



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

September 2013

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

Get Ready to ShakeOut!

Fairfax County residents and businesses can join in a multi-state earthquake drill scheduled for Oct. 17. The second annual Great Southeast ShakeOut earthquake drill is Thursday, Oct. 17, at 10:17 a.m. By signing up for the ShakeOut, you can learn about earthquake safety and also join in the largest simultaneous earthquake drill ever held. Wherever you are – home, school, work or play – you can participate in the ShakeOut and learn how to drop, cover and hold on, the safe response to an earthquake.



- DROP to the ground (before the earthquake drops you)
- Take COVER by getting under a sturdy desk or table, and
- HOLD ON to it until the shaking stops

Earthquakes happen without warning, and the shaking may be so severe that you cannot run or crawl. So drop, cover and hold on immediately. If there isn't a table or desk near you, drop to the ground in an inside corner of the building, and cover your head and neck with your hands and arms. Do not try to run to another room to get under a table. Also, during an earthquake, don't run outside. Trying to run is dangerous because the ground is moving and you can easily fall or be injured by falling bricks, glass and other building materials. In the U.S., you are much safer to stay inside and get under a table. Last year nearly one million Virginians took part in the first Great SouthEast ShakeOut. Learn more and sign up for the Oct. 17 ShakeOut at www.ReadyVirginia.gov or www.shakeout.org/southeast.

Explaining Extreme Events of 2012

Human influences are having an impact on some extreme weather and climate events, according to the report "Explaining Extreme Events of 2012 from a Climate Perspective" released Sept. 5, by the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society. The report shows that the effects of natural weather and climate fluctuations played a key role in the intensity and evolution of many of the extreme events of 2012. However, in several events, the analyses revealed compelling evidence that human-cause climate change was a secondary factor contributing to the extreme event.

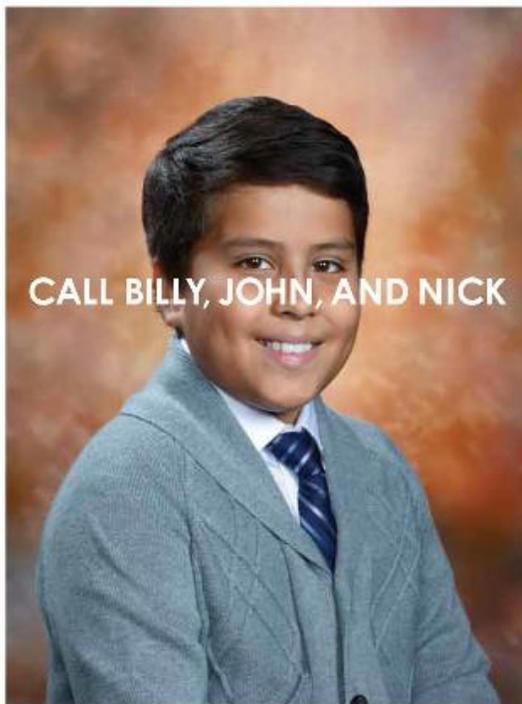
<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/news/explaining-extreme-events-2012-climate-perspective>

Cities Safest from Natural Disasters in 2013

Major disasters were declared by the federal government on 99 separate occasions in 2012. Online real estate site Trulia ranked the 10 best towns for good weather. Syracuse, NY is the metro area that sees the fewest natural disasters in the United States. Five types of natural disasters were used in the Trulia calculations: wildfires, floods, tornadoes, earthquakes and hurricanes. Nearly all of the cities in the top 10 were located in either the Northeast or Midwest. Syracuse was spared yet again by flooding in July, where the Syracuse Post-Standard reported a disaster was declared just 60 miles to the east.

<http://www.weather.com/news/trulia-safest-towns-natural-disasters-20130905>





FOUR PLANS IS NOT AN EMERGENCY PLAN

Make sure your kids know what to do during an emergency.



