



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

January 2013

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

Fairfax County Responds to the FCC Report on Derecho-related 9-1-1 Outages

The Federal Communications Commission this month announced plans to launch a rulemaking to strengthen the reliability and resiliency nationwide of 9-1-1 communications networks during major disasters. The **widespread outages and disruptions to 9-1-1 services** in the Midwest and mid-Atlantic regions as a result of the **2012 derecho storm** impacted more than 3.6 million people and led to the in-depth FCC inquiry into what went wrong, and what steps should be taken to better ensure public safety. This inquiry included an in-depth investigation, public comment and analysis culminating in the report, “The Impact of the June 2012 Derecho on Communications and Services: Report and Recommendations.” “Here’s the bottom line,” said FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski. “We can’t prevent disasters from happening, but we can work relentlessly to make sure Americans can connect with emergency responders when they need to most.”

Fairfax County Response to the Report

The June 29 derecho storm hit our community hard. From 7:36 a.m. until 3 p.m. on June 30, 9-1-1 service was completely out; for the next three days, service was sporadic. As a result of this critical outage, Fairfax County submitted [official comments to the FCC](#) investigation detailing what happened, suggestions for Verizon to improve its service and exhibits to show supporting documentation/actions.

“This report validates Fairfax County’s strong concerns about Verizon’s performance following last year’s derecho,” said Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. “It is essential that public safety communications services function at the highest level without interruption. The kind of breakdown that the FCC report addresses must never happen again.”

“Fairfax County is pleased that the FCC so quickly investigated this event and issued its report a short six months later,” said Steve Souder, director of the Department of Public Safety Communications, Fairfax County’s 9-1-1 Center. “A person may only need to call 9-1-1 once, but it could be the most important call of their life. 9-1-1 must be available to all residents at all times regardless of weather conditions. The inability of our residents to be able to contact 9-1-1 for emergency services is unacceptable.”

“... the derecho provided a snapshot of the reliability and readiness of a portion of the nation’s communications infrastructure in the face of unanticipated disasters – and it revealed considerable flaws in the resiliency planning and implementation of the primary 9-1-1 network providers in the affected region,” according to the report.

About Fairfax County 9-1-1

The Department of Public Safety Communications (DPSC), also known as Fairfax County 9-1-1, is a nationally recognized public safety communications center, the largest in the commonwealth of Virginia and one of the 10 largest in the United States. DPSC receives approximately 1 million calls requesting public safety service per year and dispatches units of the Fairfax County Police Department, Fire and Rescue Department and Sheriff’s Office. In addition to Fairfax County, DPSC is the designated 9-1-1 public safety answering point (PSAP) for the towns of Herndon and Vienna and the city of Fairfax. Approximately 30 percent of 9-1-1 calls are received from traditional wire line phones, 69 percent from wireless/cellular telephones and 1 percent by Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) telephones. Fairfax County 9-1-1 is an accredited 9-1-1 center for emergency medical dispatch with the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services and is a National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) 9-1-1 Call Center Partner. Learn more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/911/.

Virginia Commission Says 9-1-1 Outage Was Avoidable

The 9-1-1 outage in Northern Virginia following the June 29, 2012, derecho should not have occurred and was avoidable, according to a final report of the communications staff of the State Corporation Commission (SCC).

According to the staff's findings, the 9-1-1 service outages were a direct result of Verizon's failure to perform the necessary maintenance on its central office facilities, and were compounded by its inability or failure to monitor and respond, both internally and externally, to the outages.

http://www.scc.virginia.gov/newsrel/c_911out_13.aspx

Colder Weather is Upon Us – Be Prepared for Power Outages

The winter season “officially” began on Dec. 21. Now is the time of year when temperatures drop and the chances of a winter storm are greater. It is also the time of year when gusting winds and accumulating ice and snow can bring power outages. Below are a few considerations you can share with community members when discussing how to prepare for the winter weather a power outage:

Actions to take for a power outage:

- Ensure you have a battery-powered or hand cranked radio to listen for emergency updates and news reports.
- If using a portable generator during a power outage, it should always be operated outside, away from doors and windows to avoid dangerous carbon monoxide.
- Have flashlights or electric lanterns on hand to provide light; candles may add a spark of adventure during power failures, but they are dangerous fire hazards. Flashlights and electric lanterns require batteries so consider, during extended outages, keeping a supply of extra batteries.
- Remember, microwaves will not work! It's important to keep a supply of water and of nonperishable food such as ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables, canned juices, milk, and soup. Additionally, have a hand-operated can opener available.

Actions to take to get ready for snow or winter weather:

- Winterize your vehicle and your home.
- Most importantly, minimize travel as blizzard-like conditions may arise making it difficult to see when driving.
- Ensure you have snow shovels and other snow removal equipment on hand.
- Bring pets/companion animals inside. Move other animals or livestock to sheltered areas.

For more information, visit <http://www.ready.gov/>.



Looking Back at 2012 and Resolving to be Ready in 2013

Looking back at 2012 – with just a small team of liaisons and a network of truly dedicated private sector leaders – FEMA reports some great accomplishments this year.

- In July, FEMA announced the first ever National Business Emergency Operations (NBEOC). <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=6437>
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Office of External Affairs, Private Sector Division and the National Preparedness Directorate's National Integration Center (NIC) published two Emergency Management Institute Courses on Public-Private Partnerships: IS-660 Introduction to Public-Private Partnerships and IS-662 Improving Preparedness and Resilience through Public-Private Partnerships. These courses were created through input from both the public and private sector and provide learners with an overview of the importance of public-private partnerships to emergency preparedness, response, and planning.
- The 2012 Building Resilience through Public-Private Partnerships conference was held in Colorado Springs, CO, hosted by US NORTHCOM. More details to follow in the coming weeks on the 2013 conference hosted by DHS.

Now, with the New Year, FEMA is reminding Americans to **Resolve to be Ready in 2013**. Led by FEMA's Ready campaign in partnership with Citizen Corps and the Ad Council, this year's preparedness emphasis includes integrating technology into individual, family and businesses emergency preparedness plans. A 2012 Nielson report

revealed that nearly 55 percent of mobile phone owners in the United States own smartphones. As a simple new year's resolution, Ready is encouraging all smartphone owners to turn their handheld technology into a life-saving tool during and after an emergency or disasters.

