

Emergency Preparedness

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Great SouthEast ShakeOut

Registration for the Oct. 16 Drill Now Open

Virginia residents and businesses can practice “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” – the safe response to an earthquake – during the Great SouthEast ShakeOut earthquake drill Thursday, Oct. 16, at 10:16 a.m.

Registration for the drill is open at www.ReadyVirginia.gov and also at www.shakeout.org/southeast. Those who register will receive information on how to plan their drill. These websites provide many resources for learning how to be prepared for an earthquake.

“ShakeOut is a great opportunity to quickly practice several steps that are potentially life-saving,” said Jeff Stern, state coordinator for the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. “Most Virginians remember where they were when the 5.8 magnitude Mineral, Va. earthquake struck in August 2011. Participating in the ShakeOut is a terrific training exercise so that we all are more prepared for the next quake.”

During the exercise you can practice these recommended actions when earthquakes occur:

- Drop to the ground where you are.
- Take cover under a sturdy table or desk if possible, protecting your head and neck.

National Preparedness Month is next month (September)! Now is the time to consider how you will engage your family, community or business in emergency preparedness activities. Are you having a preparedness month program? Contact us for materials or a presentation about Fairfax Alerts, making an emergency kit or having an emergency plan. Call 571-350-1000, TTY 711 or mail oem@fairfaxcounty.gov.

- Hold on until the shaking stops.

Last year, more than one million Virginians took part in the Great SouthEast ShakeOut.

ShakeOut originated in California, where statewide earthquake drills have been held annually since 2008, and has grown internationally with nearly 25 million people participating in 2013.

In This Issue

Great SouthEast ShakeOut

Page 1

Family Communication Plan

Page 2

Hurricanes | Outreach Events

Page 3

New McGruff Mobile App

Page 4

Weather Ready Nation Ambassador | Stay Connected

Page 5

Business Preparedness Corner

Page 6

FEMA and Amateur Radio | Emergency Car Kits

Page 7

Hurricane Myths | CDC App

Page 8

Summer Brings Change

Update Your Family Communications Plan

Now that summer is here and the kids are out of school, it's a great time to update your family communication plan. When disaster strikes, the first thing on your to-do list will be connecting with your family. Keeping your family safe is always the number one priority.

Schools may be changing this fall or daycare may become a factor during the summer. A possible change in job location or possibly even moving means that updating your family communication plan is a must.

In the event of a disaster, make sure you've updated information like:

- Out-of-town contacts.
- Neighborhood contacts and meeting place.
- Work and school information, including evacuation sites.
- Personal information, including important medical information.

Make sure that the information for your out-of-state safe point is still accurate. If you have moved, or your out-of-state point contact has moved, this information may need updating. In a disaster situation, he/she can communicate to others that you and your family are safe. Add this person to your cellphone contacts as "ICE" (in case of emergency).

Once you have updated your communication plan, go over it again with your family. Even if it hasn't changed, it never hurts to practice and be even more prepared for a disaster.

Complete your family communication plan online at <http://1.usa.gov/1p6Xnvc>.

Reprinted from FEMA's "Individual and Community Preparedness e-Brief," July 2 edition



Fairfax County, Va., publication.

To request this information in an alternate format, call 571-350-1000, TTY 711.

Family Communication Plan
 Let them know you're OK!
 Pick the same person for each family member to contact. It might be easier to reach someone who's out of town.

Emergencies can happen at any time. Does your family know how to get in touch with each other if you are not all together?
 Before an emergency happens, have a family discussion to determine who would be your out-of-state point of contact, and where you would meet away from your home — both in the neighborhood and within your town.

Important Information
 Fill in this information and keep a copy in a safe place, such as your purse or briefcase, your car, your office, and your disaster kit. Be sure to look it over every year and keep it up to date.