FEMA

ready.gov/kids

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Minding Your Business

Each year small businesses nationwide are forced to close their doors in the aftermath of severe storms, flooding, tornadoes, wildfires and hurricanes. An estimated 25 percent of businesses (<http://www.sba.gov/sba-direct/article/2854>) do not reopen after a major disaster. Small business owners should develop a preparedness program to address the impact of hazards. There are five steps in developing this program:

- Program Management.
- Planning.
- Implementation.
- Testing and Exercises.
- Program Improvement.

Take your company to the next level of preparedness with a free online business readiness assessment (<http://www.readyrating.org>) available from the American Red Cross as part of their Ready Rating program. As a Ready Rating member you will have access to various tools, resources and information to evaluate and improve your ability to withstand disaster. Learn more from Ready Business at <http://www.ready.gov/business>.

Task Force Calls for Congress to Strengthen Oversight of Homeland Security

On the 12th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, a bipartisan task force of homeland-security experts, government officials and former members of the 9/11 Commission has released a report outlining the need for stronger and clearer Congressional oversight of national security. The Sunnyslands-Aspen Task Force found that the current system of Congressional oversight of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is diffuse and redundant, and has prevented DHS from focusing on national security threats ranging from cyber-terrorism and biological hazards to the potential dangers from small aircraft and boats that do not fall under federal homeland-security regulations. The recommendation to streamline oversight of DHS was one of the 41 recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. Yet nearly a decade after that commission released its report that recommendation has not been acted upon. The need to consolidate Congressional oversight of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is, in the words of Commission co-chair Thomas H. Kean, “maybe the toughest recommendation” because Congress does not usually reform itself.

<http://www.annenbergpublicpolicycenter.org/homeland-security-report/>



www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov

Annual Crime Report

According to the just-released report on crime in the United States in 2012, the estimated number of violent crimes reported to law enforcement increased 0.7 percent over 2011 figures. And the estimated number of property crimes decreased 0.9 percent from 2011—the 10th year in a row that property crimes showed a decline

<http://www.fbi.gov/news/pressrel/press-releases/fbi-releases-2012-crime-statistics>

PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

Risk Assessment for Commercial Facilities (USA)

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has prepared this disaster preparedness risk assessment for any commercial entity. Free registration is required.

<http://www.dhs.gov/risk-self-assessment-tool-commercial-facilities>

Get Tech Ready

When most people prepare for an emergency, they assume they won't be able to use technology as a resource; the power will probably be out, so technology won't be able to help. With effective planning, it's possible to take advantage of technology before, during and after a crisis to communicate with loved ones, manage your financial affairs, and get important information. Getting tech ready means not only preparing your devices to be easy access resources for you and your family, but also planning for ways to keep your devices powered.

- Get a solar-powered or hand crank charger and a car charger for your phone to keep it powered throughout the emergency.
- Follow important officials and organizations on social media channels, doing so will help you receive important information if you can't access television or radio. By identifying these accounts now, you won't have to search for them in the middle of an emergency or drain your battery during the search. Key accounts include emergency management agencies, Governors, local officials and local media.
- Another good way to keep in touch with officials is to see if they offer text message updates; FEMA has a text message program which includes preparedness tips and other resources, get more information by texting INFO to 43362 (4FEMA) or visiting www.fema.gov/text-messages.
- Synchronize your contacts across all your devices and all your channels so that way you have many ways to get ahold of people. By having access phone numbers, social media accounts, and email addresses, you can get in touch with your loved ones even if one system or channel is down. Often when phone calls are difficult to make, you can send text messages, social media messages, or emails to pass along important information.
- Make sure you program "In Case of Emergency" (ICE) contacts into your cell phone so emergency personnel can contact those people for you if you're unable to use your phone. Let your ICE contacts know that they're programmed into your phone and inform them of any medical issues or other special needs you may have. If something should happen to you; that action will help you receive the care you need and let your loved ones know where you are.
- Download resource apps for your smartphone, they often have important information like phone numbers, first aid tips, and other resources. The FEMA App (www.fema.gov/smartphone-app) contains disaster safety tips, an interactive emergency kit list, emergency meeting location information, and a map with open shelters and open FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs). There may be other apps available from your state or local emergency management agency, ask them to see what resources you can access.

