke tribe in Delaware, who explained that the Siconese tribe was predominant in Lewes, though all three local tribes (Nanticoke, Lenape, and Siconese) spoke the same Algonquin language.

Chair Saliba met with Rodney Robinson about previous archaeological work and contacted archaeologist Wade Katz at Delaware Preservation, who confirmed artifact existence but was uncertain of their current location. Both Robinson and Russell's grandson believed artifacts were housed at either Zwaanendael Museum or the Smithsonian. Chair Saliba's visit to Zwaanendael Museum found no artifacts there, with staff unaware of their location.

Following Wade Katz's recommendation to contact Delaware Cultural and Historical Affairs for Native American history expertise, Chair Saliba learned that Mayor Amy Marasco and Councilmember Trina Brown-Hicks were forming a historical marker committee as an alternative to the lengthy state historical marker process. Chair Saliba formally requested the previous evening that this new committee assume responsibility for researching indigenous peoples in Lewes.

Chair Saliba had requested that the Sam Russell naming be placed on the April 13th council meeting agenda but learned it was not included. He expressed frustration with the delay, noting the awkwardness of referring to the "20 acres off New Road" in discussions with state forestry and the community. He argued that sufficient due diligence had been completed and saw no reason for continued delay while parallel indigenous people research continued on a separate track.

Chair Saliba suggested that indigenous recognition could be accomplished through interpretive kiosks, signage, or other acknowledgments on the Sam Russell Preserve or elsewhere in the city, noting that Lewes currently had no recognition of indigenous

peoples despite being the first town in the first state with robust historical heritage programs.

Ex-officio Member Preston Lee mentioned Chuck Burton, a longtime local resident who conducted archaeological investigations and artifact collection along Canary Creek. Mr. Burton had passed away 4-5 years prior, but his sons might possess artifacts or documentation. Chair Saliba offered to contact Joe Stewart for more information about Burton's family.

Commissioner Innes expressed appreciation for Chair Saliba's extensive research efforts. Commissioner Innes agreed that delaying the naming made little sense, while supporting commitment to some form of indigenous acknowledgment, whether on the future Sam Russell Preserve or elsewhere in the city.

Mr. Jett suggested "Sam Russell Grove" as a potential compromise to address concerns about naming the entire property, though Chair Saliba preferred "preserve" as it better signified the conservation purpose consistent with other city preserves like Fourth Street Forest. The discussion concluded with recognition that various naming combinations could incorporate both Sam Russell recognition and indigenous acknowledgment, such as a "Siconese Meadow within the Sam Russell Preserve."

### 3. **Update, discussion and possible action regarding committee bylaws, including possible revisions to the EERC Mission Roles and Responsibilities.**

Chair Saliba noted that multiple versions of the commission bylaws had been shared among members, with the latest version dated March 27th reviewed by City Solicitor Alex Burns, who found them acceptable with only minor wordsmithing edits rather than material changes.

Chair Saliba expressed some concern about proceeding without Commissioners Tracy Hancock and Marylou Wellbrock-Reeves present, though both had seen all versions and provided input, particularly Commissioner Wellbrock-Reeves who had contributed significant revisions, and Commissioner Hancock who had also submitted comments. Commissioner Baker noted that bylaws could be modified at any time and recommended proceeding rather than waiting, particularly given budget hearing discussions about funding for the commission and resiliency fund in relation to bylaw adoption.

Commissioner Innes agreed that the bylaws had undergone sufficient scrutiny and revision with input from multiple members and legal review, supporting immediate approval to get them on the May 11th Mayor and City Council agenda.

Chair Saliba confirmed that both absent members had ample opportunity to review and comment on the bylaws, with the understanding that future modifications could be made if necessary.

**Motion:** Commissioner Innes moved to approve the bylaws and get them on the Mayor & City Council agenda as soon as possible. Commissioner Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The approved bylaws would proceed to Mayor and City Council for consideration at their May 11th meeting.

