Alice: of 2001. I'm sitting at the Nash County Government offices with Claude Mayo who is Chairman of the County Commissioners, Wayne Deal who is the County Manager, and Brian Brantley who is head of Emergency Services.

Claude Mayo: This is Claude Mayo and I had very little to do with all of the rescue and work, missions that were performed by the county people. But I think we were extremely lucky not to lose any lives and some months ago they flew us out to North Dakota to Red River and they told us it was going to be a long drawn out experience. We couldn't believe it but it has been. But due to these other two gentlemen here much has been accomplished and Wayne Deal our County Manager was up day and night coordinating everything he could with our Director of Emergency Services, Brian Brantley and I cannot say enough good things about these two people but before I turn it over to Wayne I'd like to thank you, the people that are making this cooperation for the historical presence that will come forth in years to come for our children and children's children. Wayne.

Wayne Deal: I'm Wayne Deal, Nash County Manager. To reflect back on...on my memories of...of Floyd. Floyd is still with us and will be with us for a long time and I'm appreciative of people who are trying to put it together in some...some written record so we can remember.
and...and refresh ourselves on it for many, many years to come. Mr. Mayo just mentioned that when we went to North Dakota we were told two and a half years after the flood there that destruction were at it's peak. There's still a lot going on here. But if...if I go back to my best memories of the flood. It's not so much of the flood and...and the damage it...that occurred. We all saw that. I think the thing that made me feel so good was the way I saw people come together immediately afterwards, before the water even stopped when we realized the significance of the flood and damage. To see people come together in a...in a team and a spirit that was just unbelievable. I said to Mr. Mayo a few minutes ago I said to somebody immediately afterwards that it reminded me of the start of *The Tale of Two Cities*. It obviously was the worst of times for us in this area but in many ways it was...it was and has been the best of times and I think it has brought us together like we could not have been brought together by most things. And when I say the team effort, Brian I'm sure will talk a lot more about what happened on the local level and the way everybody responded to emergencies and saved lives and things of that kind. But on the regional basis even very early stages before...before the storm was actually here there were people from other states waiting in staging areas to come in and help us. Swift water teams which we don't have, didn't have, they came in I remember a team from Pennsylvania, one from western North Carolina and those people were just unbelievable in their spirit and their determination. As recently as this week at my regular Rotary meeting there was a gentleman from I think Arizona or New Mexico who's here on a work duty to continue to rebuild housing and so forth. So there's a lot of that still going on. And, of course, they...we all have good memories of stories that are told and I'm sure Brian will have some of those and I'll just pause at this point and let him speak and then maybe come back to some other ideas that I
Brian Brantley: I'm Brian Brantley, Emergency Services Director for Nash County. I, like Mr. Mayo and Mr. Deal want to thank you for putting this together. There are a lot of bad memories with Floyd and a lot of good memories as Mr. Deal said. I think the pressure on the emergency services system during the week and...of Floyd and the weeks after is something that the average person won't ever know and as well on the citizens on the county that were effected by Floyd. I think a lot of things have been forgotten and one thing that was forgotten was Dennis, hurricane Dennis. We talk about Floyd but Dennis was one of our major culprits. There was no where for the water to go and I knew just by mowing my grass the week before Floyd that something was wrong. We had had so much water and then when Floyd came in that Wednesday night and the rain started we knew it was going to be bad but we had no idea it could reach the...Tar River could reach 31 feet and the creeks become death traps for travelers. It was, I think, well planned out it tested ever phase of emergency management. The...the planning phase even during Dennis we had much conversation with the weather service and emergency management at the state level and all our local people. Then prior to hurricane Floyd we pulled all our emergency services people together I just looked at our notes and we had a meeting on the 14th of September at 7:30 here at the administration building and we had every emergency services