Out-of-Town Contact
 Name: _____
 Home: _____
 Cell: _____
 Email: _____
 Facebook: _____
 Twitter: _____

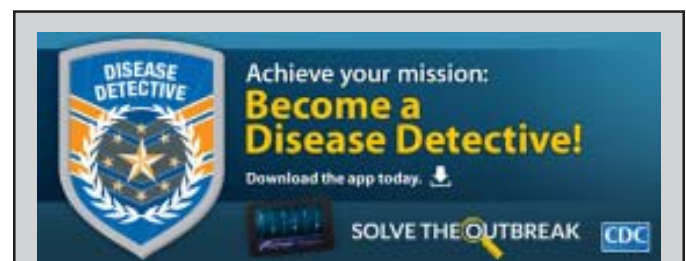
Neighborhood Meeting Place:

Regional Meeting Place:

Work Information
 Workplace: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Facebook: _____
 Twitter: _____
 Evacuation Location: _____

School Information
 School: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Facebook: _____
 Twitter: _____
 Evacuation Location: _____

BE A HERO! <http://www.ready.gov/kids>



CDC, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has released an Android version of the Solve the Outbreak app, the popular, free app that puts you in the shoes of a member of the Epidemic Intelligence Service. The app has exciting outbreaks, giving you the opportunity to climb the ranks and achieve your disease detective badge. Do you have what it takes to solve "The Queens Killer" scenario or are the clues "Hiding in Plain Sight"? Work hard to earn the clever clogs or smarty pants achievements; but beware of the Grim Reaper and Underachiever that appear if you fail.

Prepare for Hurricanes

It's early in the 2014 hurricane season, but that didn't bother Hurricane Arthur, a Category 2 storm, as it dealt Virginia a glancing blow during the July 4 weekend. We've got a long way to go during this hurricane season – what steps should you take now to protect your family and property?

Talk to an insurance agent about flood insurance.

Most homeowner's insurance policies do not cover flooding. Just one inch of water in a mid-size home or office can mean as much as \$20,000 in cleanup and repairs! Remember:

- There is usually a 30-day waiting period before coverage begins.
- Renters also can buy flood insurance to cover personal belongings or business inventory.
- Go to www.floodsmart.gov or call 1-800-427-2419 for more information.

Download the free Ready Virginia app for iPhone and Android devices.

Use the app to prepare for disasters and to stay informed during emergencies. Features include:

- Push notifications of weather warnings for your location issued by the National Weather Service.
- A customizable emergency plan that can be easily shared with family and friends.
- A checklist for gathering emergency supplies.
- The latest disaster news on widespread emergencies from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

Build an emergency kit. Start with three days' water and three days' food that doesn't need electricity or refrigeration. Then add:

- A battery-powered and/or hand-crank radio with a weather band and extra batteries to hear information from local officials.
- Flashlights and extra batteries.
- First-aid kit and extra supply of medications.
- Special items for babies, older family members and pets. People with disabilities or access and functional needs may need to take additional steps to be ready.

Plan now how to handle power outages and/or being asked to evacuate. See www.vaemergency.gov/readyvirginia/getakit/disabilities for more. Information about preparing for hurricane season can be found at www.ReadyVirginia.gov and www.ListoVirginia.gov.

Outreach Events

- Sept. 2 – Mason District Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting
- Sept. 3 – Health and Human Services Employee Preparedness Fair
- Sept. 4 – Fort Belvoir Defense Logistics Agency Preparedness Fair
- Sept. 6-7 – Ready-Set-Know Festival at the Burke Centre Fall Festival
- Sept. 8 – Disability Services Board meeting
- Sept. 9 – Board of Supervisors proclamation
- Sept. 9 – Mount Vernon District CAC meeting
- Sept. 10 – State Department Preparedness Fair
- Sept. 16 – Department of Interior Preparedness Fair
- Sept. 17 – McLean Citizens Association Preparedness Night
- Sept. 17 – Franconia District CAC meeting
- Sept. 18 – Pentagon Employee Preparedness Fair
- Sept. 18 – Office of Personnel Management Employee Preparedness Fair
- Sept. 18 – Reston District CAC meeting
- Sept. 19 – Senate Employee Preparedness Fair
- Sept. 22 – Senior Preparedness Fair – Vienna Community Center
- Sept. 24 – Northern Virginia Community College Zombie Day and Student Preparedness Fair
- Sept. 25 – Fort Belvoir Defense Logistics Agency Preparedness Presentation
- Sept. 25 – Citizen Corps Council meeting
- Sept. 30 – Government Technology and Services Coalition Preparedness Presentation
- Sept. 30 – Fair Oaks District CAC meeting
- Oct. 16 – McLean District CAC meeting

