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## **News Release**

### **State Awards Wilkes County Funding for Portable Generator**

(ATLANTA) -- Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security, on behalf of Governor Nathan Deal, recently awarded a \$52,000 federal grant to Wilkes County to purchase a portable generator for the continuity of critical services for three fire stations and the county's road department.

“Preparing in advance for potential disasters makes the whole community safer. The generator will allow these critical facilities to continue serving the public if power fails during severe weather events or other emergencies,” said GEMA/HS Director Jim Butterworth.

The amount awarded includes a federal share of \$39,000. The remainder will come from a state share of \$5,200 and a local share of \$7,800.

This award is part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which provides funds to state agencies and local governments. HMPG projects reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from the effects of natural hazards by breaking the repetitive cycle of destruction and reconstruction. These funds were made possible as a result of the county's participation and adoption of the Wilkes County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

As part of the Office of the Governor, GEMA/HS works with local, state and federal governments, in partnership with the private sector and faith-based community, to protect life and property against man-made and natural emergencies. In addition, GEMA/HS employees are on 24-hour call statewide to assist local authorities when disaster strikes. Go to [www.ready.ga.gov](http://www.ready.ga.gov) or download the free Ready Georgia app to get information on preparing for a disaster and developing a custom emergency plan and Ready kit.

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