



Charleston County News Release

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Project fact sheet: <http://www.charlestoncounty.org/pdfs/factsheetforribboncutting.pdf>

Officials Celebrate Completion of Charleston County's Consolidated 9-1-1 Center and Emergency Operations Center

On Thursday, Jan. 24, officials from multiple jurisdictions in Charleston County gathered for a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the grand opening of Charleston County's Consolidated 9-1-1 Center and Emergency Operations Center. The 38,000-square-foot structure has a dual purpose in that it houses two of Charleston County Government's major departments: the [Consolidated 9-1-1 Center](#) and [Emergency Management Department](#). In essence, it enables the full consolidation of 9-1-1 and emergency dispatch operations in Charleston County and serves as the new location for the Emergency Operations Center.

FACTS ABOUT THE NEW CENTER:

- Construction started in June of 2011 and finished on schedule in November 2012.
- Location: 8500 Palmetto Commerce Parkway, North Charleston, S.C.
- Size: approximately 38,000 square feet.
- Facility: two-story structure with backup electrical, water and sewer to ensure continuous operation.
- "Green" features: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver certification goal, rainwater collection, water efficient landscaping and use of recycled materials. The process to obtain certified is underway and may take up to a year.
- Cost: \$26,780,000 (total project cost including land, design fees, construction, equipment and furnishings).
- Safety: the building is designed to be occupied during disasters, with the ability to withstand winds of 191 mph and resist earthquake forces. The first floor is at 49 feet in elevation, which is outside of the 500 year flood plain.
- [Click here to learn more about Charleston County's Consolidated 9-1-1 Center](#)
- [Click here to learn more about Charleston County's Emergency Management Department](#)

QUOTES ABOUT THE NEW CENTER:

- "I am extremely proud of Charleston County Council for recognizing the need for a facility that may very well be one of the most important buildings in our County in that it serves to protect our citizens' livelihood. The 9-1-1 consolidation provides dispatchers the ability to talk directly to each other as they are handling emergency calls requiring multi-jurisdictional response, ultimately reducing response times and saving lives. And during large, complex incidents, the Emergency Operations Center assumes a coordination role. As an incident expands in size or increases in complexity, central coordination is needed and will be provided by the talented and well-trained individuals working here."
- [Charleston County Council Chairman Teddie E. Pryor, Sr.](#)
- Consolidating 9-1-1 services in Charleston County has been a monumental undertaking, and I am extremely grateful to Charleston County Council for their tremendous support. Additionally, I am proud of the cooperation exhibited by our local jurisdictions and

emergency response leaders to make this happen.” - [Charleston County Consolidated Dispatch Board](#) Chairman Jon Zumalt, North Charleston Police Chief

- “The new Consolidated 9-1-1 Center has many advantages, including the latest in 9-1-1 technology and a better working environment for the Call Takers and Dispatchers that will help them continue providing excellent service under increasing responsibilities.”
- Jim Lake, [Charleston County Consolidated 9-1-1 Center](#) Director
- “Within the Emergency Operations Center, Charleston County’s Emergency Management Department establishes the common operating picture following a disaster, providing external coordination to incident commanders. The Emergency Management Department facilitates the sharing of all-hazards operational information and other subject matter expertise in support of incident management and response activities.” - Jason Patno, [Charleston County Emergency Management Department](#) Director

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