- Learn how to send updates via text and internet from your mobile phone to your contacts and social channels in case voice communications are not available;
- Store your important documents such as personal and financial records in the cloud, in a secure and remote area, or on a flash or jump drive that you can keep readily available so they can be accessed from anywhere.
- Create an emergency information document by using Ready's Family Emergency Plan template in Google Docs or by downloading the Ready Family Emergency Plan to record your emergency plans.

Visit <http://www.ready.gov/resolve> to access the Resolve 2B Ready 2013 Toolkit which contains Web banners, Resolve 2B Ready logos and Smartphone tips you can use to help encourage your employees or community to prepare.

Register Now for Statewide Tornado Drill March 12

Virginia's annual Statewide Tornado Drill will take place **Tuesday, March 12, at 9:45 a.m.** The date will be observed as Tornado Preparedness Day. If widespread severe weather threatens the commonwealth on that date, then the drill will be rescheduled for Wednesday, March 13, at 9:45 a.m. The tornado drill is an important statewide safety exercise. In recent years

Virginia has been hard hit by multiple tornadoes that have cost lives and left extensive property damage. Some communities continue to recover from devastating tornadoes. In each of the past two years, some 1.2 million Virginians have registered to participate in the Statewide



Tornado Drill. Registration for this year's drill is now open. To register and to learn more about planning a tornado drill, go to www.vaemergency.gov and click through the rotating graphics at the top of the page, or go to www.ReadyVirginia.gov. Additional help in planning a tornado drill is available through county and city emergency management offices. The Statewide Tornado Drill is sponsored by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, Ready Virginia and the National Weather Service in cooperation with local emergency management offices. For further information, contact the VDEM Office of Public Affairs at pio@vdem.virginia.gov or 804-897-6510.

<http://www.vaemergency.gov/news/news-releases/2013/save-the-date-statewide-tornado-drill>

U.S. Fire Administration Releases Highway Vehicle Fires Report

The U.S. Fire Administration issued a special report this month examining the characteristics of highway vehicle fires in the United States from 2008-2010. Approximately one in seven fires responded to by fire departments across the nation is a highway vehicle fire. This does not include the tens of thousands of fire department responses to highway vehicle accident sites. Unintentional action (32 percent) was the leading cause of highway vehicle fires.

According to the report:

- Approximately one in seven fires responded to by fire departments across the nation is a highway vehicle fire. This does not include the tens of thousands of fire department responses to highway vehicle accident sites.
- Unintentional action (32 percent) was the leading cause of highway vehicle fires.
- Eighty-six percent of highway vehicle fires occurred in passenger vehicles.
- Sixty-one percent of highway vehicle fires and 35 percent of fatal highway vehicle fires originated in the engine, running gear, or wheel area of the vehicle.
- The leading factor contributing to the ignition of highway vehicle fires was mechanical failure (44 percent).
- Insulation around electrical wiring (28 percent) and flammable liquids in the engine area (18 percent) were

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the most common items first ignited in highway vehicle fires.

The risks from motor vehicle fires are often overlooked. Toxic gases and other hazardous substances, along with flying debris and explosions, can combine to produce serious dangers.

Report: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v13i11.pdf>
<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/media/press/2013releases/010713.shtm>

National Radon Action Month

EPA, the Environmental Protection Agency, is promoting National Radon Action Month this January to encourage Americans to test buildings for radon – an invisible, odorless, tasteless and potentially deadly gas that can cause lung cancer. EPA offers the following four steps to protect against radon poisoning:

- Test your home. Radon testing is easy and inexpensive. Learn more about testing your home, including how to obtain an easy-to-use test kit.
- Attend a National Radon Action Month event in your area. Look for radon events in your community. Contact your state radon program for more information about local radon activities.
- Spread the word. This January, encourage others to learn about radon and test their homes. Plan an activity in your community to help raise awareness; write an op-ed or letter to the editor about the dangers of radon; or attract media attention by working with a local official to get a radon proclamation. (Use EPA's National Radon Action Month Event Planning Kit as a guide.)
- Buy a radon-resistant home. If you are considering buying a new home, look for builders who use radon-resistant new construction. Learn more by reading "Building Radon Out: A Step-by-Step Guide to Build Radon-Resistant Homes." Contact your state radon program for information about radon testing, mitigation and radon-resistant new construction in your area.



For more information about radon and safety, visit EPA's National Radon Action Month site.

<http://www.epa.gov/radon/nram/index.html>

Researchers Find that Internet Outages in the U.S. Doubled During Hurricane Sandy

USC scientists who track Internet outages throughout the world noted a spike in outages due to Hurricane Sandy, with almost twice as much of the Internet down in the U.S. as usual. Previous research by this team has shown that on any given day, about 0.3 percent of the Internet is down for one reason or another. Just before Hurricane Sandy hit the East Coast, that number was around 0.2 percent in the U.S. (pretty good, by global standards) – but once the storm made landfall, it jumped to 0.43 percent and took about four days to return to normal, according to a new report by scientists at the Information Sciences Institute (ISI) at the USC Viterbi School of Engineering.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news06590.html>



Commonwealth of Virginia Shelter and Evacuation Gap Report

The Office of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security, in its oversight role for Commonwealth preparedness and interoperable communications, implemented an approach and methodology to review, assess, and identify strengths

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and areas for improvement in ongoing shelter and evacuation planning and the horizontal (state agency to state agency) and vertical (state to local) integration of plans. Read the Commonwealth of Virginia Shelter and Evacuation Gap Report that provides the findings and recommendations developed during this initiative. Report: <http://www.vahs.virginia.gov/docs/Virginia-Evacuation-Sheltering-GAP-Report.pdf>



www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov

2012 was Warmest and Second Most Extreme Year on Record for the Contiguous U.S.