To learn more about emergency preparedness or having an OEM representative attend your event or give a presentation at your homeowners association or civic association meeting, call 571-350-1000, TTY 711; email oem@fairfaxcounty.gov.



New APP Promises To “Take A Bite Out Of Crime” on McGruff’s Birthday

AlertID and the National Crime Prevention Council Partner on Crime Prevention App

On July 1, 1980, a famous trench coat-wearing character burst onto the scene promising to teach us all how to “Take A Bite Out of Crime.”

On July 1, 2014, McGruff the Crime Dog is now helping to bite crime through a new social media app. The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), home to the famous character, and AlertID have launched the McGruff Mobile app on iTunes in honor of McGruff’s 34th birthday.

The McGruff Mobile app delivers critical public safety information to users through alerts they can access on their mobile devices, email and online. These alerts can tell you if a sexual predator has moved into your area; a recent crime has taken place in your neighborhood, or if a child or senior has gone missing.

By receiving these critical alerts, citizens can make better, more informed decisions about where they live, work and play.

This new app puts those alerts at residents’ fingertips so they can be informed on a daily basis about what is happening in their neighborhood. The app is simple and easy to use. A user can either input information about their home, work or other areas they frequent or choose to use the GPS locator option and save the neighborhoods of interest to the user account. The user can also set the frequency of alerts.

The Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management is available to deliver emergency preparedness presentations to community organizations and homeowners associations. If interested, contact OEM at 571-350-1000, TTY 711, or via email at oem@fairfaxcounty.gov.



Celebrate McGruff’s birthday by downloading the McGruff Mobile app. It’s an easy way to help “Take A Bite Out Of cake, er, Crime.”

The National Crime Prevention Council is the nonprofit leader in crime prevention. For more than 30 years, McGruff the Crime Dog has delivered easy-to-use crime prevention tips that protect what matters most – you, your family, and your community. Since 1982, NCPC has continuously provided the American public with comprehensive educational materials, training programs and effective crime prevention messaging, delivered in large part through its vast network of more than 6,000 state and local law enforcement agencies, crime prevention associations, community groups, foundations and corporate partners.

For more information on how to “Take A Bite Out of Crime,” visit www.ncpc.org. Get the app online at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/mcgruff-mobile-national-crime/id875141510>.

The largest blackout in the U.S. left 50 million people without power. Blackouts can happen any time.

- Know where the manual release lever of your electric garage door opener is located and how to operate it. Garage doors can be heavy, so know that you may need help to lift it.
- Keep a key to your house with you if you regularly use the garage as the primary means of entering your home, in case the garage door will not open.

Learn more tips for power outages and blackouts at www.ready.gov/blackouts.



Office of Emergency Management
4890 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030
571-350-1000, TTY 711

Apply to Become a Weather Ready Nation Ambassador

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is accepting applications from both the public and private sector to become a Weather Ready Nation (WRN) Ambassador, as part of an initiative to unite national preparedness and response to severe weather threats.

WRN ambassadors will serve as a point of contact between their organization and NOAA, sharing relevant safety messages from NOAA and National Weather Service knowledge.



For more information and to apply, go online to www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/ambassadors.html.