agency in Nash County attend it. Also we had county officials there. We had municipal officials there. All anticipating a Fran type event and we talked about staging law enforcement vehicles all over the county, ambulances in different locations so when trees went down like they did during Fran we could get to either side of the downed trees to help people. And we found out we had a good plan but it wasn't from downed trees it was from water across the roads but our plan worked. Downed trees and water you can't cross. And so we had deputies and...and ambulances and fire trucks. Our fire department staged law enforcement people. They staged our ambulances all over the county. They provided food and drinks for our deputies and then the storm hit and we started getting some reports of high water in Rocky Mount. And sometime early morning on the 15th, Chief Mullen called from the Rocky Mount Emergency Operations Center and told me that they had some things going on he'd never could imagine in Nash County or Rocky Mount. He said, "We've got people on rooftops. We've got people in trees. We've got firemen making rescues that somebody's gone get hurt or killed". He said, "The creeks are rising, it's unbelievable". At the same time we had a couple of accidents here in the county, motor vehicle accidents that vehicles were swept off the roadway on...by water. One was on 64 By-pass near Spring Hope and I've traveled that road for 30 years, 25 or 30 years. Never seen water across and it was up to the bumper of our...of our ambulance. The rescue chief that tried to rescue the gentleman that hit that water called me later and said he was taking his men away from any swift water. They were not prepared to handle it and they almost lost some lives trying to rescue this gentleman on 64 By-pass. We, as a county, pretty much agreed and the city that if the wind speeds maintained at 40 mph we would not send people out into the field because of the possibility of trees coming down. We knew we were getting a lot of water which makes it much
easier for trees to fall. The water kept rising. Our rescue squads could not handle it. The city of Rocky Mount was dealing with the river which was dangerous but not quite as swift with water as the creeks were. Early morning on the 15th an effort to rescue an elderly lady from a home outside of Nashville. We had a deuce and a half swept off the roadway, National Guard and a paramedic were on the truck. Rescue efforts were unsuccessful on foot. We couldn't get any boats in there due to the swift water and a bulldozer was commandeered from a land owner nearby the creek outside on Womble Road, outside of Nashville and eventually he came over and drove the bulldozer and took the two gentlemen off the truck and saved their lives. At approximately the same time that happened we had two elderly people hit high water on 64 by-pass just east of 58. There truck was swept down to the side of an embankment. The water was estimated at about 5 feet deep and as the truck was sitting there we had...we had called for a helicopter from Camp Lejeune, they were on the way, swift water rescue team was on the way from Cary...from Garner. They arrived on scene, they said they couldn't handle it. We had called for a crane from Edwards, Inc. to help us get the paramedic and guardsman off the truck. The crane was diverted to 64, the crane weighed 90,000 pounds and needed to get within a 100 feet of the man and his sister in this truck on the by-pass. When the crane got out in the water...we had a gentleman that was going to go out on the boom and try to get the man and lady out of the truck and the crane was moved by the swift water and the crane operator backed it out. He was not only going to lose a several hundred thousand dollar crane but it was probably going to kill him and the gentleman on the boom. So it was about ten minutes after that happened it looked like the gentleman may have put his car or his truck in park and just a few seconds after that happened the truck disappeared down the embankment in approximately 17 to 18 feet of
water. The helicopter arrived on the scene just a few minutes later, tried to use his rotors to...to see if he could see the vehicle and couldn't...it was in such deep water. However that helicopter was not successful there he was successful in rescuing many other people off of I-95, off of rural paved roads, people that ended up on the roof of their house. We had local volunteers risking their lives over near West Mount, outside of Nashville, all over the city of Rocky Mount, up in the Red Oak area. The...one of our biggest problems was travel. If...if we picked up a patient in Rocky Mount on the...on the west side we had to go all the way to Spring Hope to get them to the hospital. The bridge was washed out on Winstead Avenue and you couldn't get through on the north side of Rocky Mount to Nash General so it was about a two hour ride from Rocky Mount to the hospital even though you could see the hospital from Winstead...from Sunset because the roads were flooded. Resources that came to the county, numerous helicopters, approximately...we feel like somewhere around a half a million pounds of ice, twenty tractor trailer loads of water, swift water rescue teams, as Mr. Deal said from the western part of the state, Pennsylvania FEMA task force from Pennsylvania, swift water rescue teams from Orange County, from Cokes Grove, numerous, numerous other response agencies. We had to call in dogs for underwater recover of bodies. We lost seven lives in Nash County. All related to swift water and motor vehicles. According to the weather service, Eighty percent of all the deaths in all hurricanes since 1970 have been from fresh water drowning. That tells me that hurricanes are not specifically a coastal event. Eighty percent of the people dying are inland and that's what our biggest threat is during a hurricane is people driving through swift water. Seven of our...all seven of our lives were lost due to swift water in vehicles. So if we can get that statement to the public. But that created havoc for our rescuers as well when people drove