While these are just a few examples of how you can turn technology into a valuable resource during an emergency, visit www.ready.gov/get-tech-ready to get more tips.

Money Talks

Disaster preparedness extends beyond storing water and supplies. Having a plan to pay bills and access your important records and accounts will avoid problems in the future. Since disasters leave many families without access to finances, store your important documents in a safe place. Using the Safeguarding Your Valuables activity module and Emergency Financial First Aid Kit will get you started. Disasters can also leave you with expensive damages. If you do not have health, life, property or flood insurance, get them now! Remember flooding is not included in homeowners insurance. Planning ahead for financial challenges after a disaster is also important because the road to recovery can often be a long, complex process. The "Recovery After Disaster: The Family Financial Toolkit" discusses strategies and provides tools to help you make the best financial decisions for your family. Another valuable resource is the Consumer Protection Bureau. They can guide you on how to protect and rebuild your

finances, avoid loan scams and what to do immediately following a disaster.

Reprinted from the FEMA "Preparedness e-Brief," Sept. 18 issue

Helpful Links:

- <http://www.consumerfinance.gov/askcfpb/1513/if-i-have-been-affected-natural-disaster-what-should-i-do-days-immediately-following-it.html>
- <http://www.consumerfinance.gov/blog/protecting-and-rebuilding-your-finances-after-a-disaster/>
- http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1858-25045-8753/p_532.pdf_1_.pdf
- <http://www1.extension.umn.edu/family/tough-times/disaster-recovery/family-financial-toolkit/>

Ferocious Flooding

Floods are one of the most common hazards in the U.S. They can be local, impacting a neighborhood or very large, affecting multiple states. Thousands of residents in Boulder, Colo. and nearby towns were recently forced to evacuate after days of heavy rainfall caused mudslides and flash floods. If a flood is developing in your area, would you know what to do? Here are some tips before the flood hits:

- Conduct a household inventory.
- Build an emergency supply kit.
- Plan for evacuation.
- Make a pet plan.

<http://www.multivu.com/assets/62832/documents/62832-FS-BeforeTheFlood-012013-original.pdf>

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.



MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Half of States Lack Disaster Plans for Schools, Day Care

More than half of the states and the District of Columbia do not require schools or day care centers to meet minimum standards to protect children during major emergencies, according to a new report. Save the Children, a non-governmental disaster relief organization focused on children, found that 17 states don't require evacuation plans in day care centers. The report also found that numerous other states don't require specific plans for reuniting children with their parents after an emergency. Other states don't require plans for helping children with special needs, which includes infants and toddlers.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/09/04/save-the-children-emergency-disaster-plans/2758933/>



Disaster Distress Helpline is Open

Stress, anxiety, and other depression-like symptoms are common reactions after any natural or human-caused disaster – even long after, a U.S. official says. A free and confidential Disaster Distress Helpline is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The helpline is staffed by trained counselors from a network of crisis call centers located across the United States, all of whom provide crisis counseling, information of recognizing symptoms, tips for healthy coping, and referrals for follow-up care and support. If you feel stressed after a disaster, you can contact the Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990.

http://www.upi.com/Health_News/2013/08/31/For-stressed-Disaster-Distress-Helpline-open-247/UPI-90191377985253/

Getting Your Business Ready for Hurricane Season

Even small businesses that aren't in the path of hurricanes can feel the effects of severe weather, writes Ted Devine, CEO of insureon. You can get prepared for serious storms by making sure your property and employees are safe and by reviewing your insurance policies, he writes.

