

Chatham County Named **#HurricaneStrong**

Chatham County, GA joined Miami-Dade and Leon County, FL as the third in the United States to receive the honorary designation as a [#HurricaneStrong](#) community. FLASH President and CEO Leslie Chapman-Henderson and Founding and Legacy Partner National Weather Service Warning Coordination Meteorologist Ron Morales presented the designation to members of the Chatham County Commission, Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) Director Dennis Jones, Building Safety Director Gregori Anderson, and U.S. Congressman Buddy Carter during the September 21 meeting.

Following the award, Rep. Carter appeared on *The Weather Channel's* evening program, *Weather Underground* ([see video](#)), and noted "This was an opportunity for us to come together as a community and to show that we are prepared, and that we are hurricane strong."

The FLASH partnership chose the county of nearly 300,000 for the designation based on several criteria, including leadership engagement, excellent rankings on the ISO Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS), achievement of the National Weather Service [StormReady® Community](#) designation, and a positive Community Rating System (CRS) score.

Flood safety outreach programs earned high marks for the county as well. Since 1998, FLASH and Chatham County have joined forces with the Office of Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner, CEMA, Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA), FEMA, and many others to host an annual hurricane preparedness expo at The Home Depot. Additionally, the county conducts year-round education programs at community events, homeowners' associations, and schools.

"On behalf of the more than 100 partners of the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes, we are proud to recognize Chatham County's leadership for their commitment to advancing disaster resilience," said FLASH President and CEO Leslie Chapman-Henderson. "As we witness the ongoing losses of Hurricane Florence, we see additional evidence that state and local leaders can make a positive difference before disaster strikes. We look forward to our continued partnership."

The [#HurricaneStrong](#) Community program is an extension of the [National Hurricane Resilience Initiative - #HurricaneStrong](#) created in 2016 to improve preparedness, mitigation, and overall readiness through increased public awareness and engagement.

For information about how to become a [#HurricaneStrong](#) Community, contact info@flash.org or call 877-221-SAFE.