#### E. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

*Chair Saliba opened the floor for public comment. No members of the public were present in person or online.*

#### F. **ADJOURNMENT:**

*Chair Saliba thanked the commission for a productive meeting and noted satisfaction with finalizing the bylaws despite their multiple iterations, acknowledging that future modifications might be necessary as unanticipated issues arose.*

**Motion:** Commissioner Baker moved to adjourn. Commissioner Innes seconded the motion.

*The motion passed unanimously.*

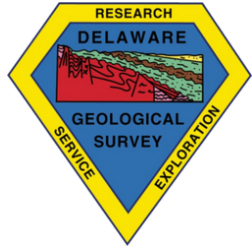
*The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 PM.*

Minutes submitted by: Jeffery Coover, Administration Support Specialist

Minutes generated by HeyGov.ai

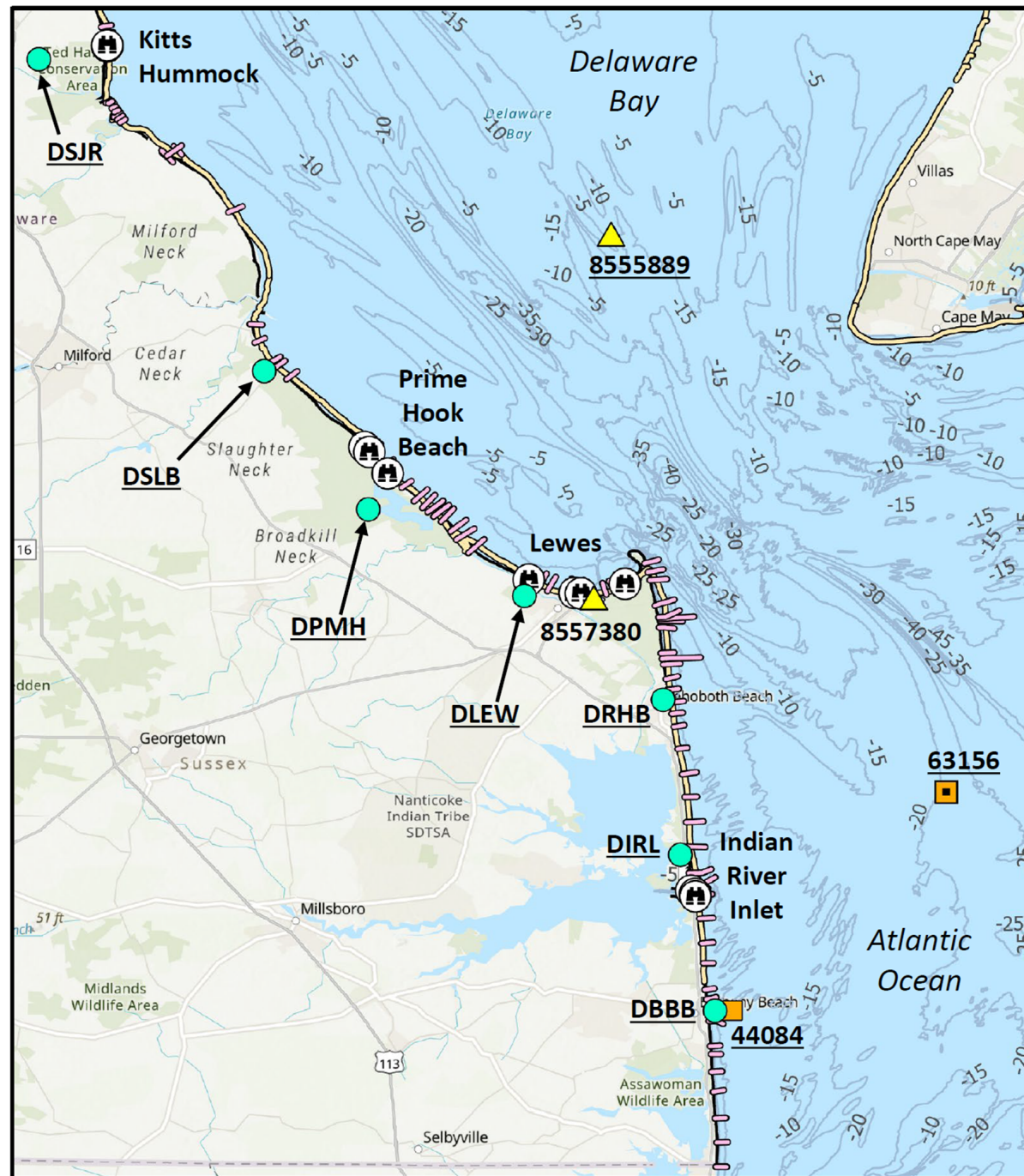
Transcripts available by request.