<http://smallbiztrends.com/2013/09/small-business-guide-to-hurricane-season.html>

DHS has Become the Epicenter for Government Cybersecurity

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has become the lead agency in the federal government for cyber security. DHS's responsibility to protect against cyber threats has evolved significantly from early days of the Department and its creation under the Homeland Security Act of 2002. DHS's integral role in cyber preparedness, response and resilience are now accepted by other federal agencies, including the leadership of the defense and intelligence agencies. General Keith Alexander, Commander of USCYBERCOM and Director of the National Security Agency (NSA) noted recently that it is appropriate to put DHS in "the middle" of the issue. DHS, as a civilian agency, should take a leading role in safeguarding the nation's cybersecurity preparedness. The Department of Defense (DOD) retains responsibility for offensive cybersecurity capabilities, including cyber warfare.

<http://www.gsnmagazine.com/node/32882>

Having a Workable Emergency Action Plan

According to economists, every dollar spent on preparing for an emergency saves seven dollars in response. Having an action plan is an important part of emergency preparedness. However, merely writing one is not enough. You also have to make sure your plan is workable. Here are eight tips for ensuring that your emergency action plan is viable and comprehensive.

<http://safety.blr.com/workplace-safety-news/emergency-planning-and-response/emergency-action-plans/Is-your-emergency-action-plan-workable/>

Two Easy Steps for Emergency Preparedness

September is National Preparedness Month, and all month long, GE Generator Systems – a coalition member of FEMA’s Ready campaign – is educating the public about the importance of home preparedness. The Ready campaign each year urges families to keep an emergency preparedness kit on hand and create an emergency communication plan. “It makes sense to think about preparedness in September,” said Amanda Grandy, marketing manager. “The brunt of the hurricane season for the Atlantic and Gulf coast states is front and center and, as we saw last year with Hurricane Sandy, these events can affect a much wider swath of the population than just families on the coasts.”

<http://online.wsj.com/article/PR-CO-20130909-905937.html>

U.S. Spent \$62 Billion on Disaster Relief

The U.S. government spent nearly \$62 billion on disaster relief in the two-year period ending Sept. 30, 2012, to help Americans recover from severe storms, droughts, heat waves and wildfires, a new analysis of federal data has found. The Agriculture Department accounted for more than half of all federal disaster spending for those two years, with \$28.2 billion going to the crop insurance program. FEMA’s Disaster Relief Fund paid out \$8.8 billion in 2011 and 2012 fiscal years, when there were 25 natural disasters that each caused more than \$1 billion in damage.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/11/us-usa-disaster-spending-idUSBRE98A1AH20130911>

FINDER Disaster Rescue Tool

NASA and DHS are collaborating on a new radar device that detects heartbeats of victims trapped in wreckage. The agencies will demonstrate and discuss the device on September 25 at the Virginia Task Force 1 Training Facility in Lorton. The device, known as the Finding Individuals for Disaster and Emergency Response (FINDER), can locate individuals buried under as much as 30 feet of crushed materials, hidden behind 20 feet of solid concrete, or from a distance of 100 feet in open spaces

<http://www.gsnmagazine.com/node/33158>

FLU

What is the Best Way to Protect Myself and My Family from the Flu?

Everyone 6 months of age or older should get the flu vaccine as soon as it is available in your area. There also are steps you can take in your daily life to help protect you from getting the flu.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- Practice good health habits. Get plenty of sleep and exercise, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat healthy food.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- If you are sick with flu-like illness, stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone without the use of fever-reducing medicine.

<http://www.flu.gov/prevention-vaccination/prevention/index.html#>

The Right Way to Sneeze

In this video, produced in partnership with the Ad Council and Sesame Workshop, Elmo and Rosita sing a song about the right way to sneeze.

<http://youtu.be/QW1yodZJpG8>



Seasonal Flu Information for Businesses and Employers

The single best way to prevent seasonal flu is to get a yearly flu vaccine,

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but good health habits and antiviral medications are other measures that can help protect against the flu. To help businesses, employers and their employees learn about these strategies for preventing flu, CDC provides a complete toolkit with flyers, posters and other materials to post and distribute in the workplace.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/business/>

Clinical Study of Flu Pathogenesis May Help Develop Medical Countermeasures

Although there's been extensive research of influenza viruses ever since the Spanish Flu outbreak in 1918 that some authorities estimate may have killed as many as 100 million worldwide, there are still many unanswered questions regarding influenza pathogenesis. And with the emergence of the 2009 H1N1 and other novel influenza strains like H7N9 and H3N2v, there have been many challenges in reducing the impact from these flu strains.

