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Region IV

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Four Savannah, Chatham Facilities To Get Hurricane-Pr Windows

Atlanta, GA, December 17, 2001 -- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved grants to enhance the ability of four Savannah governmental structures to withstand assaults from hurricane-force winds.

The facilities include the old Chatham County Courthouse administrative building, the Savannah Emergency Operations Center Fire Station, Fire Station No. 5, and the Southside Fire Station. The cost of the projects will be \$216,410, of which \$126,058 will be funded by FEMA.

All four structures became eligible for federal funding as a result of tornadoes that raked Georgia in February 2000. "The measures are intended to lessen the possibility of damage to life and property from future severe weather events," said the director of FEMA's Region IV, Kenneth O. Burris, Jr.

"This wind retrofit grant will play a vital role in helping Chatham County and Savannah maintain their critical operations capabilities during severe weather events," said Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) Director Gary McConnell.

Priority has been given to wind retrofit projects, especially hurricane windows that could provide protection from deadly flying shards during a storm.

The Savannah/Chatham projects include: \$72,500 in federal funding for installation of hurricane screens on all windows and openings of the Emergency Operations Center housed in the old Chatham Courthouse; \$31,058 for installation of similar window protection at the City of Savannah Emergency Operations Center/Fire Station and the Fire Station No. 5; and, \$22,500 for similar protection at Southside Fire Station #1/EOC.

Last Updated: Friday, 09-Aug-2002 06:30:12 EDT

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