

# Emergency Preparedness

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## County Conducts Exercise in Preparation for World Police and Fire Games

More than 12,000 athletes from public safety teams around the world will be heading to Fairfax County in late June for the 2015 World Police and Fire Games (WPFG), but the stadiums and hotels of the area aren't the only ones preparing for the increase in local visitors.

In an effort to be prepared for any emergency during the big event, dozens of county employees from more than 10 agencies joined staff from the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) in January to take part in a four-day regional training exercise focusing on how the county would respond during a crisis, taking into account the large-event settings and increased population that the World Police and Fire Games brings with it.

“The WPFG is the third largest sporting event in the world offering current and retired public safety personnel from around the world an opportunity to compete for medals in an Olympic style series of events,” explains Michael Guditus, OEM’s assistant coordinator for training and exercises.

“Our training efforts must meet the needs of public safety, our partner agencies and regional jurisdictions to ensure they are ready to deal with issues that may arise.”

To accomplish this task, the exercise simulated a standard day during the upcoming WPFG, taking into account the fact that events would be held concurrently all over the National Capital Region. Operations started out normally, with responders reacting to standard calls for service before a major disaster hit the area,

affecting the entire region and requiring response from all of the exercise players. As the exercise progressed, the disaster ultimately caused a catastrophic incident, centered in Fairfax County, that

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# Shake things up this Valentine's Day...

...with the gift of love.  
Give an emergency kit!

will you be mine?



BUILD A KIT



yes!



STAY INFORMED



MAKE A PLAN



[FairfaxCounty.gov/emergency](http://FairfaxCounty.gov/emergency)



To request reasonable ADA accommodations, call the Office of Emergency Management: 571-350-1000 or TTY 711.



Infographic by: Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management



A Fairfax County, Va., publication.



Some of the MLK National Day of Service participants.

## Give Together Day

The 6th Annual Volunteer Fairfax Give Together event, a family volunteer extravaganza celebrated on MLK National Day of Service, was a huge success.

Over 600 volunteers packed arts-and-crafts bags, emergency preparedness kits and made seed balls.

Event sponsors included the McLean Community Foundation, ICF and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP).

Local agencies who partnered on Give Together projects include Ronald McDonald House, 4H, Community Residences, Volunteer Fairfax's Emergency Response Program, RSVP and the Jewish Community Center.

Year-round service opportunities are available at [www.volunteerfairfax.org](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org).



Fairfax County and Northern Virginia residents can use the family and business emergency planners at [www.ReadyNOVA.org](http://www.ReadyNOVA.org).



Fairfax County, Va., publication.

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

## Outreach Events

- **Feb. 2-4** – Emergency Preparedness Seminar, Bethlehem Baptist Church
- **Feb. 4** – Lincolnia Senior Residences Emergency Preparedness Workshop
- **Feb. 5** – U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health and Wellness Expo
- **Feb. 6** – Dranesville District Senior Safety Seminar, McLean Community Center
- **Feb. 7** – KOJAM Camp Fair, Tysons Corner Center
- **Feb. 19** – Faith Communities in Action meeting.
- **Feb. 20** – Fairfax County Chaplain Corps tabletop exercise

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-outreach@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:oem-outreach@fairfaxcounty.gov).

June 26-July 5

<http://fairfax2015.com>



**FAIRFAX** ★ 2015  
**WORLD**  
**POLICE & FIRE**  
**GAMES**

Volunteers are needed for the World Police and Fire Games, coming to Fairfax County and the National Capital Region this summer. Learn more about the games, to be held June 26 through July 5, and how you can get involved at <http://fairfax2015.com>.



# Community Resilience Pilot Project

The Community Resiliency Pilot Program, provided by Volunteer Fairfax in collaboration with the Office of Emergency Management, has held several seminars and exercises over the last couple of months in the Mason and Braddock districts.

Program coordinators invite organizations in the Sully District to learn more about resiliency planning in Fairfax County at an upcoming exercise. The Sully district seminar was held Jan. 27.

This month's exercise will be held at the Sully District Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly, from 5-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 17.

For more information about the exercise or the community resilience pilot project, contact Tracy Friend at [tfriend@volunteerfairfax.org](mailto:tfriend@volunteerfairfax.org).



The Office of Operations Management at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in Baltimore visited the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center (MPSTOC) to learn more about the role of the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management and best practices from the county's Emergency Operations Center. OEM's Whitney Kazragis (second from right) led the tour.

