

Chantae Lail

is known for thinking ahead. From large-scale community disasters to individual crises, she knows just what to do.

After working in the laboratory at Forsyth Medical Center, then Catawba Pediatric Associates, and Piedmont Cardiology, she wanted to expand her skills and joined Catawba County Public Health in 2006 as lab manager and safety officer.

“There were tons of opportunities for growth, both outside the lab and inside the lab. Catawba County has always been innovative and forward-thinking,” she said.

Lail had the opportunity to incorporate preparedness into her job duties in 2009.

“Preparedness pairs well with safety because you’re trying to plan ahead and mitigate any hazards,” she said.

Part of her role is developing plans and ensuring that the organization is ready for a variety of incidents – including a biological attack, a nuclear accident, or an outbreak of disease.

“When it’s working well, it’s seamless. The public really doesn’t know it’s there. It’s supposed to be – if something happens, we should already have a plan of action and know what we’re going to do.

Likewise, Lail encourages Catawba County’s residents to have their own plans of action for personal and community emergencies.

“Whether that’s a snow storm, flooding, or not having air conditioning in the summertime, we want residents to be prepared,” she said. “The majority of people choose not to plan ahead for disasters because they don’t think it’s ever going to happen to them.”

Lail’s goal is to inspire Public Health staff and community residents to act proactively before an emergency. That’s why she ensures plans are in place, organizes training and holds drills to prepare staff for incidents. By being prepared, Lail is helping keep Catawba County residents safe and healthy in case of an emergency.

“Although we hope we will never need to use our emergency plans, we’re ready,” said Lail. “We hope our residents will be ready, too.”



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Chantae Lail is #makinglivingbetter every day in Catawba County.