



News Release

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Charleston County Emergency Management Receives Highest Honor

Charleston County Emergency Management becomes the first county in South Carolina to achieve EMAP Accreditation

Charleston County Emergency Management earned accreditation by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) on November 15, 2018. Charleston County was recognized for being in compliance with standards certified by the American National Institute (ANSI) and for complying with EMAP's mission to build safer communities through credible standards of excellence. Charleston County Emergency Management was also honored for enhancing preparedness efforts for any natural disaster that may affect the community.

To achieve accreditation, applicants must:

- Demonstrate through self-assessment, documentation and peer assessment verification that its program meets the *Emergency Management Standard*.
- Use the accreditation to prove the capabilities of their disaster preparedness and response systems.
- Maintain compliance with the *Emergency Management Standard* and is reassessed to maintain accredited status. Accreditation is valid for five years.

"Congratulations to Charleston County Emergency Management for being the first county in the state to achieve EMAP Accreditation. This honor serves as a reminder to our citizens their safety is a top priority," said County Administrator Jennifer Miller. "Through commitment and leadership, Charleston County Emergency Management has proven that our programs are sustainable and that we continue to focus on Charleston County's best interest."

The accreditation process evaluates emergency management programs on compliance with requirements in sixteen areas, including:

- Planning
- Resource management
- Training
- Exercises, evaluations and corrective actions
- Communications and warning
- Administration

The *Emergency Management Standard* is flexible in design so that programs of differing sizes, populations, risks and resources can use it as a blueprint for improvement and can attain compliance with those standards in an accreditation process. EMAP is the only accreditation process for emergency management programs.

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- written by the Public Information Office -