

# Emergency Preparedness

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November 2015

## Emergency Management Interns

By Paul Lupe

The Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is fortunate this fall to have had a number of excellent candidates for the internship program. The highly competitive process included an application, written essay and personal interview. Out of a number of applicants, three exceptional interns were selected to work in OEM.

Brandon Johnson-Balthrop lives in Washington, D.C., and recently graduated from Pennsylvania State University. Currently a licensed realtor, he comes to our office with a master's in homeland security and defense. During his time here he has helped with many projects, including updating the strategic plan for OEM.

many projects related to preparedness and outreach.

Within their first month interning with OEM, a gas leak occurred on the Colonial Pipeline in Centreville and they all had opportunities to visit the Incident Command

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Akins Adetula lives in Bladensburg, Md., and is a graduate student in homeland security management at the University of Maryland University College. Adetula also has an MBA and a B.S. in economics and comes to us with a wealth of experience and knowledge already.

He is currently a member of the Prince George's County CERT and has many FEMA IS and ICS courses under his belt. He has helped facilitate the development of exercises for the earthquake drill and is working closely with the training and exercise team on many ongoing projects.

Erika Ritzmann currently lives in Washington, D.C., and is a graduate student in the Public Policy program at George Mason University. Originally from Florida, she has seen many hurricanes impact her life and this has inspired her to pursue a career in emergency management. Ritzmann has worked on researching lessons learned from previous incidents and assisted on

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## Volunteers Needed for Emergency Exercise

Washington, D.C., will host the District of Columbia 2015 Full Scale Exercise on Thursday, Dec. 10. Several D.C. agencies will participate in the exercise, which will simulate a hazardous materials event to assess the District's emergency response capabilities. The exercise will be conducted at multiple locations throughout the city and will focus on first responder, emergency operations center and shelter operations.

A key to making this exercise a success is the availability of individuals willing to act as volunteer role players and victims. Actors will portray individuals impacted by a simulated incident, such as a hazardous material spill, and will be placed into one of three categories.

- Actors portraying injured individuals that need lifesaving treatment from first responders.
- Actors portraying individuals contaminated by a simulated chemical spill and need to be decontaminated by first responders (dry decontamination, no water will be used).
- Actors portraying displaced personnel who need to seek refuge at a shelter.

No experience required. All volunteer role players must be 18 years or older.

For more information regarding the exercise and to register as a volunteer role player for the event, visit <https://dcfsevolunteeregistration.eventbrite.com>. For reasonable accommodations in support of registration, call Kasey Parr at 703-518-9982 or email him at [kparr@olsongroupltd.com](mailto:kparr@olsongroupltd.com).

Registering does not guarantee selection for participation; all participants must successfully pass a background check and complete a D.C. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA) participant waiver form. Providing your date of birth is a requirement for the background check.

## It's Still Hurricane Season

In the wake of recent severe weather events like Hurricane Joaquin, now is a good time to review hurricane safety information with your family and get prepared.

Before a hurricane hits your area there are things you should do to prepare:

- Assemble your disaster supply kit and gather critical documents in the event that local authorities issue an evacuation order.
- Monitor weather reports provided by local media.
- Sign up to receive text or email emergency alerts from Fairfax Alerts ([www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts)).
- Consider buying a NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) All Hazards receiver, which receives broadcast alerts from the National Weather Service.
- Have extra batteries for a battery-operated radio and your cellphone in case of a power outage.



For more ways to stay safe before, during and after a hurricane, check out the "How to Prepare for a Hurricane" guide from America's PrepareAthon! online at <http://1.usa.gov/1Pvh9Zi>.

Article and picture reprinted from FEMA's "Individual and Community Preparedness e-Brief," Oct. 22 edition.





**If we can't reach you,  
we can't alert you!**



**Fairfax County's FREE alert system sends you important information during an emergency**

**In the know,  
on the go.**

[fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts)

## Smoke Alarms Save Lives

Does your smoke alarm work? Smoke alarms are important tools for your home. They provide an early warning of smoke, giving you extra time to escape.

**Smoke alarms are one of the best safety devices** you can buy and install to protect yourself, your family and your home.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, **working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a home fire by half.**

Cooking is the leading cause of home fire injuries. Most cooking fires can be prevented. Here are a few tips to help keep you safe in the kitchen:

- Keep an eye on what you fry; stay in the kitchen when you are cooking at high temperatures like frying and broiling.
- Be alert when cooking. Never cook if you are tired or on medication that makes you sleep.
- Keep items (such as kitchen towels) that can catch fire away from cooking areas.

Learn more from the fire administration website at [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov) as well as on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/usfire](http://www.facebook.com/usfire).

Winter will soon be here and that means cold temperatures and the chance of snow and ice.

