

**Fairfax County, Virginia
Department of Public Safety Communications**

**Significant Event Activity Report
Earthquake Sally
Tuesday, August 23, 2011**

1345 to 1600 Hours

On Tuesday, August 23, 2011 at 1351 hours (DPSC A Days Squad working).....a 5.8 (on the Richter Scale) earthquake occurred, with the epicenter near Mineral, Virginia (Louisa County)....approximately 86 miles southwest of Fairfax County. This was the most significant earthquake in Virginia since 1897 (114 years ago) and one of the most significant east of the Mississippi River ever. The effect of the earthquake was felt from the Canadian boarder to Florida.

The quake shook PSTOC very noticeably and resulted in an immediate and dramatic increase in 9-1-1 calls received and dispatches made. Every County building was evacuated....except PSTOC. In true DPSC fashion each DPSC employee performed like the true professionals they are in reacting to the publics need and supporting Police, Fire-Rescue and Sheriff units.

As a result of the earthquake DPSC handled:

- 9-1-1 calls received
- 1,269 Total calls received - Emergency & Non-Emergency (40% increase *)
- Police dispatches (19% increase *) FCPD Alarm Policy of not responding to automatic intrusion alarms placed in effect.
- Fire-Rescue dispatches (187% increase *)
- EMS Dispatches (252% increase *)
- 4,415 Radio transmissions (108 % increase *)
- 7,991 Minutes of radio transmissions (158% increase *)

* = % of increase above that experienced prior to the earthquake