2012 was a historic year for extreme weather that included drought, wildfires, hurricanes and storms; however, tornado activity was below average. 2012 marked the **warmest year on record for the contiguous United States** with the year consisting of a record warm spring, second warmest summer, fourth warmest winter and a warmer-than-average autumn. The average temperature for 2012 was 55.3°F, 3.2°F above the 20th century average, and 1.0°F above 1998, the previous warmest year. The average precipitation total for the contiguous U.S. for 2012 was 26.57 inches, 2.57 inches below average, making it the 15th driest year on record for the nation. At its peak in July, the drought of 2012 engulfed 61 percent of the nation with the Mountain West, Great Plains and Midwest experiencing the most intense drought conditions. The dry conditions proved ideal for wildfires in the West, charring 9.2 million acres – the third highest on record.

<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/>

Health and Safety Podcast

Every two weeks, Fairfax County produces the “Health and Safety Podcast,” featuring news from Fairfax County’s public safety agencies, Health Department and Office of Emergency Management, in addition to emergency preparedness information. The short audio program – normally five minutes or less – is available to listen to online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/podcasts/> or on iTunes. If you have a smartphone, you can also listen to the podcast, along with several others from the county such as “News to Use” and highlights from the Board of Supervisors meetings.



<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/podcasts/>

FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin Moves to Online Only

It all started in 1932, when the Bureau began publishing a monthly magazine of wanted fugitives and their corresponding write-ups. More than 80 years later, the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin is still going strong...and covers a much more extensive variety of topics. One of the most widely read law enforcement-related publications in the world, the Bulletin’s mission is to inform, educate, and broaden the criminal justice community’s understanding of the current issues facing law enforcement. The FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin has been available online since 1991. But starting this month, the only place you can find it is online. The Bulletin will no longer distribute hard copy issues. Instead, readers will find a sleeker-looking online format that will improve readability and search capability, maximize accessibility, provide more opportunities for readers and authors to communicate, and be available on mobile devices. The Web-only move will also allow for articles to be published weekly as well in shorter form.

<http://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/law-enforcement-bulletin>

Caitria and Morgan O’Neill: How to Step Up in the Face of Disaster

When a freak tornado hit her Massachusetts hometown, Caitria O’Neill wasn’t an expert in disaster relief recovery.

But she learned quickly and is now passing her knowledge on through the website Recovers.org. Caitria O'Neill, then 20, had just graduated from college in the summer of 2011, and was preparing to begin a Master's program in Moscow. But on June 1, an EF3 tornado hit her hometown of Monson, Massachusetts. Caitria, along with her older sister Morgan, quickly took action. Working as lead volunteer coordinators, the two created a flexible framework for an “unofficial” community relief effort. By leveraging the short term spike in national interest, along with social media and database organization, Monson recorded more volunteer hours than any surrounding town – hundreds more hours, in fact. After this intense experience, Caitria and Morgan have translated their system into organizing software for local coordinators, through the website Recovers.org. This “recovery in a box” can be rolled out in minutes, helping local relief organizers turn interest into action. Caitria serves as chief executive officer.

Video: http://www.ted.com/talks/caitria_and_morgan_o_neill_how_to_step_up_in_the_face_of_disaster.html

PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

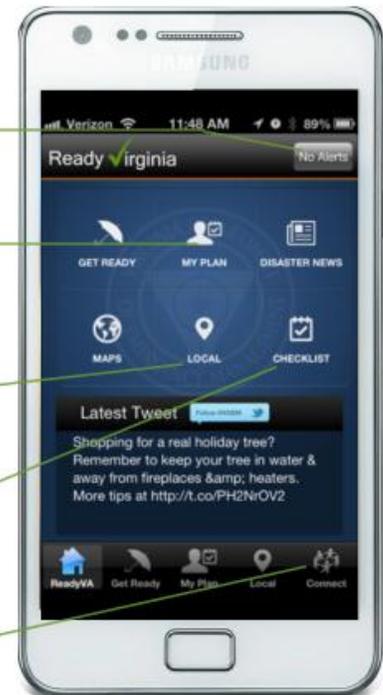
Be Mobile Ready: Virginia Launches Free Emergency Preparedness Mobile App

Governor Bob McDonnell this month announced a way for Virginians to become “mobile ready” for disasters. The Ready Virginia mobile app, developed by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, gives Virginians a new way to prepare for disasters and also to stay informed during emergencies with the latest information. The free Ready Virginia app for iPhone and Android mobile devices provides emergency planning and preparedness guidance along with several other important features, including:

- Location- specific weather watches and warnings as well as flood information issued by the National Weather Service
- Disaster news from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management
- Maps with open American Red Cross shelters, hurricane evacuation routes, hurricane storm surge zones and stream gauges
- A template for creating a customized family emergency plan that can be easily shared
- Local emergency manager contact information
- Links to register for local emergency alerts

“Mobile phones and tablets quickly have become a primary way for people to stay informed during disasters. Last year, social media and web-based information were critical to informing the public and keeping individuals updated with important information during the severe derecho wind storm and Hurricane Sandy,” said Governor McDonnell. “The new Ready Virginia mobile app gives people another way to stay informed and quickly identify services and other valuable resources regardless of their location. The Ready Virginia app is available for download in the App Store SM and in Google Play for Android. In addition to the mobile app, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management launched a mobile version of its website at m.vaemergency.gov. The mobile site contains all the information available on VDEM’s regular website, but with easier navigation for those who use smart phones and

-  **Alerts:** Real-time weather and hazard alerts for your location
-  **Plan:** Make your emergency plan and share it with your friends
-  **Local:** GPS-enabled evacuation routes, flood risk updates, stream gauge rates, and disaster history
-  **Checklist:** Essential emergency supplies to have in your kit
-  **Threats:** Push notifications, disaster news, and social media updates to keep you safe



tablets to access websites. “This new app is one of the most important ones Virginians can install on their mobile devices. Now our citizens can get ‘mobile ready’ and ensure that their families are prepared for emergencies and stay informed with official disaster information when an emergency occurs,” said Governor McDonnell.

