

[MUSIC]

Stories of...

Safer

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Communities

ICP Awards

Outstanding Individual and Community Preparedness

Fifth Annual Recipient of

The John D. Solomon

Whole Community Preparedness Award

Spartanburg County, SC

Office of Emergency Management

Doug Bryson: Spartanburg County is the fourth largest county in South Carolina.

We're approximately a population of right at 300,000 people.

We're subject to severe storms and tornadoes. And then in the wintertime, snow and ice storms. As well as the technological hazards, associated with the chemical and manufacturing industry, transportation, rail yards, and the interstates. So, when we were approached by FEMA to undertake the PrepareAthon we immediately wanted to get down to the private individual, the average citizen of Spartanburg County, how we can include them, and basically we came up with the idea of incorporating the PrepareAthon into our annual statewide tornado drill that's done the second week of March every year as part of Severe Weather Awareness Week. But this gave the average citizen the opportunity to be a part of a countywide exercise.

And they really took ownership in it. The final count was somewhere right around 100,000 people had participated in this exercise. And we've continued to stay in contact with those folks.

But this shows them that there is a lot of behind-the-scenes work that goes on in preparing for this.

And the ultimate goal is we got it down to the street level, to the average citizen in our county can see what we're doing to help protect them.

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