When inclement weather strikes our area, be sure to remember to "*Get Where You Need to Be Before the Weather Gets Bad.*"

By staying off the roads, not out in the weather (SNOW) – you will help road crews have a clear path to clean the streets and allow public safety responders the ability to more easily navigate treacherous roads.



## Outreach Events November/December

- Nov. 2 – Groveton Civic Association, Alexandria
- Nov. 9 – Tall Oaks Assisted Living, Reston
- Nov. 9 – Disability Services Board Meeting, Government Center, Fairfax
- Nov. 10 – Brookland-Bush Hill Civic Association meeting, Alexandria
- Nov. 10 – Pimmit Hills Civic Association meeting, Falls Church
- Nov. 12 – Coppermine Place Senior Center, Herndon
- Nov. 14 – Jack & Jill of America OEM Tour, MPSTOC
- Nov. 16 – John Marshall Library, Alexandria
- Nov. 17 – Greenspring Retirement Village, Springfield
- Nov. 17 – Greater Wilton Woods Citizens Association meeting, Alexandria
- Nov. 18 – Community Resiliency Group Exercise, Lee District
- Nov. 19 – FCIA Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting, MPSTOC
- Nov. 19 – Fairfax County Citizen Corps Council meeting, Government Center
- Dec. 3 – Northern Virginia Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters meeting, Fairfax
- Dec. 8 – Childcare Provider Training, Pennino Building
- Dec. 14 – Disability Services Board meeting, Government Center
- Dec. 17 – FCIA Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting, MPSTOC

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).



**OEM**  
PREPAREDNESS  
THROUGH  
PARTNERSHIPS





Get the alerts you want — at the times you want to get them — directly from your local public safety and emergency managers.

**Serving:**  
 Alexandria • Arlington County • Bowie • College Park  
 City of Fairfax • District of Columbia • Fairfax County  
 Falls Church • Gaithersburg • Greenbelt • Loudoun County  
 Manassas • Manassas Park • Montgomery County  
 Prince George's County • Prince William County  
 Rockville • Takoma Park



# Sesame Street Fire Program

Are you an educator, parent or caregiver of a preschooler? The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and its friends at Sesame Street have new fire safety information you can share with children.

The updated Sesame Street Fire Safety Program shows you how to teach kids ages 3-5 about essential fire safety information and skills that can be useful during an emergency.

The program includes easy-to-use lessons and activities featuring familiar Sesame Street characters to help reinforce important fire safety and prevention messages.

The curriculum includes an educator's guide for teachers, a CD of songs and stories, a family guide, a coloring and activity booklet and a poster.

To learn more about the Sesame Street Fire Safety Program and access program materials, visit the USFA Web page <http://1.usa.gov/1FRLPW0>.

Materials are available in English and Spanish.



Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management  
 4890 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030  
 571-350-1000, TTY 711  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem)  
[oem@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:oem@fairfaxcounty.gov)

# OEM Interns

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Post and the Unified Command Post, as well as assist OEM with preparing for the recovery phase of this incident.

They also got to participate in many planning meetings and conference calls leading up to the potential Hurricane Joaquin impact. They spent time in the Emergency Operations Center during the heavy rain before that event, which eventually moved out to sea without impact on Fairfax County.

Fairfax County OEM facilitates internship opportunities each semester (fall, spring and summer) to encourage students or individuals interested in obtaining a career in emergency management some real-world experience.

OEM staff enjoy working on projects with so many great people who are just getting their feet wet in the field – and we all benefit from their involvement with the Office of Emergency Management.

More information about our internship program can be found at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/internship](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/internship).

*Paul Lupe is the NCR WebEOC administrator and holds a Bachelor of Science in information technology from George Mason University.*

## Home Fires

Each year more than 2,500 people die and 12,600 are injured in home fires in the United States, with direct property loss due to home fires estimated at \$7.3 billion annually. Home fires can be prevented!

To protect yourself, it is important to understand the basic characteristics of fire. Fire spreads quickly; there is no time to gather valuables or make a phone call. In just two minutes, a fire can become life-threatening. In five minutes, a residence can be engulfed in flames.

Heat and smoke from fire can be more dangerous than the flames. Inhaling the super-hot air can sear your lungs. Fire produces poisonous gases that make you disoriented and drowsy. Instead of being awakened by a fire, you may fall into a deeper sleep. Asphyxiation is the leading cause of fire deaths, exceeding burns by a three-to-one ratio.

<http://beta.ready.gov/home-fires>

### 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)



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[www.youtube.com/fairfaxcountygov](http://www.youtube.com/fairfaxcountygov)



**If we can't reach you,  
we can't alert you.**

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts)

## 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)



# Things You Probably Didn't Know About Hurricane Names

**E**rica, Rita, Tina and Sandra aren't just four of the names in "Mambo No. 5." In fact, they're also four female names that either have been or will be used to name hurricanes or tropical cyclones.

Here are six interesting tidbits about hurricane names:

- Hurricanes used to be named based on their latitude and longitude. The process switched over to using names in order to make the process easier and more accurate.