Find the listing on Apple Store: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id579344082?mt=8>

Find the listing on Google Play:

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.cop.vdem.virginia.gov.viper&feature=search_result#?t=W251bGwsMSwyLDEsImNvbS5jb3AudmRlbS52aXJnaW5pYS55nb3YudmlwZXIiXQ

Business Continuity in 2013: Survey Results

During November and December 2012 Continuity Central conducted a survey to determine what changes and challenges that can be expected in the business continuity profession during 2013. A total of 184 responses were received, the majority (82 percent) being from business continuity professionals working in large organizations. Most respondents were from the United Kingdom (34 percent) or the United States (28 percent), but Australia (7 percent), the Middle East (4 percent) and India (3 percent) were also well represented in the survey. Respondents were asked “What level of changes do you expect to see in the way your organization manages business continuity during 2013?” 34.4 percent expected to see large changes in the way their organization manages business continuity and 50.8 percent expected to see small changes. Only 14.8 percent anticipate that no changes will take place in 2013.

<http://continuitycentral.com/feature1037.html>

Preparing Your Commercial Fleets for Winter

The list of small businesses that operate vehicle fleets throughout the year is long and distinguished. It includes a wide range of small businesses such as mobile pet groomers, food trucks, locksmiths, landscapers, plumbers, cable and satellite television installers, caterers, and many, many more. Winter presents a host of new problems to the vehicles in your commercial fleets. Taking a few extra precautions can help the vehicle fleet in your business avoid a few serious wintertime blues. Winter weather is hard on cars of all shapes and sizes. From the extreme cold temperatures to the salt and chemicals that are used on the roads (and the havoc they can wreak on a car’s undercarriage) to the recklessness of other drivers on the road, winter is a hazard in itself for commercial fleets.

Getting your fleet in shape for winter, however, will be much easier if you do these things:

- 1) Invest in winter weight oil and antifreeze for your vehicles.
- 2) Check all hoses, tubes, wires, and tires for signs of damage – anything rubber needs a second look.
- 3) Replace windshield wipers with wipers designed to work best in cold climates.
- 4) Replace windshield washer fluid with one containing antifreeze.

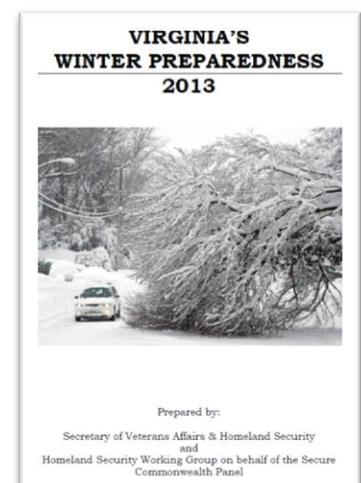
Having the right supplies on hand can turn the tides in your favor in the event of a slide-off or break down in the heart of winter. Some of the items you’ll want to include in the winter emergency kit for your fleet include: ice scrapers, flares, a snow shovel, tire chains, flashlights, tool kits, emergency blanket, candle, matches, first aid kit, energy bars, bottled water, and kitty litter (for tire traction).

Source: BOLT Insurance Agency

<http://info.boltinsurance.com/blog/bid/62120/Preparing-Your-Commercial-Fleets-for-Winter>

Virginia’s Winter Preparedness 2013

Severe winter storms are a part of life in Virginia. Preparing for and managing a winter storm event requires a coordinated response from state and local agencies and private sector entities. State, local and private emergency operations centers will maintain constant communication and coordinate action plans including pre-event preparedness measures for roadways, debris removal, and power restoration activities. According to “Virginia’s Winter Preparedness 2013,” the commonwealth has increased its ability to manage a winter storm, but the need for expanding capacity remains. “Work continues on public outreach and education, increasing operational awareness capabilities, increasing sheltering facilities and making prudent equipment investments.” Virginia’s Homeland Security Working Group and the Secure Commonwealth Panel will continue to coordinate action



plans and proactively utilize the state's resources to ensure an effective and timely response to winter weather. Report: www.vahs.virginia.gov/docs/Winter-Storm-Report.pdf

Focus on Fire Safety: Portable Heaters

An estimated 900 portable heater fires in homes are reported to U.S. fire departments each year and cause an estimated 70 deaths, 150 injuries and \$53 million in property loss. Only two percent of heating fires in homes involve portable heaters; however, portable heaters are involved in 45 percent of all fatal heating fires in homes.

http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home_fire_prev/heating/hotspot.shtm

Winter Home Fires

During winter, the chance of home fires increases. Having home fire sprinklers not only saves lives, but can increase chances of surviving a fire by more than 82 percent. Additionally, they can decrease home damage up to 97 percent. Best of all, fire sprinklers are a low cost way to help save lives if a fire does happen. For other fire safety tips, visit the U.S. Fire Administration website at www.usfa.fema.gov or the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department Web page at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr.

U.S. Home Fire Deaths Increase as Winter Sets In

While the winter months always bring a spike in home fires, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) says home fire deaths reported on by the news media are above those reported at this time last year. According to media reports, home fires have already claimed 148 lives this month, 24 more than reported during Jan. 1-16, 2012. Home fire incidence is collectively highest in the three winter months of January, February and March. Cooking and heating are the leading causes of these fires. The risk of fire also increases with the use of electric space heaters, fireplaces and wood stoves. Older adults (50 deaths) and children (28 deaths) have accounted for more than half of home fire deaths reported by the news media in January.

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/media/press/2013releases/011713.shtm>

Winter Storm Warning

When a winter storm is imminent, the National Weather Service will issue a winter storm warning or blizzard warning six to 18 hours before the storm strikes. This is a signal to take the necessary precautions to keep you and your loved ones safe. Start preparing today before a winter storm warning is even issued with the following steps:

- Update your emergency kit with winter weather items.
- Keep up with your local forecast at www.weather.gov or mobile.weather.gov on your phone.
- Review your family communications plan.
- Purchase a NOAA weather radio or download one of the many apps offering a NOAA weather radio signal and alerts.

