



Chatham County Board of Commissioners
124 Bull Street, Savannah, GA 31401

News Release
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For Immediate Release

Chatham Emergency Management Agency Receives Two Awards for Social Media Campaign during Hurricane Irma

Chatham County, GA (April 27, 2018) – On April 25, 2018, the Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) received two awards for their use of social media during Hurricane Irma at the Government Social Media Conference (GSMCON) in Denver, CO. The first award came from the Government Social Media Organization (GSMO) for use of social media in crisis communications. CEMA was nominated with Sarasota, Florida’s response to Hurricane Irma and the City of Las Vegas’ response to the October 1st mass shooting at a concert. CEMA placed second to Las Vegas.

The second award was presented by the U.S. Government and Politics Manager for Facebook, Eva Guidarini. This award, titled the **Facebook Favorite Award**, is presented to a government agency that successfully used Facebook in an innovative or exciting way. GSMO nominated 15 agencies for the award and the winner was selected by a corporate team from Facebook. CEMA’s social media efforts during Hurricane Irma included the numerous Facebook Live videos and the consistent presence of staff during the entire emergency event. Staff responded to over 2,000 posts during Hurricane Irma and the days that followed the event.

Chelsea Sawyer, CEMA’s Community Outreach Coordinator and Emergency Management Specialist, was on hand at the event to accept both awards.

“I am extremely honored to have received these recognitions,” Director Dennis Jones said. “While CEMA was the recipient of these awards, we certainly are dependent on the strong support from partners and other Chatham County departments. Social media has revolutionized the way we communicate with the public, and the Team making that happen are some of the best.”

The 2018 “Golden Post Awards” is the fourth annual award program exclusively designed to honor outstanding use of social media by local and state government agencies in the U.S. The awards are presented during the National Government Social Media Conference (GSMCON), which is the only major social media conference for U.S. city, county, and state government agencies. GSMCON is coordinated by the Government Social Media Organization.

“I am proud to say that Team Chatham once again leads the way in helping to make Chatham County citizens safe. These social media awards say a great deal about the commitment of our team members,” said County Manager Lee Smith. “It is amazing how much the world has changed in communicating with the general population. Team Chatham along with CEMA have proven we are on the cutting edge of today’s technology, social media and other communication tools, to keep our community safe during a crisis. I am extremely proud of our team.”

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