through swift water then we had to rescue them. We've got videos of people driving through
swift water and the rear of the vehicle being pushed to the...to the side and those vehicles made it
through. We could have lost hundreds of lives if just the right amount of water had been there.
So I think we were very fortunate, seven lives is something we'll all...always remember but we're
very fortunate it was not more than that. And only for the good Lord that we didn't lose
rescuers. They made some rescues that absolutely should not have been attempted but they just
did it. They felt like they had to. And speaking of rescuers, if you had put, in my opinion had
put the U. S. Navy on the...on the boundaries of Nash County and said save these lives they
couldn't have done it unless citizens helped citizens. Government couldn't save all the people
that were saved. It has to be the neighbor helping neighbor, citizen helping citizen. The
government...it was bigger than government, Floyd was. And we couldn't come to the aide of all
the people in the...we were trying out best but we had...we've got 600 volunteers, maybe an
additional 200 police officers in the county and the National Guard was deployed but if it hadn't
of been for people getting people out of homes and apartments that night and even into the next
day and next night we'd of lost a lot more lives. So I...I think I can go into a lot of other
specifics on rescues, the number of volunteers that we had. One group that should be mentioned
is the Baptist Men's Association that set up at Englewood Baptist Church. They called me on
the 15th and said they were headed here, they would start feeding. We worked...coordinated
with the Red Cross to get in their transport trucks for meals. We set up eleven feeding stations
in the county. Edgecombe set up numerous, probably thirty feeding stations and those...that
group of men and women were feeding up to 10,000 meals per day in Nash/Edgecombe/Rocky
Mount. The average person doesn't believe that but that's a fact and they were transporting these
meals by these Red Cross ERV to our feeding stations where people came to get their food. All around even they were bringing them to our Emergency Operations Center. They were bringing meals here. They were taking meals to the National Guard Armory, churches, fire departments, for the citizens to come get meals. Edgecombe...well...they benefited as well because Baptist men were sending their food over to Edgecombe as well. So 10,000 meals per day and I have the statistics on how many meals they fed and I wish I could remember but it...it's just unbelievable how many meals were...were handed out through the Baptist Men's Association and the Red Cross. But that's just sort of the tip of the iceberg. As far as being a life long resident of Nash County I can't say I could be any prouder of any group, any citizens because they all responded like they should. Had a few complaints about things we did. One thing I would like to comment on is the county saw fit to put us in the 21st century with an Emergency Operations Center. We had been in the building one month. If we had been in the old Emergency Operations Center we would have had a disaster trying to operate for this disaster. During Fran the...the old EOC almost flooded. We had very little air circulation in the building. Staff had to sleep on the floors. No place to take a shower and we were here for three or four days in a row, couldn't get home, didn't have time to go home. So one month after we moved in Floyd tested our Emergency Operations Center. We as humans made mistakes but the building performed like it was supposed to. So that was one thing that made our job easier. I won't say is was easy but it was easier because we had good facilities. We had twelve agencies set up in our Emergency Operations Center, ten phone lines, ten computer connections. We could make contact with the state through computer instead of faxing the paperwork and it made it so much easier to track our resources. When we made requests we could track that resource, see where it
was, were we going to get it, were we not going to get it, was it going to be limited. So EOC, Emergency Operations Center, made a big difference. But primarily it was just people coming together as Mr. Deal and Mr. Mayo said. To see that happen they're...they're things that I do try to forget about Floyd because it was a...it was a very tough time seeing your home county taking a beating like that. It's like watching a friend get beat up. And...but there are some real positives that I'll...we'll always remember. So I'll be glad to get some more details about it for you.