Learn more about winter weather preparedness at www.ready.gov/winter-weather. And be sure to follow the Fairfax County Emergency Information Blog for the latest preparedness information and news during an emergency. You also can get the blog updates by mail; sign up on the site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog.

Active Shooter Preparedness

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) aims to enhance preparedness through a "whole community" approach by providing training, products, and resources to a broad range of stakeholders on issues such as active shooter awareness, incident response, and workplace violence. In many cases, there is no pattern or method to the selection of victims by an active shooter, and these situations are by their very nature are unpredictable and evolve quickly. DHS offers free courses, materials, and workshops to better prepare you to deal with an active shooter situation and to raise awareness of behaviors that represent pre-incident indicators and characteristics of active shooters.

<http://www.dhs.gov/activeshooter>

National Terrorism Advisory System

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) is a robust terrorism advisory system that provides timely information to the public about credible terrorist threats and replaces the former color-coded alert system. Under NTAS, DHS will coordinate with other federal entities to issue detailed alerts to the

public when the federal government receives information about a credible terrorist threat. NTAS alerts provide a concise summary of the potential threat including geographic region, mode of transportation, or critical infrastructure potentially affected by the threat, actions being taken to ensure public safety, as well as recommended steps that individuals, communities, business and governments can take to help prevent, mitigate or respond to a threat. NTAS Alerts will include a clear statement on the nature of the threat, which will be defined in one of two ways:

- “Elevated Threat”: Warns of a credible terrorist threat against the United States.
- “Imminent Threat”: Warns of a credible, specific, and impending terrorist threat against the United States.

Depending on the nature of the threat, alerts may be sent to law enforcement, distributed to affected areas of the private sector, or issued more broadly to the public through both official and social media channels – including a designated DHS webpage (www.dhs.gov/alerts), Facebook and via Twitter @NTASAlerts. NTAS alerts and posters will also be displayed in places such as transit hubs, airports and government buildings. NTAS threat alerts will be issued for a specific time period and will automatically expire. Alerts may be extended if new information becomes available or as a specific threat evolves. For more information on the National Terrorism Advisory System or to receive NTAS alerts, visit www.dhs.gov/alerts.



Community Emergency Alert Network (CEAN)

Get emergency alerts by email, as well as by text or pager. Sign up at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean. Businesses can also register up to five people in their organizations – such as security officers – who can receive alerts and then share that information with their workforce.



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MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

5 Lessons From Hurricane Sandy For Emergency Preparedness

Hurricane Sandy will go down in history as one of the most destructive storms ever, inflicting at least \$50 to \$60 billion in damage across the Northeast, according to early estimates. As the dust settles and our country manages the recovery phase of this crisis, it's wise to think through what was done well, and what areas could be improved upon to better prepare for future crisis situations. Here are five strategies that companies and municipalities can implement to better prepare for crisis situations:

- Every organization should have multiple contact paths for each individual to decrease reliance on any one device, and the demographic of the community should be assessed when determining the optimal contact paths for each group. During Hurricane Sandy, some universities sent 17 percent of their messages by phone, 37 percent by text and 46 percent by email. In contrast, a sample of corporations sent 60 percent of its messages by phone, 9 percent by text and 19 percent by email. If a storm has knocked out physical phone lines, no landline attempts will be successful.
- Organizations must plan to manage the entire lifecycle of any critical event. Dr. Robert C. Chandler, crisis communication expert, suggests creating a crisis plan that addresses each of the 6 stages of a crisis: Warning, Risk Assessment, Response, Management, Resolution and Recovery.
- Social media has dramatically changed the public's expectations around communications. Social media sites like Twitter are being monitored for real-time, location-specific impact to individuals and communities to deliver situational intelligence to emergency response teams as quickly as possible.
- Regular system and staff testing and preparation procedures are followed including system testing for effectiveness and data accuracy. Staff should be trained to operate the critical communications system from both computer and mobile devices to achieve an aptitude with the system ensuring more consistent results in high anxiety situations.
- Message construction is key in getting your target audience to read your message and follow its instructions. Dr. Chandler recommends that message maps consist of three short sentences that convey three key messages in 30 words or less and audio/video needs to convey its message in the first nine seconds. SMS messages should be no longer than 120 characters.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/ciocentral/2013/01/02/5-lessons-from-hurricane-sandy-for-emergency-preparedness/>

Experts Weigh In On 2013 Cyberthreats

From Anonymous to the Department of Homeland Security, security experts weigh in on cyberthreats to look out for in 2013. They include Java, privacy violations, DDoS attacks and mobile malware.

<http://www.securitymanagement.com/news/experts-weigh-2013-cyberthreats-0011218>

Five Tips for Protecting Your Identity on Your Smartphone

A recent study found Smartphone users are at a 33 percent increased risk for identity theft. However, there are things you can do to stay one step ahead and protect your identity. BMO Harris Bank recommends the following strategies to keep your information from falling into the wrong hands:

- Password protect your phone.
- Be selective when downloading apps.
- Be careful using public Wi-Fi.
- Use basic computer smarts.
- Use social media with caution.

<http://www.techjournal.org/2013/01/five-tips-for-protecting-you-identity-on-your-smartphone/>

Gartner: Cloud Computing, Mobile Ushering in “Major Shift” for Enterprise Security Practices

Early this month, Gartner held forth on what it expects to be the top security trends for 2013, citing the rise of cloud computing, social media and employees bringing their own devices to work as among the forces likely to produce

radical changes in how enterprises manage IT security. The market research firm also says the "major shift" expected in IT security in 2013 will shake up established IT security vendors as newer players in cloud and mobile challenge them. Earl Perkins, Gartner research vice president, said during a webinar with clients that the forces cited above, as well as an "information explosion" in the enterprise, are putting enormous pressure on enterprise IT professionals and vendors by "making some of the existing IT infrastructures obsolete." He added: "Will the major providers of security technology be the same ones in three to five years? The answer is probably not." Perkins said Gartner analysts believe the vendors, service providers and value-added resellers of today are starting to feel the volatility of market changes wrought by the rise of cloud-computing services and new practices such as enterprises adopting smartphones and other mobile devices, and allowing employees to use their own at work. A large IT security firm such as Symantec, although certainly "aware and making changes" due to the growing importance of cloud and mobile, said Perkins, is nonetheless under pressure from many smaller companies that are "nimble" in introducing new technologies.