# Citizen Corps Council Kicks Off 2015

The first meeting of 2015 for the Fairfax County Citizen Corps Council was held on Thursday, Jan. 22, in the Fairfax County Government Center. Twenty-one members, guests and staff attended the session to provide updates on the activities their respective organizations are engage with for emergency preparedness.

The council discussed events and activities for the coming year that will engage all of the members in making Fairfax County safer, stronger and better prepared to respond to emergency situations.

Fairfax County Citizen Corps 2015 Meeting Schedule
January 22
March 26
May 28
July 23
September 24
November 26

All meetings are held at 6:45 p.m. on the dates listed above and are held in the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax.

If you would like more information about getting involved in the Citizen Corps Council, contact Dean Sherick at [dean.sherick@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:dean.sherick@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## Stay Connected to Emergency Information



Fairfax County Emergency Alerts  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts)



Emergency Information Blog  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog)



Fairfax County Government Radio  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/radio](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/radio)



Fairfax County on Twitter  
[www.twitter.com/fairfaxcounty](http://www.twitter.com/fairfaxcounty)



Fairfax County on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/fairfaxcounty](http://www.facebook.com/fairfaxcounty)



Fairfax County on YouTube  
[www.youtube.com/fairfaxcountygov](http://www.youtube.com/fairfaxcountygov)



# Register for Upcoming CERT Classes

If you have been waiting to take a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) class, there are several upcoming training dates.

- CERT 92 – At the Burke Conservancy, Mondays and Wednesdays from 7-9:30 p.m., March 4, 9, 11, 16, 23, 25, 30 and April 1.
- CERT 93 – At the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Academy, Wednesdays from 7-10:30 p.m., March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 8, 15, 22 and 29.
- CERT 94 – At the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Academy, Mondays and Wednesdays from 7-10:30 p.m., April 29, May 4, 6, 11, 13, 18 and 20.
- CERT 95 – At the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, Thursdays from 7-10:30 p.m., March 5, 12, 26, April 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30.

The CERT training program is designed to prepare you in the event of a disaster to help yourself, your family and your neighbors. Through CERT you can learn about disaster preparedness and receive low-impact training in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue and disaster medical operations. This will enable you to provide immediate assistance and critical support before emergency responders arrive on the scene.

Classroom instruction also incorporates some hands-on skill development and experience in conducting a search and victim assessment.

If you have already taken a CERT class, pass along this information to your friends and family so that they can register for this valuable training and be ready too!

For more information on the CERT classes, contact the Fire and Rescue Department Volunteer Liaison's office at 703-246-4683, TTY 711, or via an online form at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/contact/mailform.asp?ref=8004](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/contact/mailform.asp?ref=8004).



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

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/firecorps.htm)



**Winter storms may be headed our way.**

**FAIRFAX ALERTS**

Are you ready?

**Sign up for emergency alerts at [fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts)**

### Partners Promote Fairfax Alerts

The Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has partnered with the Department of Vehicle Services (DVS), Facilities Management Department (FMD), Fire and Rescue Department, Police Department and the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) to promote Fairfax Alerts on vehicles across the county. Share Fairfax Alerts with friends and family so they stay informed this winter!

Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts) for more information.

If your business or organization has vehicles and you would like to promote Fairfax Alerts with decals, email [oem-outreach@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:oem-outreach@fairfaxcounty.gov).

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-outreach@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:oem-outreach@fairfaxcounty.gov).



## Winter Weather Safety

The Blizzard of 2015 recently hit the Northeast. When snow and bitter cold temperatures affect us in Fairfax County, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has a full list of tips on [Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov) to help us stay safe.

During the recent blizzard, FEMA highlighted three key tips that deserve your attention right now, before the next snowstorm.

**Check on your neighbors.** Believe it or not, when it comes to severe events you are very often the first responder. So if it's safe to do so, visit or call your neighbors and see if they need any help. Particularly elderly neighbors. Older adults often make less body heat because of a slower metabolism and less physical activity, making them more prone to hypothermia. So if you or your neighbors are over 65 years of age, check make sure your homes are adequately heated.

**Use generators outside** – away from windows – and make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working. Each year, an average of 430 Americans die from unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning. (Unsurprisingly, carbon monoxide-related deaths are highest during colder months.) These deaths are likely due to increased use of gas-powered furnaces and alternative heating, cooking, and power sources used inappropriately indoors during power outages. Don't use natural gas or charcoal burning devices inside your home, and check your detectors to make sure they're working.