Claude Mayo: Brian, your staff, your men stayed on duty how many consecutive hours?

Brian Brantley: We actually kept the EOC open for two weeks and I think I went home Sunday, came Tuesday, went home Sunday, but...and we had other staff people here the same thing. But the thing was we could eat here, we could take showers here, we could sleep here, we had our cots and our...our bunk rooms that we could get away from the noise and the pressure and that made all the difference in the world. If we hadn't had the...the Emergency Operations Center that we have I think some of our staff people would have had to gone home a lot earlier. They just couldn't have stayed.

Alice: How many did you have in the facility during the bulk of the time right during and after?

Brian Brantley: Thirty to forty people in this Emergency Operations Center. Right after that, of course, Social Services came in on Friday and started some programs to assist people immediately and they had numerous, numerous people. I know that the line on Friday...No, this was the following Friday after the storm, a week later...the line was past the Cultural Center and...with people trying to get assistance and by one or two o'clock Social Services had run them
all through this building and gotten them...their applications filled out to get them help. I was astonished. But if we had been in the old Social Services building it would have been a disaster in itself. So this building functioned like it was supposed to. Not only for emergency operations but for the recovery efforts afterwards. The tax department...they...even when the power went out we had the foresight to put the tax department on generator so they could still pull parcels off their computer to go out and do damage assessment. Our damage assessment team had the reports back to this office...our office...which is real important for Mr. Mayo trying to get a letter to the governor and getting the disaster declaration but we had a damage assessment report back in Monday following Floyd and that was unbelievable. No other has could pull that off. But our tax department, our planning department pulled together, went out and did damage assessment and they had the...some routes were blocked by water and they had to do their very best to get...go back and travel this way and move...if they hadn't known the county they'd of got lost. Another thing I will mention is people didn't know what happened on I-95 and this is something that concerns me about the reversal of I-40, that's another issue in itself for future hurricanes. Reversing I-40 from the coast sending them to I-95 and then sending them our way. I-95 floods and we've got thousands and thousands of beach goers on I-95 that we have to look after. For example, we had the Salem Fire Department had over 700 stranded motorist from I-95 in their little community and no where to go. The power was out. They pulled people together that had meat in their freezer that was gone go bad. They brought in cookers, set up all around the fire department and cooked meals for these people traveling I-95 that couldn't go anywhere. They couldn't go north, they couldn't go south. Red Oak was full of travelers. People parked in...sleeping in cars all over the town of Red Oak and the fire
department trying to get them food. We were sending water and...and food up there to Red Oak but we couldn't get anything to Salem. These 700 people I don't know how long they would have been there but we had a gentleman from Virginia that told the Fire Chief he was going to find a way to Raleigh. He left and stayed gone several hours and came back with a map written out that he gave to the Fire Chief. The power had come back on. They made copies of that map and passed it out and people left the Salem area. Now they had to go many, many miles out of the way up into Warren County I think and then get back to Raleigh but that's what the community pulled together were people from Ohio and Pennsylvania and New York and New Jersey. Nobody knows those little stories that happened and these fire chiefs and volunteers, not just fire departments but these communities pulled together and fed people they've never seen and will never see again. So there are some stories that were never told probably. You talk to some of the people that work doing those things and they brush it off like it was just my responsibility to look after them. So they are the good memories of hurricane Floyd.

Alice: Approximately what size is Salem?

Brian Brantley: Salem has a fire department there with about 22 members. They...it is a community of probably 200 people, 300 people max. So it's just...the fire department is the focal point of the whole community. And just a couple or three years ago they built them a nice fire department and it served its purpose. They used those to have people lay down and sleep on blankets in the fire department. So that's a story that Chief Armstrong could tell you - a real story about that.

