



**CITY OF HUNTSVILLE
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
PRESS RELEASE**

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**Rusty Russell receives Clayton R. Christopher Award
Award is the highest given to local Emergency Managers**

HUNTSVILLE, AL (November 26, 2008)— Huntsville-Madison County EMA Director John E. "Rusty" Russell was presented with the Clayton R. Christopher Award in a ceremony held on November 19, 2008 at the International Association of Emergency Managers conference in Kansas City, KS.

The Clayton R. Christopher Award is given in honor of Clayton R. Christopher for his unselfish dedication. His principles of integrity and leadership have served as a guiding force to the institution of Emergency Management and formed a strong foundation for its future.

The award is one of the highest of its kind given and is presented annually in recognition of unselfish devotion and outstanding contributions to the overall Emergency Management Program.

Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle praised Russell's service to his community and the recognition Russell was given from the International Association of Emergency Managers.

"Rusty has served our community well and this award speaks to that," said Battle. "From his developing the initial concept and assisting in the implementation of Alabama's Be Ready Camp for Kids to his service as President of the North Alabama Mutual Assistance Association – Rusty has served our community well and I'm extremely proud of his achievement with this award."

The Huntsville-Madison County EMA staff prepared and submitted the nomination. The nomination was also endorsed by Madison County Commission Chairman Mike Gillespie and Congressman Bud Cramer.

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