Emergency Management Planning & COVID-19
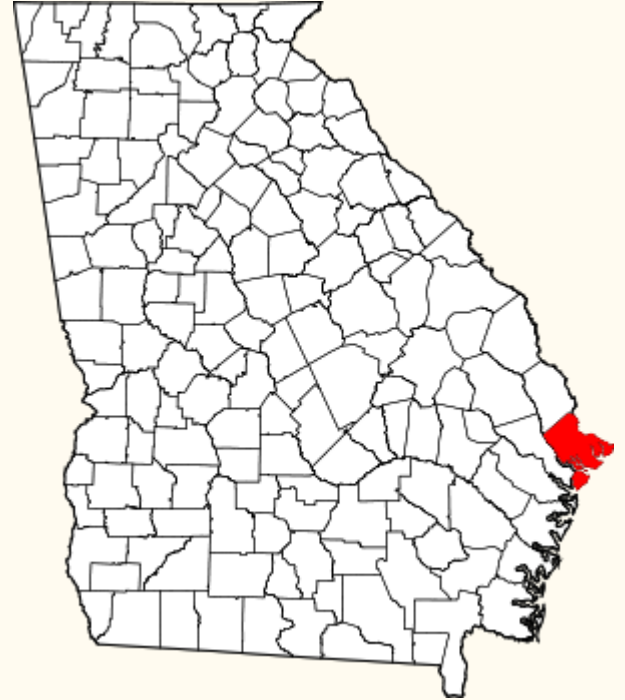
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Presented By:
Chatham Emergency Management Agency
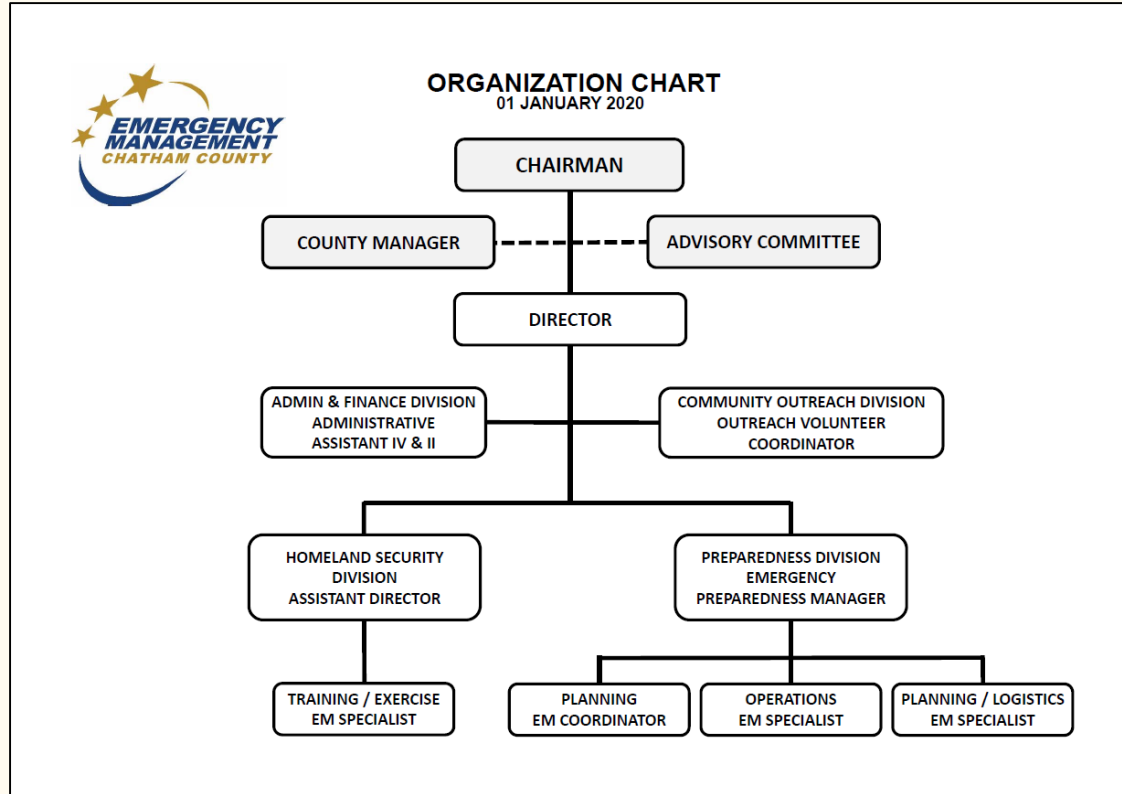
Chatham County, Georgia