Wayne Deal: Mr. Mayo mentioned a few minutes ago about the number of people _______ and
how many hours they were here. I wasn't involved in any of the rescue efforts. I didn't have the expertise to be out there. I spent most of my time here. But it's amazing. I urged people at stages to go home and get some rest and...and most of them wouldn't do it. Some of them I almost had to drive away. The dedication was just unbelievable. The...the physical exhaustion was obvious but at times the mental exhaustion was too. You see people down there with tears in their eyes saying, "I can't imagine how it feels to sit there or stand there and watch somebody be swept away and there's nothing in the world that you can do for them." But there were some people quietly behind the scenes that...and at first I didn't even realize one was there but there was a...there was a counselor from mental health that showed up in the center just to try to assist people and work through things and I think those kinds of things are...are behind the scenes. You don't really think about but they were very important. And there was also some funny stories. You know, there were tears but there were laughter. Is it alright if I tell the one about Devon in the hospital? We had a man who just got here, Devon Bass. And Devon's just a really, really nice guy with a great personality. Devon had an accident years ago and one of his arms is...well it just dangles he can't use it but he still has it. He was on the helicopter, as I recall the story, when they flew to the help...to the hospital and while they were at the hospital they got a call of a...of a lady who was in labor and they needed to go try to pick her up. So he went back into the hospital from the helicopter to try to get an OB kit and he was running down the hall and he said in all the confusion he was a little disoriented and I think they were doing some construction there too. And he was running down the hall and met these two doctors and he said which way is the emergency room? He was going to get an OB kit and one of them said, "How badly are you injured?" he said his arm was just flopping and the guy said, "Well how badly are
you injured?” So there was some laughter in it all too. But I just think the way people came
together was...was unbelievable. I...I remember a story that Brian shared with me. He might
have details closer than I do but the way I remember it he said he was on the phone with a man
who...who had left his house and left the dog and cat there. And he was determined that he
needed some help to go back and get his animals and...and Brian said he had explained to him
that he really understood his position but our first commitment was to save human lives and the
man said, "I understand that and I know you can't send anybody now but I'm going back to try to
get my animals". And he was told don't do that don't risk your life. And as I recall Brian said
when he...when you hung up the phone soon after that somebody came up to him and had heard
him on the phone and said, "Give me the location. We are specialists in rescuing animals. We
will go get the animals." Things just happen like that but there's no real apparent explanation for
it. But they happen.

Brian Brantley: That's exactly right. He actually sat down at the table, this gentleman sat down
at the table while I was still on the phone with this man and I was trying to convince the man,
don't risk your life for the animals. And he said, "If the water keeps rising and you don't get me
some help I'm going to try it." Well the gentleman sat down at the table in our Emergency
Operations Center and had on a black shirt and gold letters. I...I remember seeing the gold
letters on the shirt and I didn't recognize...and I told the gentleman before he tried to rescue to
call me back and I got his phone number and when I hung up the guy said, "Sounds like you
could use my help." and I looked and it was an animal recovery specialist. And the state had
sent...they were actually headed to Jones County because of the livestock problem they were
having with the flooding. But he stopped in here to see if he could help us and I gave him the
guys phone number. I said, "But he's supposed to call me back before he tries to save these animals."

Side B

Brian Brantley: ...the tension when he came in that room. As Mr. Deal mentioned earlier, when you are sitting there and sure it's stressful to worry about your day to day job and...and certain responsibilities you have but when you know you have people out there in situations that depend on you making the right decision and...and other people making the right decision and getting the right resources here that possibly could save lives that is as stressful as ________ if not more stressful. But the...as he also mentioned we had 50, probably 50 volunteers that watched people die that they couldn't get to them because of the swift water and you have to make that decision to...do you kill yourself trying to save somebody that probably won't be saved and that's stressful. And there are people like ________ who lay down every night thinking about seeing those things during Floyd. And so it is a lot of stress when you're thinking about doing the right thing for everybody. But we did have...speaking of Devon he also...they had a call...that same call I think he was going on was actually in Edgecombe or Wilson County. They had gotten a call that they needed some assistance. Well the pilot had no idea how to get there. Well Devon's familiar with both counties. Even though he worked for Nash he said, "I'll be glad to help you try to get there by looking at landmarks and so forth." And what happened was he ended up down there and they couldn't find the lady and he stayed away from here about 5 hours. We felt like we had lost him. But he got tied up trying to help the helicopter people and...and we could have used him here but after he told us what he was doing we certainly were not upset with him.
But that was...and...and we had resource requests from the city of Rocky Mount that we knew were going into the Edgecombe part of Rocky Mount. We knew Whitakers Fire Department was looking after about five or six hundred people up there because Edgecombe really couldn't get them any help because of the flooded roads and the fire department was looking after people.