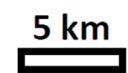


# The DGS-DNREC Beach Camera Network (as of 5/1/2026)

- 3 at Kitts Hummock
- 3 at Prime Hook Beach
- 3 in Lewes
- 2 at Cape Henlopen State Park
- 3 at the Indian River Inlet



- Weather station (wind records)
- ▲ Tide-gauge station (water-level records)
- Wave buoy
- Wave hindcast-modeling node
- 📷 DGS camera
- DNREC beach profile
- 2024 shoreline
- 1848 shoreline
- Bathymetric contour (meters)



# What type of infrastructure offers the best mounting location?

- *Balconies*
- *Porch railings*
- *Lamp posts*
- *Roof gables*
- *Flag poles*



Savannah Beach, Lewes, DE.

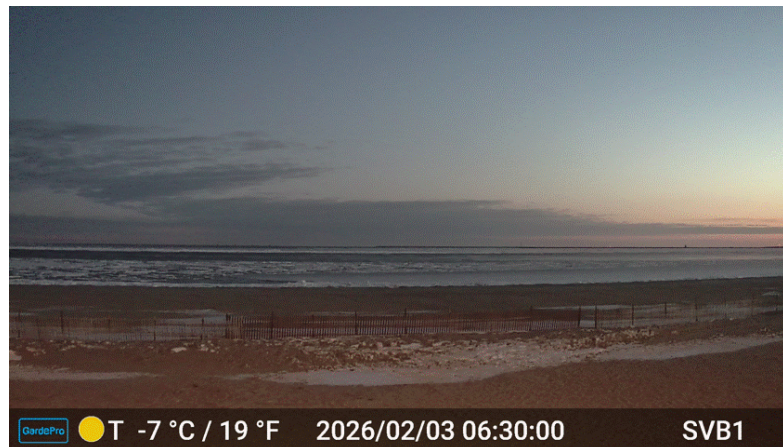
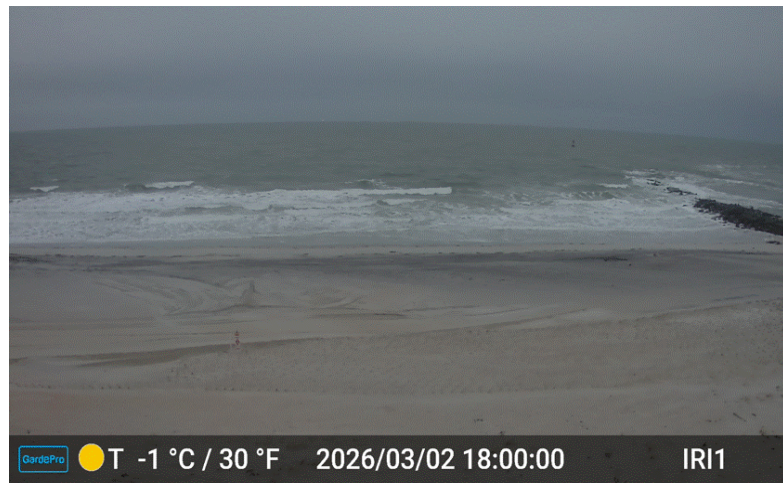


Fishing Pier at Cape Henlopen State Park, DE.



