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News Release

IAEM-USA Announces Winner of the 2018 IAEM-USA Technology & Innovation Award

Oct. 16, 2018 (Falls Church, Va.) - The IAEM-USA Awards & Recognition Committee of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) is pleased to announce the winner of the IAEM-USA 2018 Technology & Innovation Award. IAEM award winners will be recognized at the IAEM 66th Annual Conference & EMEX, Oct. 19-24, 2018, in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The winner of the **2018 IAEM-USA Technology & Innovation Award** is **Chatham County (Georgia) Emergency Management** for its use of technology to develop a social vulnerability analysis to prioritize potential damage assessment areas. Hurricane Matthew made it clear that paper damage assessment forms for Individual Assistance is not viable on a large scale disaster. Chatham County learned from this experience and worked diligently during several months following Hurricane Matthew to develop a simple and easy-to-use method for collecting damage assessment information. Developing a Social Vulnerability Analysis to prioritize potential damage assessment areas would lead to a more efficient response. Hurricane Irma provided the opportunity to demonstrate Chatham County's changes to the Individual Assistance Damage Assessment Program while successfully conducting more than 90,000 windshield surveys in just a few short days.

With the collaboration of different departments and agencies, the workload was divided to spread the cost of conducting the analysis. The tools utilized were all readily available to these departments, so it was just a matter of refining the data into a map layer that would be simple and easy to use for anyone. With the technology in place, teams were trained during Summer 2017. The training paid off when Chatham County, Georgia, was impacted by Hurricane Irma in September 2017. Damage Assessment Teams were able to quickly and accurately collect data. This data was easily viewed in the Emergency Operations Center in real time. All of this field collection of information was crucial for securing a Presidentially Declared Disaster for Individual Assistance.

The **IAEM Technology & Innovation Award** recognizes the development of technology and innovation to improve emergency management operations, public education, or the emergency management/homeland security field. Learn about the IAEM Awards Competition at www.iaem.com/Awards.

IAEM-USA, the nation's largest emergency management professional association, is a non-profit professional organization representing more than 4,600 emergency management and homeland security professionals for local communities, state and federal disaster officials, private sector, non-governmental organizations and others involved in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from all types of disasters including acts of terrorism. IAEM provides: access to the largest network of emergency management experts who can provide advice and assistance; the Certified Emergency Manager program; annual scholarships; a comprehensive monthly newsletter; and more.

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