Stay Connected to Emergency Information



Fairfax County Emergency Alerts
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts



Emergency Information Blog
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog



Fairfax County Government Radio
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/radio



Fairfax County on Twitter
www.twitter.com/fairfaxcounty



Fairfax County on Facebook
www.facebook.com/fairfaxcounty



Fairfax County on YouTube
www.youtube.com/fairfaxcountygov



The Fairfax County Citizen Corps

harnesses the power of individuals through education, training and volunteer service to make communities safe, stronger and better prepared to respond to the threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues and disasters of all kinds. There are five core programs:



Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)

Provides support for the police department by incorporating volunteers so that law enforcement professionals have more time for frontline duty. VIPS includes auxiliary police officers, administrative volunteers, and the Citizen's Police Academy.
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/getinvolved/120711volunteers.htm



Neighborhood Watch

Brings private citizens and law enforcement together to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. It brings to life the simple concept of neighbors watching out for neighbors. Volunteers may join an existing group or establish one in their neighborhood.
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/nw.htm



Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

The Medical Reserve Corps is composed of medical and non-medical volunteers of the Fairfax County Health Department that could support the Health Department if called upon to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural and man-made disasters and emergencies.
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/MRC



Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Trains people in neighborhoods, workplaces, and schools in basic disaster response skills, such as fire suppression and search and rescue, and helps them take a more active role in emergency preparedness.
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/cert



Fire Corps

Volunteers are trained to perform non-operational administrative duties at the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department Headquarters and at volunteer fire stations.
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/firecorps.htm



Business Preparedness Corner

Small Business Preparedness

By Whitney Kazragis



Whitney Kazragis

The Great Southeast ShakeOut is a multi-state simultaneous earthquake drill set for Oct. 16, at 10:16 a.m. Businesses large and small should take advantage of this opportunity to participate in the region's largest earthquake drill, especially since the National Capital Region is not immune to earthquakes.

Employees who know and practiced earthquake protocols will be more prepared if another earthquake affects Fairfax County.

Plan Your Drill

- Discuss the drill with business leadership and risk management to get organizational buy-in.
- Register at www.ShakeOut.org/southeast/register.
- Download a Drill Broadcast recording from www.ShakeOut.org/southeast/drill/broadcast.
- Have a "Drop, Cover and Hold On" drill at 10:16 a.m. on Oct. 16.

Get Prepared for Earthquakes

- Check your emergency supplies and equipment; make sure they are accessible and functional.
- Ask departments to inspect facilities for items that

- might fall and cause injury and secure them.
- Encourage employees to prepare at home.
- Provide first aid and response training for staff.

Share the ShakeOut

- Encourage employees to ask their friends, families and neighbors to register.
- Ask colleagues at other businesses to participate.
- Posters, flyers and other promotional materials at www.ShakeOut.org/southeast/resources.
- Share photos and stories of your drill at www.Shareout.org/southeast/share.

Fairfax County and Northern Virginia residents can use the family and business emergency planners at www.ReadyNOVA.org.

The Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management offers numerous emergency preparedness materials to residents, including family preparedness brochures in English, Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese, Urdu, Farsi and Arabic; a business preparedness brochure; medical needs registry brochures in English, Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese, Urdu, Farsi and Arabic; preparedness information for seniors in English and Spanish; as well as pet preparedness information. Also available are various items to help spread the word for Fairfax Alerts, including postcards, magnets, stickers, pens, temporary tattoos for kids.



FEMA and ARRL Partnership

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) recently announced a Memorandum of Agreement that increases cooperation between FEMA and ARRL in the area of disaster communication. FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate, KK4INZ, and ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, signed the agreement during the ARRL National Centennial Convention at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, Conn.

This agreement will allow FEMA and ARRL to work together to provide resources, services and personnel, as available, to strengthen capacity in areas of emergency communications, mass care and emergency assistance,

Emergency Car Kit Giveaway



Join the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management at the following Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Meetings to learn about Fairfax Alerts and emergency preparedness. You'll also have a chance to win an emergency car kit from State Farm at each meeting.