<http://www.networkworld.com/news/2013/010313-gartner-cloud-mobile-265472.html>

Cyber Attacks Bring Call for Help

American businesses want more help from government officials in fighting cyber attacks, although they continue to oppose government-prescribed safeguards, MasterCard Inc. Chief Executive Ajay Banga said earlier this month. Banga is head of the information and technology committee at the Business Roundtable, a trade group that is set to start a push for closer cooperation with Washington on computer security.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323706704578230080016845860.html>

Cybersecurity Regulation

Five issues for companies: Hardly a day seems to go by without news of a cyber-attack or dire warnings about the vulnerability of our nation's critical computer networks. Most people believe that the government must do more to regulate cybersecurity practices, particularly in industries that own or operate "critical infrastructure," that is, infrastructure that could cause significant disruptions or damage to our daily lives if subjected to a cyber attack.

http://articles.marketwatch.com/2013-01-11/commentary/36270525_1_cybersecurity-operators-regulation

Study Suggests Most Drivers Unprepared to Be Stranded

A new study from State Farm Insurance and KRC Research finds nine of 10 drivers have "trunk junk" and don't have all of the necessary supplies in case they got stranded. As the cooler weather arrives, experts say it is a good time to prepare; whether it is sunny or snowy, there is always a chance people could find themselves stranded on the side of the road. Experts recommend that when you're getting your oil changed a couple of times a year, have your mechanic check out your spare tire to make sure it's in good shape. These are common sense tips that could save time and trouble as the extremely cold temperatures continue. It is also recommended to keep the fuel tank at least halfway full at all times during bad weather to lessen your chance of running out of gas.

http://charlotte.news14.com/content/top_stories/683634/study-suggests-most-drivers-unprepared-to-be-stranded

FLU

It's Not Too Late to Vaccinate!

It's not too late to get vaccinated for this winter's flu season. Flu season usually peaks in January or February, but it can occur as late as May. The best protection against the flu is to get the vaccine. Seasonal flu vaccines have a very good safety track record and will protect you for one flu season. Early immunization is the most effective, but it is not too late to get the vaccine in December, January, or beyond. It takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop and provide protection against the flu virus infection. In the meantime, you are still at risk for getting the flu. CDC's flu infographic shows you what you need to know about the flu vaccine. Everyone 6 months of age and older should get vaccinated. It is especially important to get the vaccine if you, someone you live with, or someone you care for is at high risk of complications from the flu. Approximately 5-20 percent of U.S. residents get the flu

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each year. Don't be part of that statistic! Get vaccinated today!

Infographic: http://www.flu.gov/prevention-vaccination/vaccination/flugov_infographic.html#

Flu Season is Here--Take Action Now

The United States is experiencing an early influenza season, with flu activity reported in 47 states. Do your part to protect yourself and others against the flu. If you have the flu:

- Stay home
- Follow your health care provider's recommendations
- Prevent the spread of the flu with these flu-fighting tips.

If you don't have the flu, it's not too late to get a flu shot! The best protection against the flu is to get the vaccine. Seasonal flu vaccines have a very good safety record. Everyone 6 months of age and older should get vaccinated. It is especially important to get the vaccine if you, or someone you live with or care for is at high risk of complications from the flu.

<http://www.flu.gov/symptoms-treatment/treatment/index.html#>



Photo courtesy of CDC

CDC Update Addresses Flu After Vaccination, Pregnancy Vaccine Safety

- The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently updated two of its flu resources aimed at consumers, addressing questions about flu infections in vaccinated people and adding new information about vaccine safety in pregnant women. The CDC said it has received reports of people who got sick with confirmed flu infections despite vaccination, but so far it's not possible to say if the infections are occurring more often than in past flu seasons. It reviewed several reasons why immunized people could still get sick, including exposure before immunity from the vaccine builds up, differences in circulating strains, and efficacy that can vary. The CDC said it was watching the situation closely and will provide more information, including an interim vaccine effectiveness estimate, as the information becomes available.
- In an update early this month the CDC added new information about the safety of flu vaccination during pregnancy, based on new findings in Obstetrics and Gynecology. The study explored the risk of spontaneous first-trimester abortion in pregnant women who did and didn't receive the trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine using data from the Vaccine Safety Datalink, one of two main federal databases. The study found no statistically significant increase in the risk of pregnancy loss during the 4 weeks after women received the flu vaccine. The CDC studies have found no evidence of harm to pregnant women or their unborn children. The agency said the new findings are reassuring.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/avianflu/news/jan0313fluscan.html>

Flu Season Hits U.S.: Seven Steps to Prepare Your Business and Employees

The 2012-2013 flu season arrived earlier than usual, so it's time to prepare yourself, your business and your employees. Prevention is important for physical health, as it may impact your bottom line if your staff are out sick. These tips from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) can help you avoid illness and maintain business continuity.

1. Identify a workplace coordinator
2. Examine policies for leave, telework and employee compensation
3. Post signs or host a flu vaccination clinic for employees
4. Identify essential employees, essential business functions, and other critical inputs
5. Share your flu and other pandemic plans with employees and clearly communicate expectations
6. Prepare business continuity plans
7. Establish an emergency communication plan

<http://www.sba.gov/community/blogs/flu-season-hits-us-seven-steps-you-can-take-prepare-your-business-and-employees>

Widespread Flu has Public Logging Online

The flu's grip over communities across the country has people in record numbers calling in sick from work and even inundating local hospital emergency rooms. The virulent bug has become so widespread that Boston Mayor Thomas Menino recently declared a public health emergency in the city where 700 people had been sickened and four died because of the flu. It has also prompted a tremendous uptick in activity on Flu Near You, a website that tracks flu trends in real time. The site, launched in 2011 in partnership with APHA, HealthMap and the Skoll Global Threats Fund, is considered one of the first disease surveillance tools that allows the public to play a critical role in tracking the disease. Registrants log in once a week to complete brief weekly surveys that tracks flu.

