

HURRICANE IDALIA: CHALLENGES AND SUCCESSES IN LOWNDES COUNTY, GA

PRESENTERS:

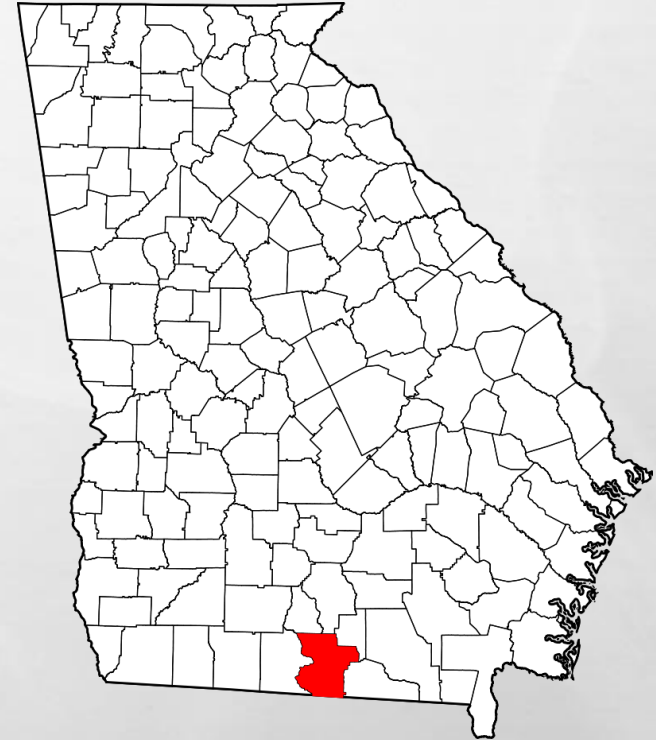
LANITA LLOYD, MS, CEM – EMERGENCY DISASTER SERVICES DIRECTOR, SALVATION ARMY AND GA VOAD PRESIDENT

ASHLEY TYE – LOWNDES COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, DIRECTOR



LOWNDES COUNTY

- **LOCATED ALONG I-75 IN SOUTH CENTRAL GA ON THE BORDER WITH FL FL**
- **59 MILES INLAND FROM GULF OF MEXICO**
- **POPULATION – 120,000**
- **SIZE – 511 SQ MILES (1,227 ROAD MILES)**
- **5 CITIES – VALDOSTA IS LARGEST AND COUNTY SEAT**
- **1 INTERSTATE, 1 MAJOR US HIGHWAY, SEVERAL MAJOR STATE ROUTES**
- **1 HOSPITAL**
- **REGIONAL AIRPORT**
- **11,000 SQ FT EOC**
- **EMA STAFF - 1**



GEORGIA VOAD

- **A NETWORK OF VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS WORKING TOGETHER TO ENCOURAGE MORE EFFICIENT SERVICE DELIVERY TO PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DISASTERS IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA**
- **PROMOTES COOPERATION, COORDINATION, COMMUNICATION, AND COLLABORATION, TO PROVIDE A PLATFORM TO FOSTER PARTNERSHIPS AMONG NON-PROFIT AND FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS, THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.**
- **GA VOAD IS NOT OPERATIONAL, AND EACH MEMBER ORGANIZATION OPERATES INDEPENDENTLY**



ACHIEVING THE 4 C'S

COOPERATION – COORDINATION – COMMUNICATION - COLLABORATION



- **REGULAR MEETINGS & CONFERENCE CALLS**
- **EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR MEMBERS**
- **GUIDANCE FOR COADS AND LTRGS**
- **COORDINATION WITH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**
- **PUBLICATIONS AND NOTIFICATIONS – WEBSITE / EMAIL**
- **GUIDANCE AND ASSISTANCE AT STATE EOC**
- **SPECIAL MEETINGS TO SUPPORT DISASTERS**