- Mason District, Sept. 2
- Mount Vernon District, Sept. 9
- Franconia District, Sept. 17
- Reston District, Sept. 18
- Fair Oaks District, Sept. 30
- West Springfield District, Oct. 7
- McLean District, Oct. 16
- Sully District, Nov. 12



The next time you're on the Metro, be sure to check out the Fairfax Alerts advertisements. The billboard above is located in the West Falls Church Metro station. While you're waiting for your train (or bus) be sure to sign up to get free Fairfax Alerts at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts.

disaster preparedness, response and recovery, while also raising public awareness about the use of amateur radio as a public safety resource.

The agreement outlines the ways in which FEMA and ARRL will cooperate to carry out their respective responsibilities, with respect to disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery operations in the event of a natural or man-made disaster.

Amateur Radio operators have been responding to disasters since the beginning of the amateur service in the early 1900s. Through the ARRL-sponsored Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and other groups, federally licensed amateur radio operators volunteer their time, equipment and expertise to their communities and country for all kinds of public service events and disaster efforts.

James Sobecke was voted in as the chairperson for the 2014-2015 Fairfax County Citizen Corps Council during the July 2014 meeting. Sobecke served in the U.S. Army and private sector for 48 years. He has over 25 years of volunteer service to the community in public safety, emergency response training and local community organizations. He is also an active member of the Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).



Busting Hurricane Myths in a Flash

How do you know when it's time to evacuate? According to the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH), more than 84 percent of Americans base their evacuation decisions on the category of the hurricane.

The reality is that most evacuation circumstances are based on flood and storm surge risk, not wind speed.

At this year's National Hurricane Conference, FLASH launched #bustamyth; an initiative intended to realign America's views regarding when to evacuate in a tropical storm or hurricane and to dispel other hurricane myths such as:

- 54 percent of Americans think taping windows protects from hurricane damage, when in fact it is a waste of time and money and may prove to be dangerous. Permanent wind shutters provide the best protection against flying debris and wind.
- 84 percent of Americans believe they need to evacuate based on wind speed, but in fact the greatest threat to life in a hurricane is flood and storm surge risk. Because hurricanes can be detected ahead of time, take heed of authorized evacuation warnings. Head for higher ground or evacuate to somewhere outside of the projected danger zone of the hurricane.
- 69 percent of Americans believe that it costs more than \$10,000 to strengthen their homes, when it can be done effectively for little more than \$1,000. Measures to protect against potential flooding and wind damage include reinforcing windows and roofs, waterproofing basements and elevating critical utilities.

For more facts on how to prepare for a hurricane, check out the America's PrepareAthon "How to Prepare for a Hurricane" guide (PDF) at <http://1.usa.gov/1trw7tA>.

The hurricane myths (PDF) is at <http://bit.ly/1nbgj4Y>.

Reprinted from FEMA's "Individual and Community Preparedness e-Brief," July 9 edition



CDC Releases Blast Injury App

If you work in public health, pre-hospital or hospital healthcare, then CDC – the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – has a new mobile application for you.

The CDC Blast Injury App provides clear, concise, up-to-date information to help you respond to a blast or other mass casualty explosive event.

This application equips you with the critical decision-making information you need to provide medical care or manage mass casualties, all from your mobile device.



The app provides clinical guidance about specific blast injury patterns to help emergency responders and clinicians assess and treat patients. For public health and emergency management professionals, the application includes tools to manage casualties and hospital surge capacity.

All individuals can use the application to learn how to protect themselves and be aware of hazards specific to mass casualty explosive events. It also includes a quick reference guide that can be read en route to, or at the scene of an event.

This is an official application of the CDC and updates will happen automatically so users will always have the most current content available.

Download the CDC Blast Injury mobile application for free from the App Store. <https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/cdc-blast-injury/id890434999>