<http://www.publichealthnewswire.org/?p=6176>

How the Calgary Flames Beat the 2009 Pandemic

Alberta's health-care inquiry has heard testimony that paperwork was fudged and that Calgary Flames players and their families were directed to lie to cover up the team receiving fast-tracked pandemic flu shots at a private clinic in 2009. Calgary health nurse Debbie Hyman says while 150 of the Flames and their loved ones were getting the H1N1 shots in private at the office of team doctor Jim Thorne, hundreds of ordinary Calgarians were cussing, yelling, fainting, and fighting while standing in line for hours for the same shot at public clinics.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/flames-players-families-were-told-to-lie-about-flu-shots-alberta-inquiry-told/article7348492/>

Statement from Assistant Secretary Nicole Lurie on FDA Approval of New Influenza Vaccine Manufactured with Novel Technology

From HHS Assistant Secretary Nicole Lurie

Our nation has reached a landmark in influenza vaccine history with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval of a new seasonal flu vaccine, called Flublok, made with novel technology. This method uses recombinant DNA and a modified baculovirus (a virus that infects insects) to produce a safe and effective human flu vaccine. The approval yesterday of the new vaccine produced with this modern technology stands as one of the most significant improvements in flu vaccine technology in the past 50 years. I am honored that such a remarkable advancement came through a public-private partnership between ASPR's Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority and Protein Sciences Corporation.

Read complete statement at: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2013pres/01/20130118b.html>

Flu Season Fuels Debate Over Paid Sick Time Laws

An unusually early and vigorous flu season is drawing attention to an ongoing debate among the labor force and lawmakers: mandatory paid sick leave for a third of civilian workers (more than 40 million people) who do not have it. Employees without sick days are more likely to go to work with a contagious illness, send an ill child to school and use hospital emergency rooms for care. But to some business owners, paid sick leave is an impractical and unfair burden for small operations.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/AP9452b93f90be49a5b390ad80f8e6d25d.html>

Fairfax County Flu Preparedness

Be sure to visit the county's flu Web page for information and news on flu and flu preparedness.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/flu>

Flu Season Is Here Get Vaccinated Today

Who should get the vaccine?

Flu vaccine infographic

EVERYONE 6 MONTHS AND OLDER

Everyone **6 MONTHS OF AGE AND OLDER** should get the flu vaccine. Seasonal flu vaccines have a very good safety track record.



PEOPLE AT HIGH RISK

It is especially **IMPORTANT TO GET THE VACCINE IF YOU, SOMEONE YOU LIVE WITH, OR SOMEONE YOU CARE FOR IS AT HIGH RISK** of complications from the flu.

- Children & Infants
- Pregnant Women
- Seniors
- People with Disabilities
- People with Health Conditions
- Travelers & People Living Abroad



FLU.GOV

Know what to do
about the flu.

TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

2013 Military Health System (MHS) Conference

Feb. 11-14; The Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, National Harbor, Md.

The MHS conference promotes professionalism throughout the organization; enhance partnerships within and outside the federal sector, and concentrates on ways to best serve the preventive and health-care needs of its diverse beneficiary population. Four-thousand military and civilian medical personnel from the MHS attended the conference held in January 2012. The event will include an expanded exhibit hall featuring agency and commercial exhibitors whose products and programs are aligned with the MHS mission. The focus of the conference is sharing knowledge and achieving breakthrough performance in healthcare delivery, research, education and training. Each day will feature a specific educational theme with all plenary and breakout sessions aligned to furthering the goals of the Quadruple Aim and the associated strategic initiatives.

<http://www.health.mil/2012MHSConference.aspx>

12th World Congress on Stress, Trauma and Coping

Feb. 19-24; Baltimore, Md.

World Congress participants will identify the tools needed to solve current problems and explore the future direction of the crisis intervention field. The 12th World Congress on Stress, Trauma and Coping is the premier forum for

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multidisciplinary exchange of ideas and information for those who provide crisis and disaster mental health services.
<http://www.icsif.org/world-congress/12th-world-congress>

4th Annual Cybersecurity Symposium

Feb. 22; Washington, D.C.

The symposium will explore the state of U.S. cyber preparedness from a matrixed team perspective – CYBERCOM, DoD, military services, DHS, security agencies, federal civilian organizations and the private sector, all working together. Attendees will focus on efforts that can close the gaps to coordination, collaboration, information sharing and active threat deterrence across agencies, domains and private owners of U.S. infrastructure.

<http://www.afceadc.org/events/special-events/cybersecurity-symposium-fy13/>

MeriTalk Data Center Brainstorm

March 7; Washington, D.C.

Data center consolidation continues to be a high priority as we move closer to OMB's rigorous 2015 deadlines. How is the intersection of consolidation, cloud, mobility, and even big data going to affect the path forward? Which mandates are realistic and which should change? Join MeriTalk's Data Center Exchange for the second annual 2013 Data Center Brainstorm on Thursday, March 7, 2013 at the Newseum in Washington, D.C. The event will bring together savvy Federal data center movers and shakers to share best practices, collaborate on challenges, and discuss what is needed for effective consolidation. We'll cover key topics on today's data center horizon.

<http://meritalk.com/datacenterbrainstorm>

Learning in Disaster Health: A Continuing Education Workshop

April 2-3; Georgetown University Hotel and Conference Center, Washington, D.C.

A unique opportunity to assist with the nation's disaster health preparedness. This workshop will focus on education and training in disaster health and provide an interdisciplinary academic forum to:

- Explore concepts of adult learning in the context of disaster health.
- Highlight the implications of the latest research and practice for disaster health learning and performance and identify key areas for future research.
- Present a unique opportunity for collaboration among disaster health, human resource development and adult education professionals.
- Identify potential solutions for maximizing learning in a resource-constrained environment.

<http://ncdmph.usuhs.edu/KnowledgeLearning/2013-04LearningWorkshop.htm>

Defense Intelligence Worldwide

April 8-10; Baltimore, Md.

