

## Response to Questions on the FY 2011 Budget

**Request By:** Supervisor Foust

**Question:** What role does Fairfax County play in international search and rescue efforts and what costs are incurred by the County?

**Response:** Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue is a participant in the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, U.S. Agency for International Development (OFDA/USAID) program for international disaster relief, rehabilitation, preparedness, mitigation, prevention and early warning programs. Response efforts are related to a variety of natural disasters including flooding, earthquakes, famine and hurricanes as well as man-made events including riots and acts of terrorism. Deployment may occur anywhere outside the U.S., its territories, or possessions and may involve from one to 80 task force members.

As a result of this relationship between USAID and FRD, the department has acquired and maintained tools, supplies and specialized rescue equipment. This equipment can be utilized not only in response to deployment on international disasters but also is immediately available for local disaster response. This agreement and associated funding provides for the enhancement of emergency response services Countywide.

Funding is provided by USAID for all reasonable, allocable, and allowable expenses, both direct and indirect, which are related to the program and are in accordance with applicable cost standards. There is no Local Cash Match requirement; however, County “in-kind” support of approximately \$170,000 is required each year. This requirement is met by documenting costs already incurred in the normal course of business by the department in support of urban search and rescue functions in the areas of medical and vehicle costs.