- Population: 289,000 residents
- 5th most populace county in the state
- Municipalities:
  - Bloomingdale
  - Garden City
  - Pooler
  - Port Wentworth
  - **Savannah**
  - Tybee Island
  - Thunderbolt
  - Vernonburg
- Western most port on the east coast

Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA)

- Largest local EMA in the state of Georgia
- Consist of 4 Divisions
  - Emergency Preparedness
  - Homeland Security
  - Community Outreach
  - Administrative/Finance
- Oversee emergency management for entire county

ORGANIZATION CHART
01 JANUARY 2020

CHAIRMAN

COUNTY MANAGER — — — ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DIRECTOR

ADMIN & FINANCE DIVISION
ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT IV & II

COMMUNITY OUTREACH DIVISION
OUTREACH VOLUNTEER
COORDINATOR

HOMELAND SECURITY
DIVISION
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

PREPAREDNESS DIVISION
EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS MANAGER

TRAINING / EXERCISE
EM SPECIALIST

PLANNING
EM COORDINATOR

OPERATIONS
EM SPECIALIST

PLANNING / LOGISTICS
EM SPECIALIST

Chatham County's Emergency Operations Centers

- EOC's Provide:
  - A centralized location for interagency coordination and decision making
    - Managing Needed Resources
    - Maintain situation awareness and Common Operating Picture
    - Facilitate Information Sharing

Primary EOC - Old Courthouse

Alternative EOC-Annex

Mobile EOC - MEOC

Pandemic Planning Considerations

- **Physical Distancing:**
  - The need for physical distancing changes our Emergency Operations Center, our Evacuation Assembly Area and impacts all other considerations.
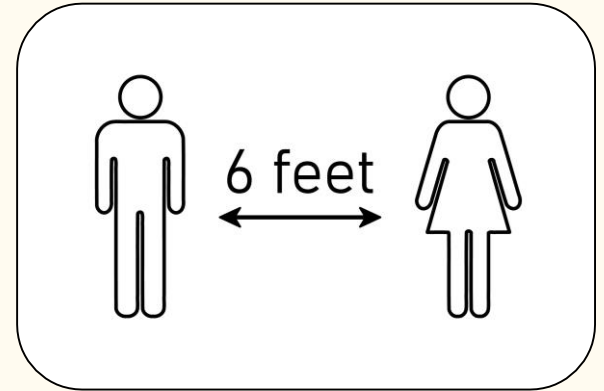
- **Sheltering:**
  - Evacuation sheltering, general population sheltering (after a storm) and critical workforce sheltering are impacted.

- **Resources:**
  - With buses at half capacity and the need for surgical masks, resources play a whole new game this year.

- **Outreach**

Emergency Operations Center

- Moving to a hybrid staffing system to allow for physical distancing:
  - Old Courthouse EOC
  - Annex EOC (Primary)
  - Remote Work
- Screening, Sanitation and PPE:
  - Requiring additional staff solely dedicated to taking staff temperature and sanitation of the EOC(s)
  - Surgical masks are REQUIRED to be worn by all staff.

Evacuation Assembly Area (EAA)

- Process Overview
- Increased Staffing Need
- Operations:
  - Assuming everyone is COVID Positive
  - Recommendation to operate over two days
  - Coordination with Chatham Area Transit to space out ridership.
  - Additional buses required to accommodate physical distancing.
    - ½ capacity
  - New electronic registration system
  - Plexiglass barrier (for those that cannot wear a mask for medical concerns).

Evacuation Assembly Area (EAA)- Continued

- Logistics:
  - Purchase of surgical masks for everyone within the EAA
  - Purchase of cleaning and sanitation supplies
- Screening, Sanitation and PPE:
  - Surgical masks required for everyone over the age of 2.
    - Children's masks must also be purchased
  - Screening EAA staff
  - Sanitation of the facility every hour

Sheltering Operations

- Red Cross Limitation:
  - Can only guarantee cots and comfort kits for 10% of shelter residents.
  - Blankets=20%
  - Limiting post storm shelters to 50 people regardless of shelter size or physical distancing.
- All Shelters:
  - Allow for 110 square feet of space per person
    - Previous standard was 40 square feet
  - Screening for staff will be compliant with county current standards.