Formerly known as the DoDIIS Worldwide Conference, the Defense Intelligence Worldwide is expanding to focus on all-source intelligence and information technology as it contributes to mission success, hence the theme, "Beyond DoDIIS - Mission Readiness 2020." This year the DoDIIS Worldwide Conference will now focus on all-source intelligence with a continued emphasis on information technology as it contributes to mission success.

<http://www.ncsi.com/dia/2013/index.php>

Critical Infrastructure Symposium

April 15-16; West Point, N.Y.

Symposium promotes the exchange of ideas and experiences among students, educators, practitioners and government officials developing critical infrastructure.

<http://www.tisp.org/index.cfm>

SPIE Defense Security + Sensing

April 29-May 3; Baltimore, Md.

Meeting for scientists, researchers and engineers from industry, military, government agencies and academia throughout the world.

<http://spie.org/x6766.xml>

GovSec Featuring TREXPO

May 13-15; Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C.

Description: Advanced-level education from public and private sector industry experts on today's hot topics and challenges, including: Homeland Security; Counter and Anti-Terrorism; Critical Infrastructure Protection; Cyberterrorism and Cybercrime; and Law Enforcement Case Studies, Tactics and Technologies.

<http://govsecinfo.com/Home.aspx>

International Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference

June 6-June 9; Baltimore, Md.

The Hazmat Conference is recognized as a high quality, in-depth conference with cutting-edge educational programs designed for professionals at all levels of experience. For nearly 30 years the Hazmat Conference has offered informative sessions and unique hands-on training designed to tackle the most pressing issues facing hazmat professionals.

<http://www.iafc.org/micrositeHazConf/homeHazConf.cfm?ItemNumber=6165&navItemNumber=6150>

2013 Building Resilience through Public-Private Partnerships Conference

July 23-25; Rutgers University-Newark, The Paul Robeson Campus Center, Newark, NJ

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Headquarters, in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Northern Command, and Rutgers University will present the third annual Building Resilience through Public-Private Partnerships Conference at Rutgers University in July. This year's conference themed, "Partnerships in Action: Enhancing National and Economic Security," will highlight successful public-private partnerships across the homeland security enterprise and is designed to identify solutions to coordination gaps between the public and private sectors. From Hurricane Sandy response efforts and global supply chain resilience to campus resilience and cyber security, building resilient communities continues to be a whole community approach. More detailed registration information and a call for topics is forthcoming. Call the DHS Private Sector Office at 202-282-8484 and PPPConference@hq.dhs.gov for immediate inquiries.

IS-450.NC - Emergency Preparedness for Federal Employees in the National Capital Region

The goal of this independent study course is to provide practical steps you can take to prepare for emergencies that could threaten your home, workplace, and community. This course is intended specifically for Federal employees living and working in the National Capital Region. The first lesson focuses on the importance of personal emergency preparedness and its relationship to your professional responsibilities as a Federal employee. The second lesson introduces the four steps to personal emergency preparedness: Be Informed, Make a Plan, Build a Kit, and Get Involved. The last lesson reinforces the concepts learned in the previous lessons by applying the four steps of emergency preparedness to a given scenario.

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is450nc.asp>

National Capital Region Homeland Security Events

http://www.mwcog.org/committee/committee/events_homeland.asp?COMMITTEE_ID=134

Virginia Emergency Management Courses

<http://www.vaemergency.com>

FEMA Independent Study Courses

<http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/>

American Red Cross Disaster Services Training

http://www.redcrossnca.org/Online/disaster_registration.php

LINKS

Fairfax County Web Resources

- Fairfax County Emergency Information Blog - www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog
- Fairfax County Emergency Information Web page - www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/
- Fairfax County CERT - <http://fairfaxcountycert.blogspot.com/>
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Web Page - www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Blog - <http://citizencorps.blogspot.com/>

Additional Web Resources

- Capital Region Updates - www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov
- Virginia Citizen Corps - www.vaemergency.com/citcorps/index.cfm

DHS Science & Technology Directorate Newsletter

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Science & Technology Directorate has a free newsletter, "S&T Snapshots," featuring stories about current research projects and opportunities with laboratories, universities, government agencies, and the private sector. The newsletter is produced monthly by the DHS Science and Technology Directorate in partnership with the Homeland Security Institute, a Studies and Analysis Federally Funded Research and Development Center.

<http://www.homelandsecurity.org/snapshots/>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report (OSIR)

The Department of Homeland Security provides a Web-based "Daily OSIR," which is posted on the DHS public Web site. Accessing the report via the Web enables readers to retrieve the current Daily Report as well as 10 days of archived DHS Daily Reports. Once you arrive at the Web page you will find the most recent Daily OSIR at the top of the page, under the title "Current Report." This report is posted each morning, except for weekends and holidays. Simply click on the title "DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report." This will launch the current days report in PDF format. You can submit content comments or make suggestions by contacting the DHS Daily Report Team by telephone at 202-312-3421 or by e-mail at NICCCReports@dhs.gov. You can access the Daily OSIR at:

http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/editorial_0542.shtm.

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm

Emergency Management Magazine

<http://www.govtech.com/em/toc.php>

FEMA Private Sector

<http://www.fema.gov/privatesector/>

FAIRFAX COUNTY 703-817-7771
EMERGENCY
INFORMATION LINE

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In accordance with NIMS – the National Incident Management System – the Fairfax County Emergency Operations Plan states that Emergency Support Function 15 (External Affairs) is led by the Office of Public Affairs. This ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update is part of the county's outreach efforts for our business and nonprofit partners as a way to provide information about the county's ESF 15, Homeland Security and emergency management.

Please feel free to forward this ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update to other contacts you have inside or outside your organization. Should someone you know like to be added to our distribution list, have them send an e-mail to jim.person@fairfaxcounty.gov and ask to be subscribed to the ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update.

If you have any suggestions on how to improve this update or other communications between Fairfax County and the business/nonprofit community, please contact Merni Fitzgerald, Director of the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs, at 703-324-3187, TTY 711, or by e-mail at merni.fitzgerald@fairfaxcounty.gov.