

Emergency Preparedness

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July 2015

New OEM Logo



OEM

PREPAREDNESS
THROUGH
PARTNERSHIPS

The Office of Emergency Management has a new logo. The new logo is more modern than the previous one and highlights both the agency as well as the “preparedness through partnerships” tagline. What do you think? Email oem@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Fall OEM Internships

Studying emergency management? The Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management is now accepting applications for its fall internship program.

The office offers several internship positions and is seeking applicants with the following skills and interests:

- Emergency training and exercises.
- Writing.
- Marketing and communications.

More information and position descriptions can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/internship.

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This newsletter is published by the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management

Dwayne Johnson Joins Forces With FEMA to Encourage Drop, Cover and Hold On

In an effort to raise awareness of earthquake preparedness, the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Ad Council have partnered with Warner Bros. to launch a new series of public service advertisements (PSAs) featuring scenes from the action thriller "San Andreas," starring Dwayne Johnson.

"As a father, safety is always a top of mind issue for me," said Johnson. "That's why I am proud to be partnering with FEMA and the Ad Council, to make sure as many people as possible know what to do in the event of an earthquake. They can happen anywhere in the U.S. without warning, so if you ever find yourself in the middle of one, remember – drop, cover and hold on."



It is critically important to highlight the steps people can take to protect themselves from an earthquake.

According to joint research by the U.S. Geological Service (USGS) and FEMA, nearly half the U.S. population, 150 million Americans, are exposed to potentially damaging earthquake shaking.

"Earthquakes can occur anywhere in the U.S. without warning," said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. "The PSA provides earthquake safety tips that are vital to preparing yourself and your family to react quickly, which will save lives."



Click <http://prn.to/1QBYXD9> to view.

Watches vs. Warnings

Summer means warmer weather, fun in the sun and swimming in the pool. But the hot temperatures can also bring severe thunderstorms, lightning and flooding.

Be sure you know the difference between weather watches and warnings – and what action to take.

- A watch gives advance notice that conditions are favorable for dangerous weather. If a severe storm watch or other type of watch is issued for your area, be alert for changing weather conditions.
- A warning requires immediate action and is only used when severe weather is about to strike.

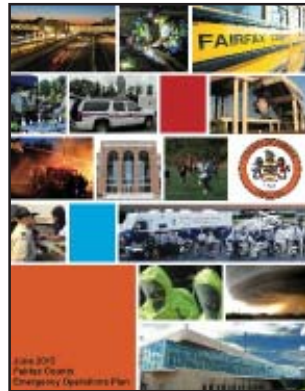
Learn more from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at <http://1.usa.gov/1J2pNLq>.



County Emergency Operations Plan

The 2015 Emergency Operations Plan was approved by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on June 23. The approval of this plan fulfills the commonwealth of Virginia's requirement to prepare and keep current an EOP to respond to disasters or large-scale emergencies.

The EOP is a result of the collective efforts of the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management, nearly 30 county departments and agencies with assigned emergency management roles and responsibilities and the towns of Clifton, Herndon and Vienna.



The final plan reflects many comments and suggestions received from a variety of stakeholders including participating county agencies, as well as other agencies and organizations that support the county during disasters.

The Fairfax County Emergency Operations Plan is a multi-discipline, all-hazards plan that establishes a single, comprehensive framework for the management of major emergencies and disasters within the county. The plan is implemented when it becomes necessary to mobilize the resources identified within it in order to save lives and protect property and infrastructure.

The EOP establishes the overall roles and responsibilities for emergency operations, as well as the concept of operations for the county. It is intended to be used in conjunction with established operational procedures, plans and protocols.

The hard work does not end with the approval of the plan. The successful implementation of the EOP is contingent upon a collaborative approach with a wide range of partner agencies and organizations that provide crucial support during emergency operations.

The EOP recognizes the significant role these partner agencies and organizations perform during emergencies

Outreach Events

- **July 9** – Emergency plan review with Mount Olive Baptist Church.
- **July 16** – Faith Communities in Action meeting.
- **July 20** – Childcare Preparedness Training.
- **July 20** – Rec-Pac campers event at Bush Hill Elementary School.
- **July 23** – Homeland Security Institute intern field trip.
- **July 23** – Fairfax County Citizen Corps meeting.
- **July 25** – Emergency bag packing.
- **July 27** – Boy Scout Emergency Operations Center presentation and tour.