<http://www.hstoday.us/single-article/clinical-study-of-flu-pathogenesis-in-humans-may-help-develop-medical-countermeasures/216e64e058f6e5ad1aa4003fba52a291.html>

Be Prepared for the 2013-2014 Flu Season

Learn about the 2013-2014 flu season and the simple steps that everyone can take to limit the spread of flu throughout the community this flu season. Learn more about flu prevention and locate flu vaccination centers near you by visiting www.fairfaxcounty.gov/flu.



More flu information is available at www.flu.gov.

TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

Emergency Preparedness and Hazmat Response Conference

Oct. 13-17; Baltimore, Md.

Calling all emergency managers, hazmat response teams and public safety personnel. The Emergency Preparedness and Hazmat Response Conference will be held Oct. 13-17, in Baltimore, Md. The conference will include workshops and training sessions on various disaster preparedness topics.

<http://emergencypreparednessconference.org/conference-agenda.html>

IEEE Communications & Network Security Conference 2013

Oct. 14-16; Washington, D.C.

Cyber security has become an important research and development area for academia, government, and industry in recent years. As a leading professional society focusing on communications technologies, IEEE Communications Society (ComSoc) has identified the need for a high-quality security conference and will serve as a premier forum for cyber security researchers, practitioners, policy makers, and users to exchange ideas, techniques and tools, raise awareness, and share experience related to security and privacy.

<http://www.ieee-cns.org/>

Homeland Security 2013

Oct. 15-18; OMNI Hotel, Washington, D.C.

Evolving from two successful years as the Border Management Conference & Technology Expo, that conference has

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expanded its focus to also include tracks on Cyber Security & Critical Infrastructure and Disaster Preparedness & Response along with additional topic areas impacting homeland security. This presents a unique opportunity to connect with potential customers across various civilian and defense agencies just as they gain access to their fiscal year 2014 budgets. Over 30 speakers already are scheduled.

<http://www.homelandsecurityexpo.com/Opportunities.aspx>

120th Annual International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Conference

Oct. 19-23; Philadelphia, Pa.

This year, IACP 2013 is your best opportunity to learn, network, and problem solve at a one-of-a-kind event dedicated specifically to law enforcement professionals. With renowned keynote speakers, forums and technical workshops, and the largest exhibit hall of products and services in the law enforcement community, leaders from around the globe come together at the IACP Annual Conference to foster a continuing exchange of information.

<http://www.theiacpconference.org/iacp2013/public/enter.aspx>

34th Annual Virginia EMS Symposium

Nov. 6-10; Norfolk, Va.

The Virginia Office of EMS invites you to take a look at the 34th Annual Virginia EMS Symposium Pre-Conference Guide. This year's symposium will feature over 250 courses at the Norfolk Waterside, Marriott. General registration opens Aug. 1.

http://www.vdh.state.va.us/OEMS/Files_Page/symposium/Pre-ConferenceGuide2013.pdf

Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting

Dec. 8-11; Baltimore, Md.

Conference sessions will identify ways that risk analysis can assist private and public policy makers to improve decisions in a world of complex and uncertain governance challenges. Special emphasis will be placed on the role of risk analysis as a tool for policy making and risk-benefit balancing.

<http://sra.org/events/sra-2013-annual-meeting>

Global Summit on Borders

May 13-14, 2014; Washington, D.C.

Conference focuses on international trade, travel and homeland security. Topics include critical issues in trade facilitation, supply chain security, customs enforcement, safe and efficient immigration, and border and maritime security.

<http://www.global-borders.com/>

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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To Unsubscribe:

E-mail publicaffairs@fairfaxcounty.gov with “Remove from ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update” in the subject line and you will be immediately removed from the distribution list.

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.

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