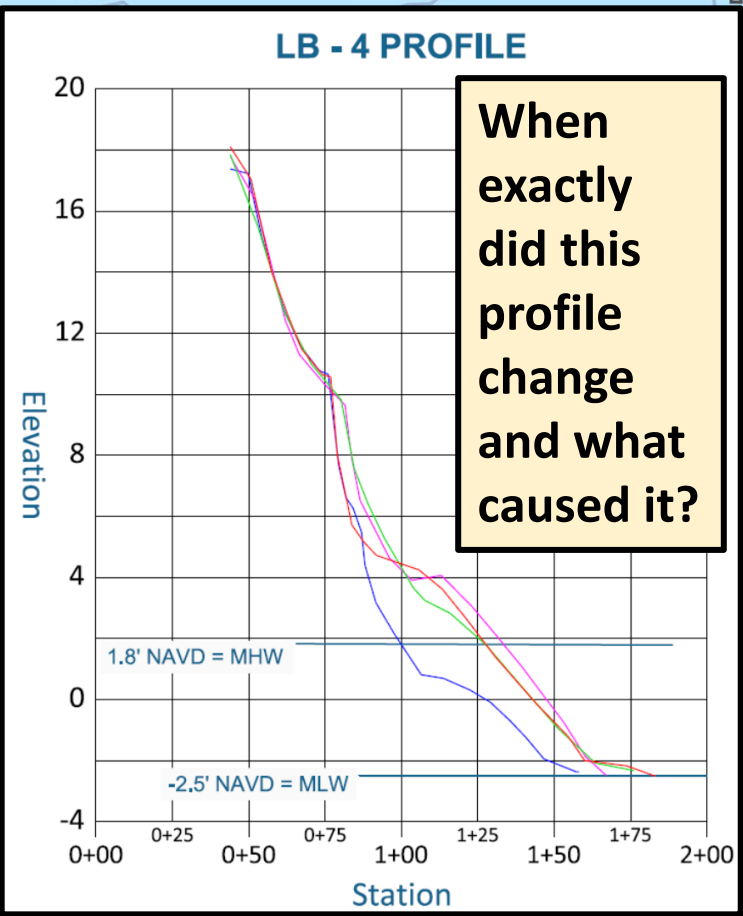
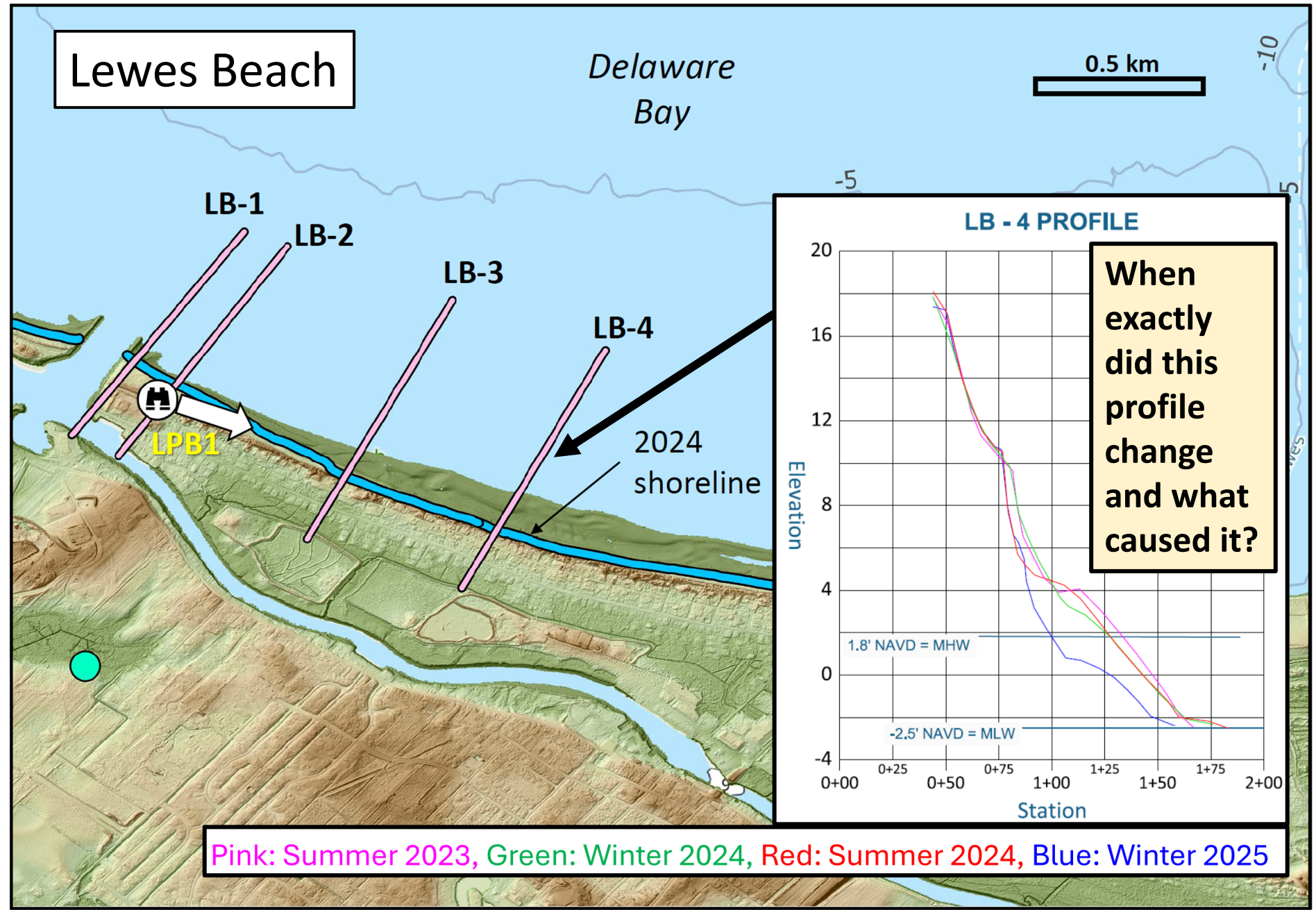
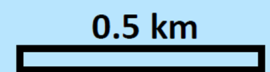
# What do we hope to gain from these deployments?