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.



Plan ahead. During the fall, the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) tends to see a rise in invitations for events like festivals, neighborhood presentations and seminars. If you have an event planned, contact OEM to submit a request for a booth, presentation or festival by calling 571-530-1000 or email oem@fairfaxcounty.gov.



Fairfax County, Va., publication.

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

and disasters. Their specific roles and responsibilities are also included in the plan. The EOP is not intended as a stand-alone document but rather establishes the basis for more detailed planning by individual departments and agencies.

The EOP can be found online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/emergency-operations-plan.htm.

Grilling Safety

Summer is here and that means it's time for barbecues, picnics and summer grilling. While summer usually means vacations, there is no vacation from fire safety.

Each year, grill fires cause about \$37 million in property damage. Most of the fires happen between May and August.

Individuals can protect families and property by following a few grilling safety tips:

- Only use grills outdoors, away from siding and deck railings.
- Clean grills often and remove grease or fat buildup.
- Make sure the gas grill lid is open before lighting.
- Have a 3-foot safe-zone around grills and campfires. Keep kids and pets clear of the area.
- Dispose of coals after they have cooled in a metal can.
- Never leave grills, fire pits and patio torches unattended.



For more information on grilling and summer fire safety, visit the U.S. Fire Administration at www.usfa.fema.gov.

National Flood Insurance Program

If you have questions regarding your National Flood Insurance Program policy you can call 1-800-621-3362. Representatives are available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (CDT) to answer your questions. In addition to your name, they will want your telephone number, email address (if applicable), policy number and name of flood insurance carrier. More information is available at www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program.



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OSHA Heat App

More than 200,000 users have downloaded the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) Heat Safety Tool since its launch in 2011. This spring, OSHA released a new version of the app for Apple devices, with full-screen color alerts, improved navigation and accessibility options.

This improved version lets you know instantly if you are in a high-risk zone due to heat and humidity and precautions that need to be taken to prevent heat-related illness. The recently updated app gives users important safety information when and where they need it — right on their mobile phones.



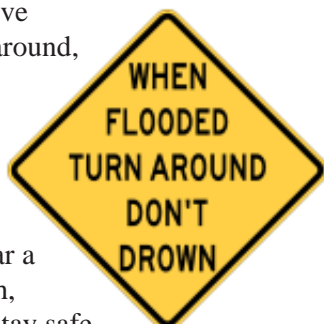
More information on preventing heat-related illness is available on OSHA's website, where you can find fact sheets, training manuals, community posters and more in both English and Spanish.
www.osha.gov/SLTC/heatillness/index.html.

Download the app at <http://1.usa.gov/lig612y>.

Turn Around Don't Drown

Thunderstorms can cause flooded roads and overflowing streams, creeks and rivers.

Please remember – do **not** drive through flooded roads. Turn around, don't drown. Also, **keep children away from creeks and streams** as the water may rise quickly.



If you are in a low area or near a small stream or drainage ditch, expect water to rise rapidly. Stay safe and head to higher ground if needed.

Learn more at www.nws.noaa.gov/os/water/tadd/.

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 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.

FEMA Launches Innovative National Volunteer Program

Last month, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) signed memoranda of understanding (MOU) with seven technology organizations to provide state, local, tribal and territorial governments with technology resources during a disaster to expedite response and recovery.

Cisco Systems, Google, Humanity Road, Information Technology Disaster Resource Center, Intel, Joint Communications Task Force and Microsoft have joined FEMA's new Tech Corps program – a nationwide network of skilled, trained technology volunteers who can address critical technology gaps during a disaster.

During major disasters or emergencies, trained technology volunteers can complement ongoing response and recovery efforts, including installing temporary networks; enabling Internet connectivity, and telephone and radio communications; and providing other support, such as geographic information system (GIS) capacity, coding and data analytics.