We were trying to get them water and ice and...and later on meals but it didn't matter about the county lines. Edgecombe would have done the same thing for us. And they were...Princeville and Tarboro and the Edgecombe side of Rocky Mount...we knew those resources that Nash County was requesting were going to Edgecombe and Nash but it didn't matter and that's...that's the way it worked. The...the city governments and the county governments worked together great. We've learned a lot of things from Floyd. We've worked on our special need facilities for people that need special care that don't go to regular shelters. We had approximately 2500 people in shelters the night Floyd hit and those shelters, several of them, stayed open for many, many days. That's quite an operation as well. But we've...Rocky Mount being our largest municipality they now will have a representative in our Emergency Operations Center instead of us communicating by phone. They are going to have someone here. The Department of Transportation realized after Floyd that one of our biggest issues if not the biggest issue is water on the roadways. They have assured us they will have a...a member of their staff in our EOC 24 hours a day during the storms. Highway Patrol has assured us that they now understand that the...that they need to be in the county operations center. I think we've all learned a lot from it. We do have about 20 people that are trying...will start some training the 20th of July for swift water rescue. They'll be local people. We're trying to get a boat donated now from a local business. Maybe we'll never need them, we've never needed them before. But we did
after...but we did during Floyd. So our people are pulling together the city, the volunteer fire and rescue squad, are going to pull together and put a team together and so when we...it happens next time we won't have to wait three hours for the Garner team maybe. We'll have our own team. So some of the things that we have learned from Floyd will benefit us in the future. We made mistakes but we're going to learn from them.

Alice: A couple of questions. When you spoke of the Red Cross ERV serving meals. What's an ERV? (This would be Emergency Response Vehicle)

Brian Brantley: They were all over the city of Rocky Mount and Nash County. They're...they look like...they've got a cab on them and a little box type...it looks like a little ambulance almost.

Alice: Okay.

Brian Brantley: Some of them were vans.

Alice: Right.

Brian Brantley: And they've got the areas where they could keep the food warm back there or they can actually serve out of them. Now some of the vans just got the styrofoam plates and they loaded them...stacked them in the back of the vans and went to the feeding stations. But some of them actually came, they'd take these styrofoam plates with them and then they've got heaters in there and they can actually dip the food out and put on them. So they're little emergency response units for the Red Cross that...that can travel all over the whole area. In fact during Fran we set up the feeding station in Wilson and our eight feeding stations actually got our food from these ____ in the county and fortunately this time we had the Baptist Men at Englewood Church. Salvation Army also helped us quite a bit. During Fran they set up at the southern end of the county and they fed for two weeks because the power stayed out in Nash and
Franklin County. We didn't care. We wanted to help Franklin County as much as our people too. So the Salvation Army also ran two shelters for us during Floyd. Red Cross ran the rest of them. And we have a lot of churches that opened up their own. There's also another community...North Nashville...there's a church there I couldn't give you the name. They were...they

Claude Mayo: Beulah Church.

Brian Brantley: Beulah Church. They set up at the North Nashville Ruritan building. They were an hour. We could not get to them without a helicopter. The people that we got out of the...with the swift water rescue team...out of the Winwood Subdivision down here...it's part of Nashville, north of Nashville. They all went on that side of the creek and we couldn't get any help to them. That little Beulah Church set up there at the North Nashville Ruritan and they started feeding people, they started bringing in clothes and they pretty much operated on their own for several days. I finally got so I could get a car through there and I went up there and talked to the pastor and the lady that pretty much organized things and it was amazing what they had done. People giving away their clothes to people that they had never seen before. And some of those people had lost all their homes down here at the Winwood Subdivision. That was probably, other than the city and Bunn Farm this little subdivision here in Nashville was hit as hard as anybody was. That was one of our biggest fears, we were going to lose some lives down there. We kept getting calls, the creeks rising, the creeks rising. Of course we were saying get out. Well where am I going to go? Just go. We were begging them. Go to high land we'll get you some help some way but get out of your homes. And that's when we got the call about the elderly lady in the wheelchair and that's when our paramedic and the National Guardsman got
swept off the river trying to get to her. The water was probably 2 ½ to 3 feet deep that they were trying to go through on that truck. But out here near our radio tower if they'd of drove down that hill the water would have been over the top of their truck. That's how bad that creek was. Fortunately the water came to about thirty feet from our radio system tower. Edgecombe lost theirs in the flood. But there...Divine intervention maybe looked after us because our radio tower was not built up to worry about a flood that far from the creek but it did come to about thirty feet from...you can see where the mud was on the leaves and I just looked at it and said, "Thank goodness our radio system didn't fail like Edgecombe's did."