GEORGIA VOAD MEMBERS

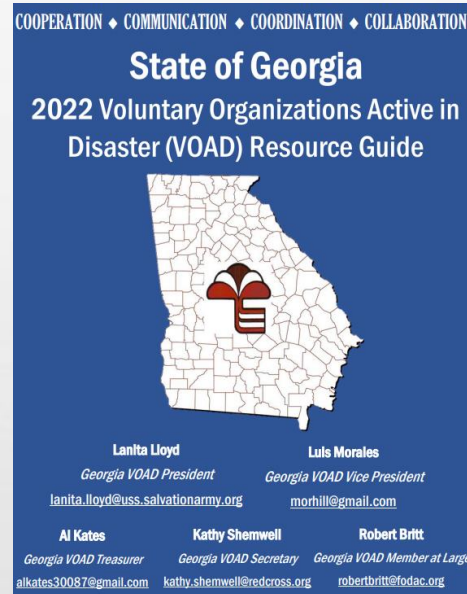
- **Adventist Community Services**
- **American Red Cross**
- **Angel Flight Soars**
- **Atlanta Community Food Bank**
- **Baby2Baby**
- **Bulloch VOAD**
- **Christ is Relief**
- **Coastal Empire Disaster Rec Com**
- **Convoy of Hope**
- **CORE**
- **ELCA- SE Synod Dis Resp Com**
- **Focus Humanitarian Assistance**
- **Friends of Disabled Adults & Children (FODAC)**
- **Georgia Baptist Mission Board**
- **Georgia Food Bank Association**
- **Grace 215**
- **HOPE Animal-Assisted Crisis Resp**
- **ICNA Relief**
- **Inspiritus Disaster Relief**
- **ITDRC**
- **Liberty County VOAD**
- **MAP International**
- **Mercy Chefs**
- **North Georgia Conference, UMC**
- **Operation BBQ Relief**
- **Operation Blessing**
- **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**
- **Rebuilding Hope**
- **Remembering Hope**
- **River of Life**
- **Rotary**
- **Samaritans Purse**
- **Second Harvest of South GA**
- **Siren Project**
- **S Atlantic Conf of Seventh-Day Adventist**
- **South Georgia Conference, UMC**
- **Spalding County Collaborative**
- **SW Georgia COAD**
- **Team Rubicon USA**
- **The Church of Jesus Christ Latter-Day Sts**
- **The Salvation Army, GA Division, EDS**
- **Toolbank Disaster Services**
- **United Muslim Relief**
- **United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta**
- **Unity in Disasters**
- **VOAD of Coastal Georgia**
- **Walton Options for Independent Living**
- **World Renew Disaster Response Serv**

MEMBER SERVICES

- **Advocacy**
- **Bulk Distribution**
- **Case Management**
- **Childcare**
- **Clean-up and Rebuilding**
- **Community Disaster Education**
- **Community Outreach**
- **Counseling**
- **Damage Assessment**
- **Debris Removal**
- **Donations Management**
- **Elder Care**
- **Emergency Repairs**
- **Emergency Assistance**
- **Financial Assistance**
- **Financial Planning**
- **Funeral Services**
- **Health Care**
- **Health & Welfare Inquiries**
- **Mass Care (Food, Shelter, etc.)**
- **Mental Health Services**
- **Mitigation Planning**
- **Mobile Feeding**
- **Organizational Mentoring**
- **Pastoral Care**
- **Pet Care**
- **Radio Communication Services**
- **Relocation Services**
- **Resource Coordination**
- **Sanitation Services**
- **Special Needs**
- **Technical Assistance**
- **Training**
- **Translation Services**
- **Transportation Services**
- **Volunteer Coordination**
- **Warehouse Management**

VOAD RESOURCE GUIDE

- Individual VOAD Pages
- Service Area
- Logo
- Website Link
- Primary Disaster Services
- Disaster Resources
- Pertinent Volunteer Information



Atlanta Community Food Bank

Service Area:
Metro Atlanta & North GA



700+ partner agencies

[Website](#)

Primary Disaster Services:

- Bulk Distribution
- Food: Hot meal delivery via mobile kitchens
- Non-Perishable Foods
- Other: Benefits outreach team screens individuals + families for eligibility to state assistance programs