In 2002, Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) proposed a mechanism for leveraging private sector technology capabilities to innovate the way federal, state, local and tribal governments respond to disasters. Tech Corps is based on this model, which beginning in 2013, was developed to assemble the initial group of companies for the voluntary program.

Already, Tech Corps partners have been active on their own during national and global technology disaster response efforts, including providing support during Hurricane Sandy and the earthquakes in Nepal and Haiti. This initiative signifies a greater level of coordination between volunteers and the emergency management community through FEMA.

To learn more about Tech Corps, you can visit www.fema.gov/tech-corps.

Heat Illness Can Be Deadly

Heat illness can be deadly. Every year, thousands of workers become sick from exposure to heat, and some even die. Heat illnesses and deaths are preventable. Employers are responsible for providing workplaces that are safe from excessive heat.

What is heat illness?

The body normally cools itself by sweating. During hot weather, especially with high humidity, sweating isn't enough. Body temperature can rise to dangerous levels if precautions are not taken such as drinking water frequently and resting in the shade or air conditioning.

Heat illnesses range from heat rash and heat cramps to heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Heat stroke requires immediate medical attention and can result in death.

illnesses and their prevention; and monitoring workers for signs of illness. Workers new to the heat or those that have been away from work and are returning can be most vulnerable to heat stress and they must be acclimatized.

To prevent heat-related illness and fatalities:

- Drink water every 15 minutes, even if you are not thirsty.
- Rest in the shade to cool down.
- Wear a hat and light-colored clothing.
- Learn the signs of heat illness and what to do in an emergency.
- Keep an eye on fellow workers.
- “Easy does it” on your first days of work in the heat. You need to get used to it.



WATER. REST. SHADE.

The work can't get done without them.

How can heat illness be prevented?

Employers should establish a complete heat illness prevention program.

This includes providing workers with water, rest and shade; gradually increasing workloads and allowing more frequent breaks for new workers or workers who have been away for a week or more to build a tolerance for working in the heat (acclimatization); modifying work schedules as necessary; planning for emergencies and training workers about the symptoms of heat-related

If workers are new to working in the heat or returning from more than a week off, and for all workers on the first day of a sudden heat wave, implement a work schedule to allow them to get used to the heat gradually. Working in full sunlight can increase heat index values by 15 degrees Fahrenheit. Keep this in mind and plan additional precautions for working in these conditions.

Remember these three simple words: Water, rest, shade. Taking these precautions can mean the difference between life and death.

Emergency Management Volunteer Day

Join the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management on Saturday, July 25, to pack emergency information bags for September's National Preparedness Month. You'll also get a sneak peek at the county's Emergency Operations Center and learn about emergency preparedness. Light breakfast snacks will be served. Thirty volunteers are needed, so sign your group up today! More details and registration is online at <http://bit.ly/1TjfBp9>.

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News & Info - Around the Region

The Small Business Toolkit

Tools and Resources to Plan, Prepare, and Protect

www.fema.gov/small-business-tools-resources

Where to Store Your Disaster Supply Kit

You never know where you will be when an emergency occurs. That’s why it’s important to always be prepared! In addition to having a disaster supply kit at home, you should also store one at work and in your car. The contents of your kits should vary depending on the storage location.

The Ready campaign (www.Ready.gov) outlines what to pack in your disaster supply kit whether you’re at home or on the go.

- Your home kit should contain items like non-perishable food items and water to last for at least three days. Keep it in a designated area, so that everyone has access to it. You may want to consider having supplies for sheltering for up to two weeks.



- Your work kit should have enough food, water, and any necessary medications to last for at least 24 hours. You should also have comfortable shoes in case you have to walk a long distance in the event of an evacuation.

- Your car kit should include flashlights, jumper cables, a first-aid kit, water, a shovel and warm clothes.

Learn more at www.ready.gov/kit-storage-locations.

Reprinted from FEMA's “Individual and Community Preparedness e-Brief,” June 2 issue. Picture courtesy of Ready.gov.

ReadyNOVA.org
ReadyNOVA
Plan to Be Prepared

Use the family and business emergency planners at www.ReadyNOVA.org.