Claude Mayo: _________ backs up to Stoney Creek.

Brian Brantley: Now the...we went out the afternoon when the water was coming up so fast and it was unreal on how rapid that flood water was.

Claude Mayo: Unbelievable. It really was.

Alice: So when you refer to the creek behind Winwood it is Stoney Creek?

Claude Mayo: Yes. Stoney Creek. Right. That's right. It was terrible.

Alice: It surrounded our house totally. We were on an island. How many shelters did the county manage?

Brian Brantley: Let's see. We had Benvenue, Southern Nash Jr., Southern Nash Senior, Northern Nash, Winstead Avenue was on standby. I'm missing one I think we had five. But there were 25 about 2500 in our shelters. We got a lot of calls from churches to say we're gonna open up tonight. And if ya'll need any help let us know. Fire departments opened up. It got so bad during the night we asked all fire departments to...anybody that we could find out on the road we were going to direct them to the fire departments. So all of our fire departments kept people
at their station. Spring Hope probably ended up with as many as anybody except Salem and Red Oak because they were getting that I-95 traffic. But I-95 created a real nightmare because we not only...we're a host county for the Dare County area. So early in a hurricane they may call Nash County and say, "How about opening a shelter for us. We're going to evacuate Dare County." So we open our shelter for them. Well then...they're saying now they could reverse I-40 to I-95 and then disburse them up and down north and south. Well there again we're going to catch these people that can't get through because of the flooding. We know where on I-95 is going to flood next time. It's right there at Stoney Creek. And so we've got those people coming to us. We've got the Dare County region coming to us and then we have proven that we have flooding and need shelter so what concerns me is are we overloading the inland counties when maybe you could bring the people from the coast not so far inland. You know, if the hurricane is not going to be much worse in Pender County or a little further west so I think they could bring people in. They actually spent a lot of federal money on upgrading shelters from the coast to I-95. I think they should utilize those shelters instead of sending them to I-95. And another thing is D.O.T. will put up signs stating I-40 closed - east bound. Well I want to know where they're going to put those signs up because if they put them north of Rocky Mount all those people are going to pull into Rocky Mount and take up all our hotel space. If they put them south of Rocky Mount then maybe they'll go on to Johnston County and find a room or Wilson County. So a lot of things the state does and I...I want to compliment the state on their resources they provided for us during Floyd. But a lot of times the inland counties that lose lives during hurricanes are left out of the planning process on the state level and that's something that I've voiced my opinion about and...because if what they do...I want to help everybody I can but
those coastal people and a lot of those out of state they can go somewhere else and stay. Our
first responsibility is to Nash County people. And...and then when I see them overloading our
resources it...it...it scares me a little bit.

Alice: To go back to the swift water rescue team. I know that a couple of days after...I guess on
Saturday when we were finally able to get into our back yard there were teams that were walking
the creek. Were these still the swift water teams that had come? They were looking for bodies,
I think at that point.

Wayne Deal: Right.

Alice: The group that was behind the house were from Tarboro, they were firemen.

Brian Brantley: Yes. We had...we had specific teams like...some of them...if we...they were not
being utilized on their boats they were all willing to do anything they could to help us. We did
have the body recovery specialist.

Wayne Deal: With dogs.

Brian Brantley: With dogs. I'm trying to think what county they were from. One of the dog
teams...we actually had two dog teams and then we had two body recovery teams that didn't have
the dogs. And of course they...they actually had to go and tie chains to vehicles that were under
water and pull them out and...and then the body recovery specialists went in and got the bodies
out of the vehicles. Several of the bodies were found outside of the vehicles. But I know that
Rocky Mount had one missing person that was found later and that's probably what...I would
assume that's what they were looking for that you saw. But that was...that was not an easy task
for those people either to go out and...and those dogs were unbelievable on helping them locate
those bodies in a hurry. Because you...you just don't want to leave those bodies out very long to
show respect.

Alice: I don't believe I have any more questions. Is there anything? Thank you all so much.