- Document the processes that shape our shorelines.
- Enhance existing data-collection activities and data analytics.

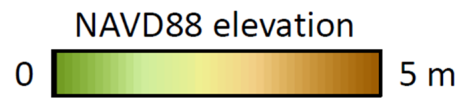


# Lewes Beach

Delaware Bay



- Weather station (wind records)
- ▲ Tide-gauge station (water-level records)
- Wave buoy
- Wave hindcast-modeling node
- Ⓜ DGS camera
- DNREC beach profile
- Bathymetric contour (meters)



Pink: Summer 2023, Green: Winter 2024, Red: Summer 2024, Blue: Winter 2025

**Generation 1 product:** Single timestamped photograph: One of these is taken every half hour, at the hour and half hour.

Timestamp information

Camera name



**Generation 2 product: Time-averaged image, 01/26/2026**  
(9:30-16:00), SVB1:



How does this relate to bottom morphology? Will this change over time?

03/17/2026

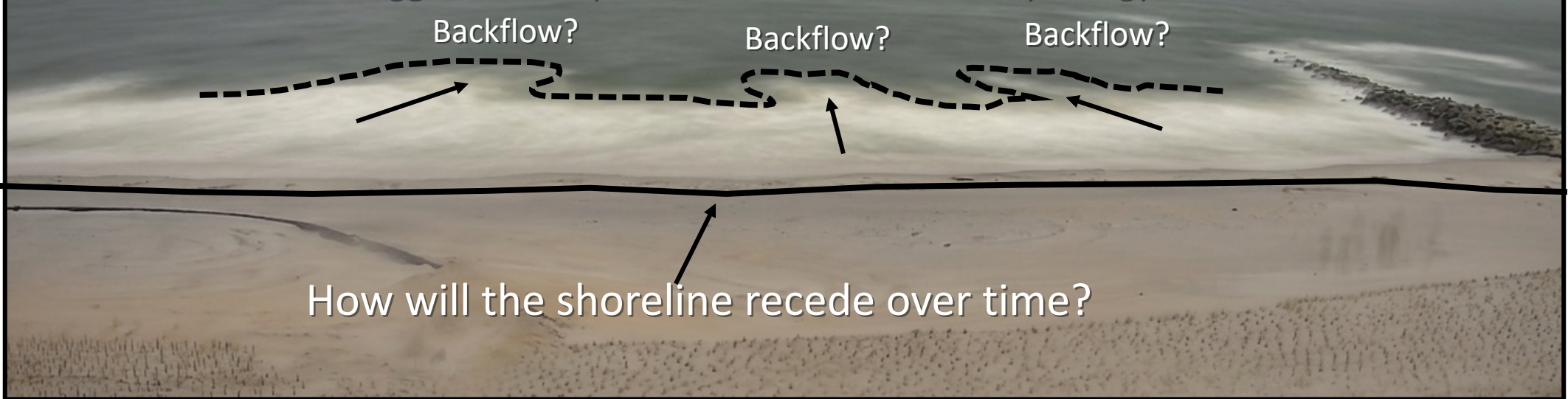
# Indian River Inlet

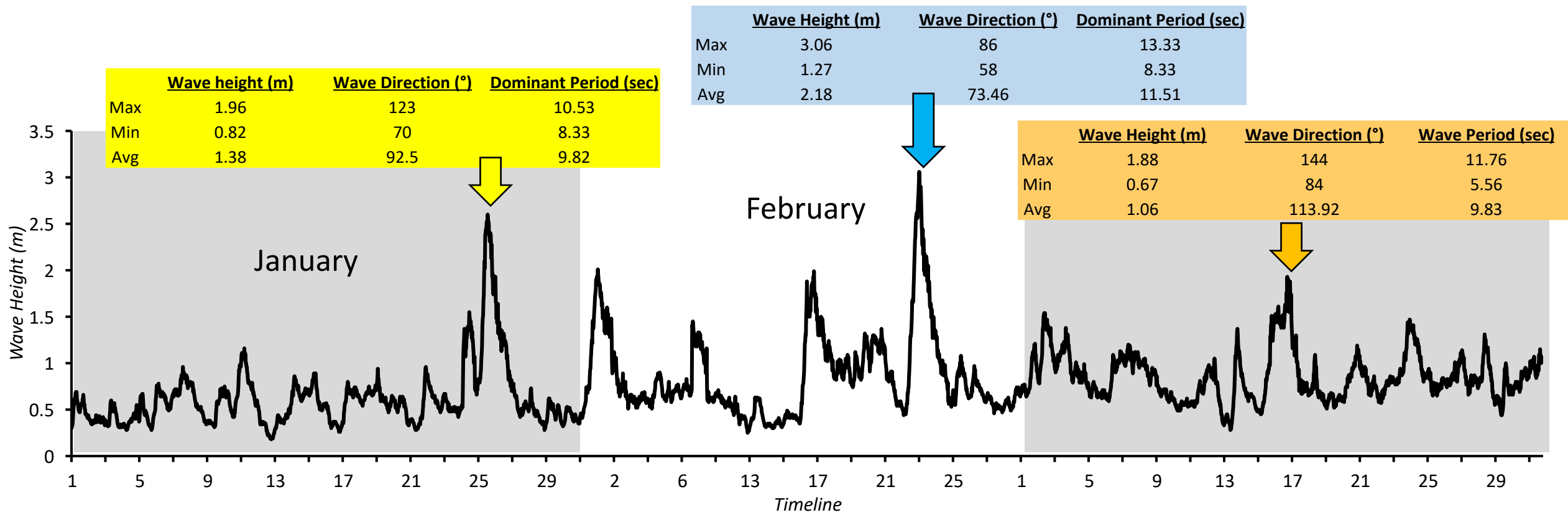
Suggests no rip current.



03/23/2026

Suggestive of rip currents and bottom morphology.

