

Board of County Commissioners

200 East 4th Street / P.O. Box 99 • Woodbine, GA 31569
Phone: (912) 576.5601 • Fax: (912) 576.5647 • www.co.camden.ga.us



Office of the County Administrator

Press Release

Contact: Steve Howard
Phone: (912) 510-0464

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
2 p.m. EDT, 12/7/2009

Camden County Receives Award for Outstanding EMA Organization for 2009

Woodbine, GA – December 7, 2009: Camden County is excited to announce that our very own Emergency Management Agency has been awarded the "Outstanding EMA Organization for 2009" by the Emergency Management Association of Georgia. The Emergency Management Association of Georgia is an association of professionals serving its members by promoting professional development, providing networking opportunities and serving as an advocate for the profession of Emergency Management. There are 159 county EMA agencies in the association; however, there are also Law Enforcements agencies, Fire Departments, and EMS agencies listed as members. The total membership of the Emergency Management Association of Georgia is more than 300 members. *"I am very proud of the work and accomplishments of our agency! This would not have been possible without the support and hard work by everyone involved in Camden County Emergency Management,"* said Mark Crews, Camden County's EMA Director.

"Leadership that Listens"

STEVE L. HOWARD
County Administrator

O. BRENT GREEN
County Attorney

WILLIS KEENE, JR.
Commissioner, District 1

KATHERINE NISI ZELL – Vice Chair
Commissioner, District 2

STEPHEN L. BERRY
Commissioner, District 3

CHARLENE SEARS
Commissioner, District 4

DAVID L. RAINER - Chair
Commissioner, District 5

Camden County’s Emergency Management Agency (EMA) was chosen for this prestigious award for numerous reasons. Revitalizing the old Kingsland post office to create what is now the new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) by using only 1% monies versus normal tax dollars was one of the reasons listed. During 2009, the EOC building was re-engineered to withstand a Category 4 hurricane. It was outfitted with all necessary communications equipment, along with an emergency generator with electrical capacity to run the entire building in the event of a power failure. The entire structure from the roof to the foundation was reinforced to provide a safe and comfortable working environment for our local decision makers and their staffs.

Another reason that Camden County’s EMA received this award was because of their efforts in establishing an intergovernmental agreement for CodeRED Weather Warnings coordinated between the County and the cities of Kingsland, St. Marys, and Woodbine. CodeRED is a private enterprise that provides Weather Warnings (SRWW) designed to deliver severe weather warnings to resident’s telephone within seconds after being issued by the National Weather Service. CodeRED Weather Warning can provide critical extra time for preparation in case severe weather threatens.

Additionally, Camden County Government was able to realign a County job position from Georgia Forestry to Emergency Management Agency in order to better utilize its resources during this tough economic time, preventing the County from having to add an additional position to the budget.

Furthermore, our EMA has exceeded state requirements with planning initiatives and updates throughout 2009. The state requires a "Local Emergency Operations Plan" (LEOP) which is a generic plan outlining what agencies would be primary and secondary depending on the type of emergency. In addition to the LEOP, Camden County’s EMA also has a Special Needs Patients evacuation plan, a Debris Management plan, a Hazards Mitigation plan, a Points of Distribution (PODS) plan, as well as an Animals in Disaster plan.

“Leadership that Listens”

STEVE L. HOWARD County Administrator	O. BRENT GREEN County Attorney	
WILLIS KEENE, JR. Commissioner, District 1	KATHERINE NISI ZELL – Vice Chair Commissioner, District 2	STEPHEN L. BERRY Commissioner, District 3
CHARLENE SEARS Commissioner, District 4	DAVID L. RAINER - Chair Commissioner, District 5	

All of the plans were developed with support and participation from the cities of Kingsland, St. Marys, and Woodbine, Public Health, Camden County Schools Board of Education, Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, and utility companies among others.

Camden County was presented this award at a banquet on Tuesday, December 1, 2009 hosted by the Emergency Management Association of Georgia. Other awards were presented for EMA Director of the Year, Associate Agencies of the Year, as well as Lifetime Contributors to the field of Emergency Management. County Administrator, Steve L. Howard, added *“This has been an award-winning year for Camden County Government! I am thrilled with the news of receiving such an esteemed award! Having an efficient and effective Emergency Management Agency and providing outstanding services through our new Emergency Operations Center is critical to the safety of our residents in the event of a natural disaster or other catastrophic occurrence.”*

“Leadership that Listens”

STEVE L. HOWARD
County Administrator

O. BRENT GREEN
County Attorney

WILLIS KEENE, JR.
Commissioner, District 1

KATHERINE NISI ZELL – Vice Chair
Commissioner, District 2

STEPHEN L. BERRY
Commissioner, District 3

CHARLENE SEARS
Commissioner, District 4

DAVID L. RAINER - Chair
Commissioner, District 5