Sheltering Operations (Continued)

- Evacuation Sheltering:
  - Current agreements are significantly limited
  - Identifying alternative locations
  - Looking at providing surgical masks to everyone to wear in the shelter at all times.
  - In accordance with CDC guidelines, we will establish an isolation area for those with symptoms of COVID-19.
- Staffing and Structure:
  - Because of new standards and requirements, staffing is a huge concern.
  - Identifying turnkey sheltering solutions as a back-up option.

Resource Planning

Item	Amount
N95 or KN95 Masks	2,214
Surgical Masks	66,995
Gloves	18,058
Gowns	494
Face Shields	144
Touchless Thermometers	20
Moveable Plexiglas Barrier	4
Hand Sanitizer, 1 Liter	81
Hand Sanitizer, Individual, 2 oz.	660
Hand Soap, 12 oz.	185
Tissues, Individual Travel Packs	44
Painter's Tape	16
Large Paper Bags	93
Biohazard Waste Bag with Disposal Fee	24
Spray Bottles filled with Alcohol Solution	232
Paper Towels, Industrial Roll	617

- Determine planning assumptions for each scenario or operation
- Determine PPE requirements for each scenario based on published guidance
  - What PPE is appropriate for the task?
  - What is the burn rate?
- Consult with local professionals to determine how to meet the specific needs of our operations
  - These opinions are most critical when CDC guidance does not "fit" our operation- example: EAA

Emergency Communications

- WebEOC:
  - CEMA and GEMA's online management system
    - Managing Needed Resources
    - Maintain situation awareness and Common Operating Picture
    - Facilitates Information Sharing
- Phone Operations:
  - One of CEMA's direct lines to the general public
    - Small room that does not allow for physical distancing
    - Assessing the feasibility of using a professional phone service
    - OR, identifying a separate location to house the operators

Decision Making, Timing and Execution of Evacuations

- H-120: Advance to OPCON 4, Begin Coordination
- H-96: Draft SOE, Begin CPG Discussions
- H-84: Implement SOE / Activate EM Ordinance
- **H-72: Request Resources and Activate Contracts**
- H-60: Setup Staging Areas and Support Services
- H-54: Start Specialty Population Evacuations
- H-40: Start General Population Evacuations

- Hurricane Response Timeline
  - Standard protocol for hurricane season
- Adding additional 4 hours to decision making arcs to ensure leadership has ample time to make decisions and pull necessary triggers

Re-Entry Planning

Georgia Emergency Management Agency controls all re-entry passes for the State of Georgia.

Passes are required for phases 2&3.

Five Re-Entry Phases

1. Render Safe Task Force
2. Life Safety Workforce
3. Essential Public and Private Sector Personnel
4. Local Residents, Property Owners, and Business Owners
5. Open to the public with limited access

Additional Considerations

- Preliminary Damage Assessment
  - FEMA field teams will be limited.
  - Use of digital means
- Points of Distribution:
  - PPE for staff
  - Physical distancing options
- Post Disaster Sheltering
  - Long term housing solutions
- Volunteer Reception Centers:
  - Are they possible this year?
  - How do you manage volunteer teams coming into the area?

Hurricane Preparedness During a Pandemic
Virtual Hurricane Conference
July 30, 2020

Sessions Include:

- Colorado State University's 2020 Hurricane Season Forecast
- Infrastructure Resilience Planning
- Crisis Communications via social media
- Managing Volunteers During a Pandemic- Tennessee Tornadoes Case Study
- Disaster Recovery and Redevelopment Planning
- Preparing for Vulnerable Populations
- Food and Disaster Supply Shortages- Georgia Food Bank Association
- Creating Resilient Homes
- Social Inequities During a Disaster- Harris County, Texas
- Faith Based Outreach in a COVID Environment- FEMA
- Hurricane Planning During a Public Health Emergency- Panel with EMA Directors across the southeast

For more information and to register, visit www.gatech.edu

Questions?

Chatham Emergency Management Agency

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Savannah, GA 31401

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