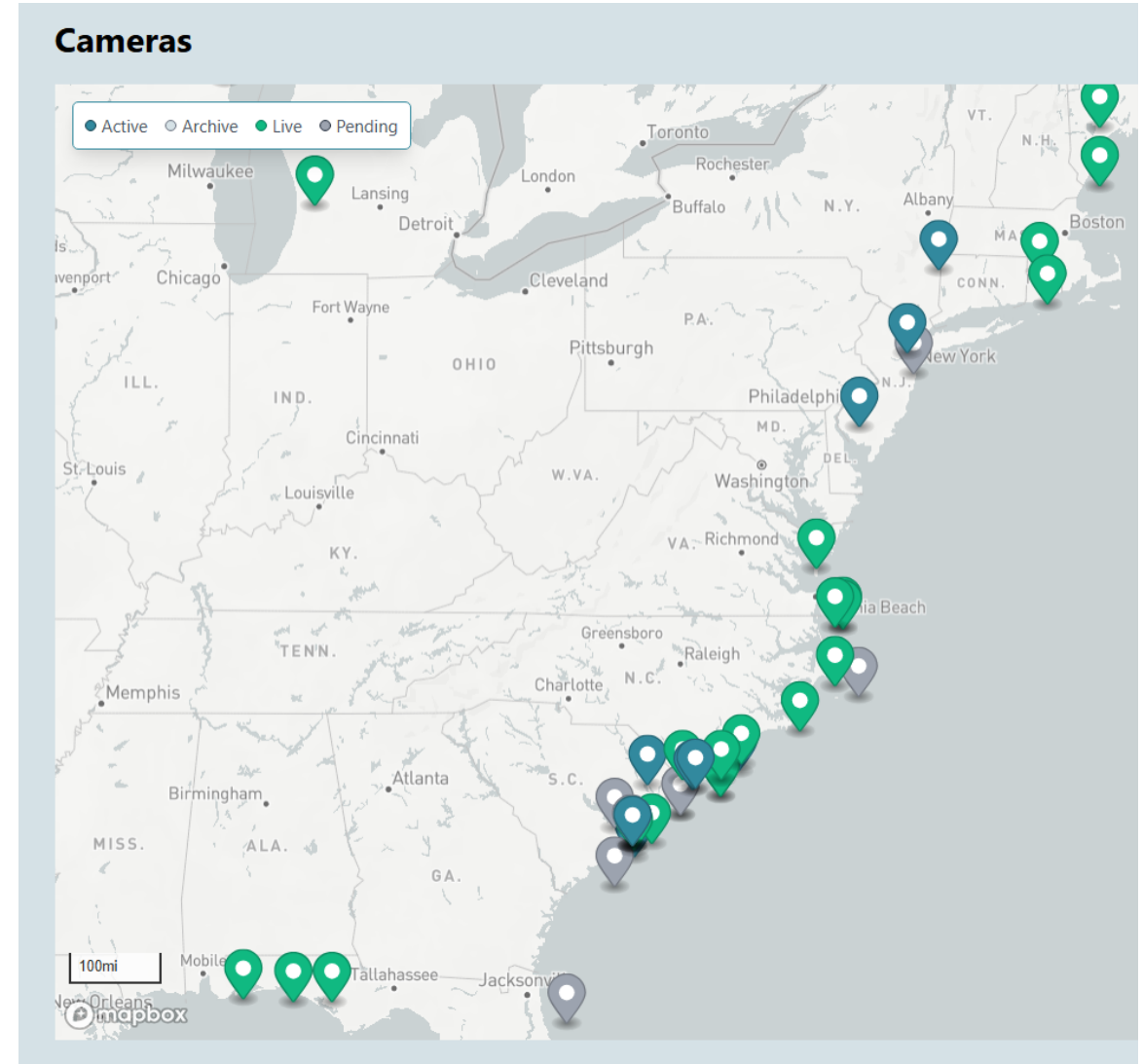




We can learn about how different types of wave events impact the beach. What type of event is most destructive? Etc. The longer we monitor, the more we stand to learn.

# Next steps

- Engaging project partners and camera hosts at the end of the 'pilot phase.'
- Refinement of the camera network for the long-term.
- Begin image analytics.
- Select camera upgrades through MARACOOS partnership for inclusion in WebCOOS network.





# **Lewes**

## **Economic, Environment and Resiliency Commission (EERC)**

Timothy R. Cooper, MA, CEM, CBCP  
Deputy Director of Public Safety-Emergency Management  
Division of Emergency Management  
Sussex County Public Safety



# Introduction

- Overview of Emergency Management
- CERT Program
- CERT Training
- CERT Topics
- Levels of CERT
- CERT engagement
- Family Emergency Planning
- Questions



# Sussex County Department of Public Safety

## Division of Emergency Management

- Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- Emergency Operations Plan
- Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Business Continuity Planning
- Severe Weather
- Outreach
- Training and Exercises
- Sussex County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
