Media Release
For immediate release: June 8, 2020
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Highest Honor for Emergency Management Awarded to Nine Programs

Falls Church, VA. – Congratulations to the following Emergency Management Programs that have earned accreditation by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP): State of Arizona; State of Connecticut, State of Georgia; Gwinnett County, GA.; State of Nevada; Volusia County, FL.; Washington University in St. Louis; Nashville District of the United States Army Corps of Engineers; and Northwest Division of the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

"Congratulations to those Programs that have maintained their accredited status as well as those who have joined the elite leaders in emergency management having earned accreditation through the Emergency Management Accreditation Program. Through their commitment and leadership, they have proven to their communities and stakeholders that their Programs are sustainable and that they continue to focus on their communities' best interests," stated Nick Crossley, Director of Hamilton County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency and the EMAP Commission Chair.

Providing emergency management programs the opportunity to be evaluated and recognized for compliance with standards certified by the American National Standard Institute (ANSI) and recognized by the industry complies with the EMAP's mission to build safer communities through credible standards of excellence. These Programs demonstrate accountability and focus attention on areas and issues where resources are needed to heighten their preparedness efforts to any technical or natural disaster that may affect their communities.

To achieve accreditation, applicants must demonstrate through self-assessment, documentation and peer assessment verification that its program meets the *Emergency Management Standard*. The emergency management program uses the accreditation to prove the capabilities of their disaster preparedness and response systems. Accreditation is valid for five years and the program must maintain compliance with the *Emergency Management Standard* and is reassessed to maintain accredited status.

For those Programs that were undergoing a consecutive accreditation, this achievement proves just as significant. By maintaining their accredited status throughout the years, these Programs prove that they adhere to the *Emergency Management Standard,* and successfully maintain accreditation status to achieve a consecutive accreditation this year.

EMAP revolutionizes emergency management programs that coordinate preparedness and response activities for disasters based on standards. EMAP recognizes the ability of emergency management programs to bring together personnel, resources and communications from a variety of agencies and organizations in preparation for and in response to an emergency, in addition to obtaining the ability to measure those capabilities. 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. The accreditation process evaluates emergency management programs on compliance with requirements in sixteen areas, including: administration, coordination, administration and finance, and laws and authorities; hazard identification, risk assessment and consequence analysis; hazard mitigation; prevention; operational planning and procedures; incident management; resource management, mutual aid and logistics; communications and warning; facilities; training; exercises, evaluations, and corrective actions; and emergency public information and education. This forms the foundation of the nation's emergency preparedness systems. EMAP is the only accreditation process for emergency management programs.

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Capable and resilient communities through measurable standards of excellence.
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