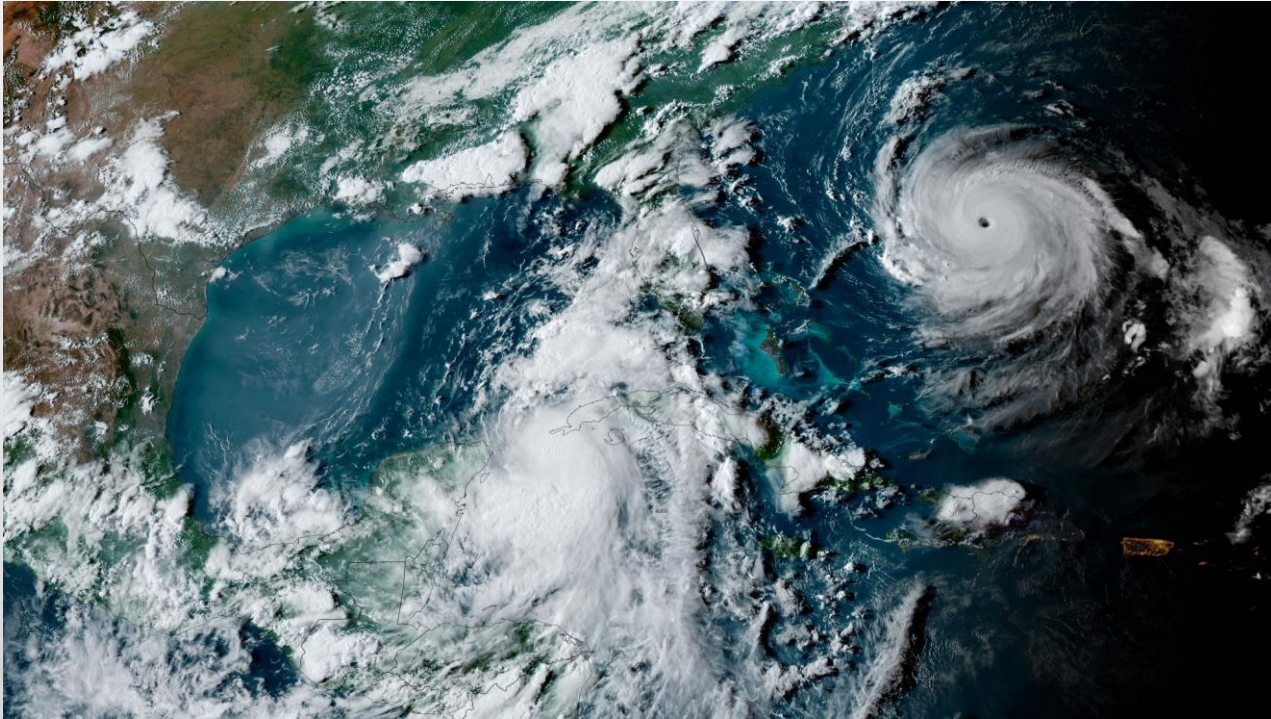
Disaster Resources: Drivers (x20), Ford pickup truck (x1), trailers (x4), trucks (x19), SUVs (x3), vans (x3)

- mobile feeding units **can only** be acquired via partner connections

Volunteers: More than 1,700 volunteers/month.

Opportunities limited due to COVID-19. Group (8+) sign up [HERE](#). Individual sign-up [HERE](#).

HURRICANE IDALIA



- **MADE LANDFALL ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 30, 2023 NEAR KEATON BEACH**
- **CATEGORY 3 WITH SUSTAINED WINDS OF 125 MPH**
- **FIRST MAJOR LANDFALLING HURRICANE IN THIS PORTION OF FLORIDA**
- **DEVASTATING STORM SURGE ALONG FLORIDA COAST (7-12 FEET)**
- **HURRICANE FORCE GUSTS FELT AS FAR INLAND AS LOWNDES COUNTY, GA (80 MILES)**
- **OVER 7 INCHES OF RAIN IN ROUGHLY 16 HOUR SPAN**

RESPONSE TIMELINE

- **PARTNER BRIEFINGS BEGAN AUGUST 24TH**
- **EOC BRIEFINGS WITH PARTNERS AND NWS BEGAN ON AUGUST 28TH**
- **EOC WAS ACTIVATED AT 0500 ON AUGUST 30TH**
- **45 PERSONNEL REPRESENTING 20 DIFFERENT AGENCIES STAFFED EOC**
- **EOC STOOD DOWN AT MIDNIGHT AND REOPENED AT 0600 ON AUGUST 31ST (OPERATIONAL PERIOD WAS 0600 – 2000 EACH DAY)**
- **CALL CENTER ESTABLISHED AUGUST 31ST**
- **GA VOAD REPRESENTATIVE STAFFED EOC BEGINNING ON SEPTEMBER 1ST**
- **POINTS OF DISTRIBUTION SET UP ON SEPTEMBER 1ST**
- **DEBRIS REMOVAL CONTRACTORS BEGAN WORK SEPTEMBER 4TH**