- **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)**
- Auxiliary Communications (AuxComm)



# CERT Program

- History
- Purpose
- Teams in Sussex County
- Training
- Exercises



# CERT Training

- In Person
  - Friday night all day Saturday and Sunday
- Hybrid
  - University of Utah
  - Complete a skills day
- Lewes Facility
  - Classroom and exercise



# CERT Topics

Disaster Preparedness  
CERT Organization  
Disaster Medical Operations  
Disaster Psychology  
Fire Safety and Utility Controls  
Light Search and Rescue  
Operations  
Terrorism and CERT  
Exercise



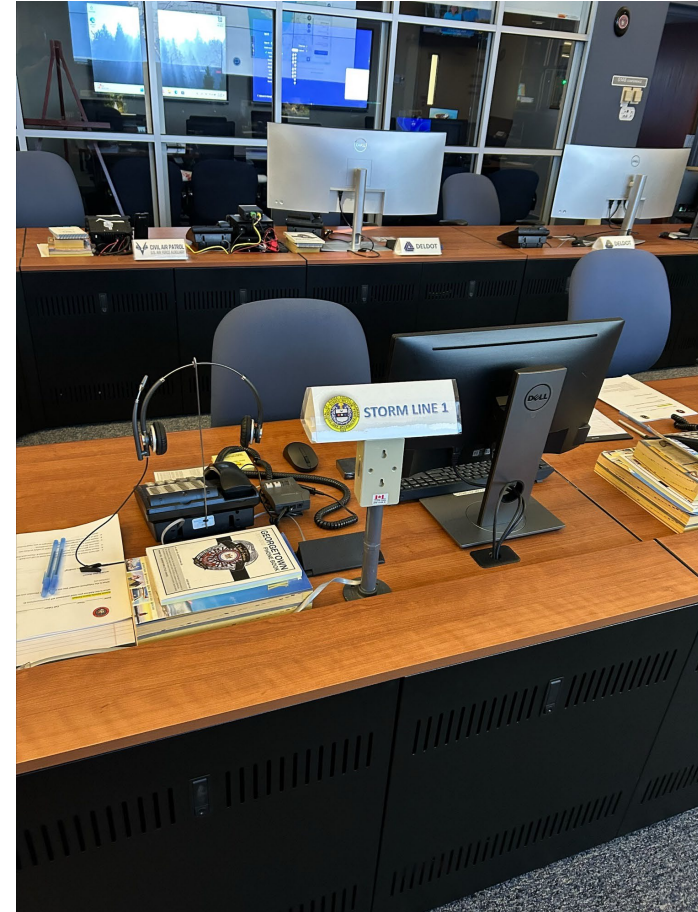
# Levels of CERT

- Basic Level CERT
  - Family and Community Preparedness
- Community Level CERT
  - Respond to disasters in the community
- Sussex County Level CERT
  - Deploy to other areas of the county as directed and needed during a disaster by Sussex County EM



# CERT Engagement Opportunities

- Special Events
- Mobile Command Post
- CERT/Auxcom Trailer
- Points of Distribution (PODs)
- EOC-Call Takers



# Family Emergency Planning

- Get a kit, Make a Plan, Stay Informed, Get Engaged

**GET PREPARED NOW**

When unexpected emergencies strike, know what to do, what you need and how to stay updated!