**Charge your electronic devices.** Blizzards and snowstorms carry enough strength to knock out heat, power and communications services to your home or office – perhaps for even days at a time. Don't take the power you have for granted; charge up what you can as quickly as you can. Keep cellphone chargers in your car too.

*Reprinted from the FEMA blog at [www.fema.gov/blog](http://www.fema.gov/blog).*



## FEMA Encourages Young People to Join Youth Preparedness Council

FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is seeking applicants for its Youth Preparedness Council. The council supports FEMA's commitment to involving youth in preparedness-related activities and provides an opportunity for young people to offer their perspectives, feedback and insights on how to help make America more resilient.

To apply, Youth Preparedness Council applicants must be 13 to 17 years old. They must also be engaged in individual and community preparedness or have experienced a disaster that motivated them to make a positive difference in their community. Individuals who applied for 2014 are encouraged to apply again. Current Council members have an option to extend for an additional year, upon FEMA request. Adults working with youth or on community preparedness are encouraged to share the application with young people who might be interested in applying for the Youth Preparedness Council.

To be eligible for consideration, applicants must submit a completed application form and two letters of recommendation. Completed applications and all supporting materials must be received no later than March 2, by 11:59 p.m. ET. New Youth Preparedness Council members will be announced in May.

[www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness-council](http://www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness-council)

## WPFG Exercise

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the exercise “players” had to respond to in real time.

For the exercise, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was fully activated with approximately 60 Fairfax County employees participating in the simulation. The EOC is located in the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center, and serves as a multiagency coordination facility for Fairfax County government during any major emergency or disaster. The secure facility provides a base of operations for responders and other personnel to work collaboratively as they assign resources, establish policies and coordinate and approve all requests for assistance outside the county. County communicators also establish a joint information center in the building so they can deliver first-line information to the media and surrounding community.

Guditus explains that it is critical to have as many people take part in these exercises as possible, to ensure that the county will be ready when disaster strikes. “Realistic event scenarios are created and presented to the EOC staff in efforts to test and challenge them to work through the issues before a real emergency takes place,” he notes. “As roles change and employees move positions it is critical to keep staff fresh and practiced in EOC operations.”



**FAIRFAX 2015  
WORLD  
POLICE & FIRE  
GAMES**

Many agencies – including Code Compliance, the County Attorney, Fire and Rescue, Family Services, Information Technology, Public Safety Communications, Public Works and Environmental Services, GIS, Health, Public Affairs, Police and Risk Management – sent multiple staff members to the EOC for the January exercise. Also on site were members from the county’s Senior Policy Group so they could simulate making critical decisions in a time of need.

The WPFG exercise was actually regional in nature, and more than 200 people from federal, state, local and non-governmental organizations participated in the event from across the National Capital Region. In addition to all of the county participants, staff from the American Red Cross, Department of Homeland Security, George Mason University, INOVA Fairfax, Virginia Department

of Emergency Management and others all took part from their respective emergency operations locations. Since most incidents require coordination from various jurisdictions throughout the region, it only makes sense for participants to make contacts and become familiar with each area’s capabilities in advance of any actual need. Exercises like this one make that sort of familiarity possible.

“The goal of this exercise was to provide an opportunity for Fairfax County and the National Capital Region, alongside the World Police and Fire Games, to practice communications, coordination and situational awareness during a simulated disaster scenario,” Guditus said.

“Participants walked away with a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of personnel assigned to the Games and enhanced their individual knowledge, skills and abilities within their assigned position in the EOC or field command.”

Exercises such as this one are not unique to the WPFG. OEM hosts an annual functional EOC exercise, among many other training events, as part of its multiagency training and exercise planning, and individual responder staff are encouraged to train individually within their respective agencies and work groups.

Guditus notes that the WPFG exercise is just a small piece of the overall training plan. “Great efforts have been made to provide variety and relevant training opportunities to meet these needs and this regional EOC activation exercise is the cornerstone in that mitigation and preparedness process,” he said.

Regional exercises are also familiar to county employees, as staff have taken part in emergency simulations of natural disasters and other crisis in the past. Guditus said that these sorts of exercises “proved themselves worthwhile” as they helped prepare staff for a seven-day EOC activation during a February 2010 blizzard and a second activation during the Derecho storm in June 2012.

He adds with pride, “events like Tropical Storm Ike and other incidents were all handled professionally because of the extended training and multi-day EOC exercises.”

*Reprinted from Fairfax County’s employee newsletter, “Team Fairfax Insider,” issue dated Feb. 6, 2015.*