STORM IMPACTS

- **80-95 % POWER OUTAGES ALONG THE PATH OF THE EYE**
- **COUNTIES WEST OF THE EYE SAW 40-60 PERCENT OUTAGES**
- **IN LOWNDES COUNTY**
 - **CLOSE TO 1,200 HOMES DAMAGED WITH 900 EITHER MAJOR OR DESTROYED**
 - **ESTIMATED 1.5 MILLION CUBIC YARDS OF VEGETATIVE DEBRIS**
 - **PROVIDED SHELTER FOR 78 INDIVIDUALS**
 - **PA COSTS CURRENTLY ESTIMATED AT \$25 MILLION COUNTYWIDE**
 - **VERIZON ONLY HAD 1 CELL TOWER STILL IN OPERATION**
 - **911 CALL VOLUME INCREASED BY OVER 3,000%**



INSERT VIDEO HERE

GA VOAD SUPPORT



EOC VOLUNTEER AGENCY LIAISON

- **INDIVIDUAL & GROUP VOLUNTEERS**
- **DONATIONS INQUIRIES**
- **REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE**
- **VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS**
- **SCHEDULED MEETINGS WITH VOADS**
- **UPDATES TO COMMUNICATIONS**

GA VOAD SUPPORT

- **ADVENTIST - MANAGED DONATIONS & DISTRIBUTION WHS**
- **AMERICAN RED CROSS – OPENED 2 SHELTERS**
- **CORE – OPERATED ONE OF THE DISTRIBUTION SITES**
- **INSPIRITUS – MANAGED VOLUNTEER RECEPTION CENTER**
- **FODAC – MEDICAL EQUIPMENT**
- **ITDRC – TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT & SUPPORT**
- **CRISIS CLEANUP – MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR TARPING, EMERGENCY REPAIRS, ETC.**
- **VOLUNTEER DISTRIBUTIONS SITES & OTHER DELIVERIES**
 - **AMERICAN RED CROSS, CONVOY OF HOPE, CORE**
 - **MANAGED BY THE SALVATION ARMY**



GA VOAD SUPPORT



FEEDING SERVICES

- **GA BAPTIST**
- **HEARTS WITH HANDS**
- **OPERATION BBQ RELIEF**
- **THE SALVATION ARMY**
- **SECOND HARVEST OF SOUTH GA**
- **WORLD CENTRAL KITCHEN**

GA VOAD SUPPORT

VARIOUS GROUPS PERFORMING MUCKOUTS, REPAIRS, TARPING, ETC.

- **CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LDS**
- **CUTTERS EDGE ENTERPRISES**
- **GA BAPTIST**
- **GOD'S PIT CREW**
- **INSPIRITUS**
- **REBUILDING HOPE**
- **SAMARITAN'S PURSE**
- **SIRENS PROJECT**
- **SOUTH GA UMCOR**
- **TEAM RUBICON**
- **UNITED WAY OF VALDOSTA**



BIGGEST CHALLENGES

- **LACK OF BACKUP COMMUNICATIONS**
- **NO INITIAL COORDINATION WITH OUTSIDE GROUPS**
- **WILLINGNESS TO NOTIFY EOC OF PRESENCE & AVAILABLE RESOURCES**
- **MANY OF THE PRE-IDENTIFIED RECOVERY LOCATIONS WERE UNAVAILABLE/INACCESSIBLE**
- **COMMUNITY OFFICIALS UNFAMILIAR WITH PLANS**
- **FUNDING FOR RECOVERY**

LESSONS LEARNED (KEYS TO SUCCESS)

- **IMPORTANCE OF ESTABLISHED RELATIONSHIPS**
- **GETTING EVERYONE TO THE TABLE**
- **NEED TO BE FLEXIBLE**
- **DOCUMENTING “SOFT MATCH”**
- **COLLABORATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT & NON-GOVERNMENT**



QUESTIONS?