Plan to Be Prepared

Do you know how to respond if disaster strikes where you live or where you work? If your family is in different locations when the disaster strikes, do you have a plan that shows how you will contact each other and how you can reunite at a safe location?

If so, great. You’ve taken the first step in being prepared. If your answer is no, here is what you can do. ReadyNOVA.org is a website created by emergency management officials in Northern Virginia to help you become prepared for any emergency by creating a family emergency plan. The planner is an easy-to-use online tool to help you be ready for any hazard.

Just fill in the information and save the plan to your computer. No personal information will be saved on the ReadyNOVA website or in any database. The site is safe and secure and the plan is yours once completed. And if you ever need to update the plan, just download it from your computer, make the changes and save it.

Planning has never been so easy! So **plan now to be prepared**. Visit www.ReadyNOVA.org and complete your family preparedness plan.

And business owners ... ReadyNOVA.org also has a business preparedness planner so you can plan to stay in business during the next disaster.

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by email

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Preparedness Quiz

How well stocked is your emergency kit? Do you know what items to have on hand? Take the quiz and find out!

- How much food and water should you have in your emergency kit?
 - 48 hours.
 - 72 hours.
 - 36 hours.
 - 24 hours.
- What kind of food items should you *avoid* keeping in your kit?
 - Canned food items.
 - Non-perishable goods.
 - Fresh fruits and vegetables.
 - Nutrient-rich snacks.
- How much water should you store, per person, in your kit for at least three days?
 - .5 gallons per person, per day.
 - 1 gallons per person, per day.
 - 2 gallons per person, per day.
 - 3 gallons per person, per day.
- Which of the following does *not* belong in your emergency kit?
 - Flashlight and batteries.
 - Manual can opener.
 - Wrench or pliers.
 - Vintage Iron Maiden records.
- How often should you take inventory and refresh your kit?
 - Once every month.
 - Once every two weeks.
 - Once every six months.
 - Once every year.
- Which of the following is *not* necessary to complete when refreshing your kit?
 - Replace food and water items every six months.
 - Swap out extra clothing and bedding to ensure that your supplies are appropriate for the upcoming seasons.
 - Place your emergency kit in a hot, moist, and inaccessible area of the house.
 - Write the date that you store new water or food supplies on the container.

If a thunderstorm and/or lightning are occurring in your area, you should:

- Use your battery-operated NOAA Weather Radio for updates. Also, make sure you are signed up for weather alerts from Fairfax Alerts. Register for free online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts.
- Avoid contact with corded phones and devices including those plugged into electric for recharging. Cordless and wireless phones not connected to wall outlets are okay to use.
- Avoid contact with electrical equipment or cords. Unplug appliances and other electrical items such as computers and turn off air conditioners. Power surges from lightning can cause serious damage.
- Avoid contact with plumbing. Do not wash your hands, do not take a shower, do not wash dishes and do not do laundry. Plumbing and bathroom fixtures can conduct electricity.
- Stay away from windows and doors.
- Avoid natural lightning rods such as a tall, isolated tree in an open area.
- Avoid hilltops, open fields or a boat on the water.
- Take shelter in a sturdy building. Avoid isolated sheds or other small structures in open areas.
- Avoid contact with anything metal — motorcycles, golf carts, golf clubs and bicycles.
- If you are driving, try to safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in the vehicle and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. Avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity in and outside the vehicle.

Get more at www.ready.gov/thunderstorms-lightning.

- Assume that your current household is made up of a pet, two adults (one with a severe peanut allergy) and an infant. Which of the following should you *not* include in your kit?
 - Three-day supply of pet food.
 - Extra infant formula and diapers.
 - High protein peanut butter and whole wheat crackers.
 - Cleaning supplies and other sanitary items.
- Identify the *safe* source of water from the following:
 - Chlorinated pool water.
 - Water drained from a water bed.
 - Water from a flush tank.
 - Water drained from a water heater.

ANSWERS (found on www.Ready.gov)

1(B); 2(C); 3(B); 4(D); 5(C); 6(C); 7(C); 8(D)