.....

*REMEMBER: Revisit your plan and update your kit every year!*

The graphic illustrates a cyclical process of emergency planning. It features three main cards on a light blue background, connected by curved arrows in a clockwise direction. Each card has a 'REMEMBER' checklist.

- MAKE A PLAN** (top card, red header):
  - The future can be unpredictable, but your emergency plan shouldn't be. Know what to do when you need it most by planning now for how to respond in an emergency.
  - REMEMBER**
    - Who needs to know the plan?
    - Do you have a safe place to store your plan?
    - What are your meeting places?
- STAY INFORMED** (left card, blue header):
  - Stay connected to know what is coming, how to act, where to go or what to do next. Sign up for alerts and keep essential numbers at the ready.
  - REMEMBER**
    - Have you signed up for text alerts?
    - Do you have important contacts saved?
    - Have you updated your contact numbers?
- BUILD A KIT** (bottom card, yellow header):
  - Easily access necessities during an emergency. Building an emergency kit is easy and affordable — with many of the items you already have at home.
  - REMEMBER**
    - Do you have specific supplies for the season?
    - Is your non-perishable food and water stocked?
    - Do you have working batteries?

# References and Resources

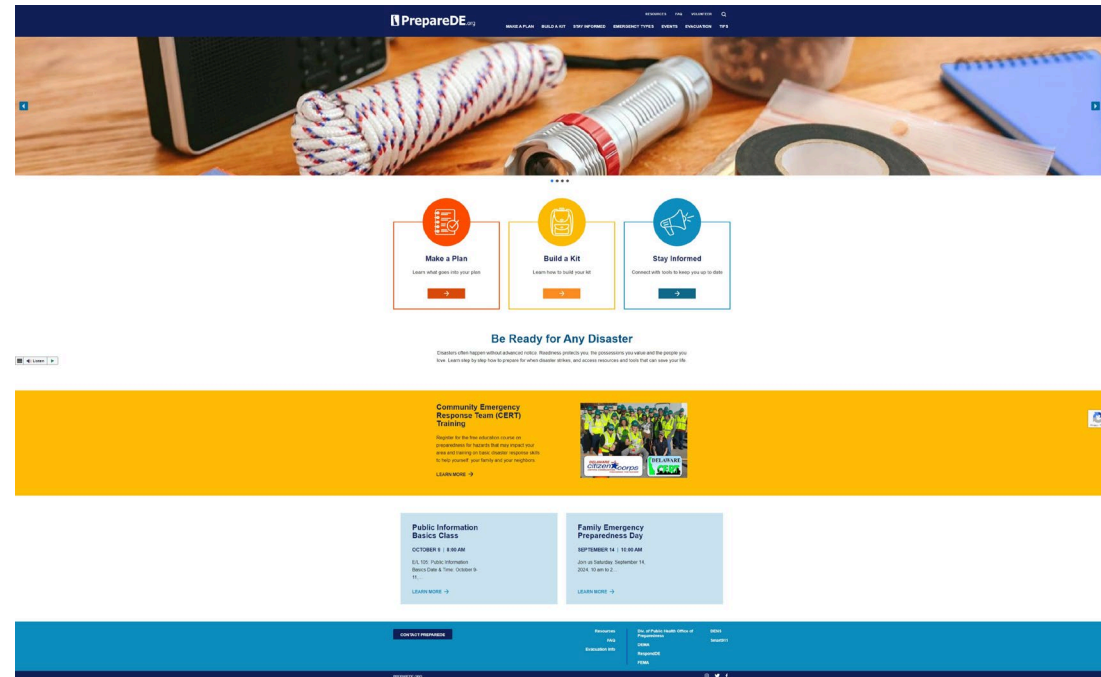
[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

[www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov)

[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

[www.preparedde.org](http://www.preparedde.org)

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)



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Division of Emergency Management

Sussex County Department of Public Safety