- After much debate and some trial and error, the United States started using female names for storms in 1953.

- As time went on and American culture changed, there was a call to add male names to the list. This finally happened in 1978 for the Eastern North Pacific and in 1979 for the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.

- Currently, there's a six-year cycle of hurricane names. The lists are only edited if a storm is significant enough in terms of damage and cost that reusing the name could cause sensitivities. The World Meteorological

- Organization is in charge of retiring the name. Since 1954, they have retired 78.

- There are 21 names in each of the yearly lists. If all of the names are used, other storms after use letters of the Greek alphabet, beginning with Alpha. This has only happened once since this process started, during the 2005 hurricane season. (That year, there were 28 named storms which extended all the way to Eta.)

- The name that has been given to the most storms since 1954 is the name Arlene. That name has been used for 10 different storms over the years and continues to be part of the list, as it has yet to be retired.

While some people may be able to find their name (or a

- variation of it) among the past and future storms, the World Meteorological Organization is the keeper of the list of active names — as well as many other interesting facts about hurricane names and their history.

Reprinted from FEMA's website <http://1.usa.gov/ILYGeKD>

Atlantic Names						
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Ana	Alex	Arlene	Alberto	Andrea	Arthur	
Bill	Bonnie	Bret	Beryl	Barry	Bertha	
Claudette	Colin	Cindy	Chris	Chantal	Cristobal	
Danny	Danielle	Don	Debby	Dorian	Dolly	
Erika	Earl	Emily	Ernesto	Erin	Edouard	
Fred	Fiona	Franklin	Florence	Fernand	Fay	
Grace	Gaston	Gert	Gordon	Gabrielle	Gonzalo	
Henri	Hermine	Harvey	Helene	Humberto	Hanna	
Ida	Ian	Irma	Isaac	Imelda	Isaias	
Joaquin	Julia	Jose	Joyce	Jerry	Josephine	
Kate	Karl	Katia	Kirk	Karen	Kyle	
Larry	Lisa	Lee	Leslie	Lorenzo	Laura	
Mindy	Matthew	Maria	Michael	Melissa	Marco	
Nicholas	Nicole	Nate	Nadine	Nestor	Nana	
Odette	Otto	Ophelia	Oscar	Olga	Omar	
Peter	Paula	Philippe	Patty	Pablo	Paulette	
Rose	Richard	Rina	Rafael	Rebekah	Rene	
Sam	Shary	Sean	Sara	Sebastien	Sally	
Teresa	Tobias	Tammy	Tony	Tanya	Teddy	
Victor	Virginie	Vince	Valerie	Van	Vicky	
Wanda	Walter	Whitney	William	Wendy	Wilfred	

The 2015-2020 list of hurricane names







Adam Kelly and Dean Sherick from the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management staffed an informational booth at a benefits and preparedness fair at Reston Hospital Center last month. If your business or organization would like to have OEM attend your event, provide an information booth or give a presentation, just give us a call at 571-350-1000, TTY 711. Photo submitted by Keith Morrison, emergency preparedness coordinator with Reston Hospital Center.

**FAIRFAX COUNTY**  
**9-1-1** **CALL IF YOU CAN**  
**TEXT IF YOU CAN'T**

The Small Business Toolkit  
Tools and Resources to Plan, Prepare, and Protect

[www.fema.gov/small-business-tools-resources](http://www.fema.gov/small-business-tools-resources)

**CAPITALERT**.gov  
Emergency Warnings: When and Where You Need Them

[www.capitalert.gov](http://www.capitalert.gov)

# National Preparedness Goal

In early October, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and its partners released the second edition of the National Preparedness Goal.

- five mission areas: Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response and Recovery. The goal itself is succinct and remains unchanged.
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***“A secure and resilient nation with the capabilities required across the whole community to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk.”***


The National Preparedness Goal describes a vision for preparedness nationwide and identifies the core capabilities necessary to achieve that vision across the

The second edition represents a refresh from the 2011 version and incorporates critical edits identified through real-world events, lessons learned and continuing implementation of the National Preparedness System.

In refreshing the goal, FEMA and its whole community partners, including individuals, communities, the private and nonprofit sectors, faith-based organizations and all levels of government, focused on assessing the existing core capabilities. Resulting updates to the core capabilities include changes to select titles and definitions and the addition of one new core capability – Fire Management and Suppression.

Changes made to the core capabilities will be reflected in the ongoing refresh efforts of the National Planning Frameworks and Federal Interagency Operational Plans for each of the mission areas.

For a copy of the document and related resources, go to [www.fema.gov/national-preparedness-goal](http://www.fema.gov/national-preparedness-goal).



The *ReadyNOVA.org* website is a great tool for making an emergency plan for your family or business – and soon a planner will be added for houses of worship. In addition, the site is getting a makeover to a fresh new look.

This easy-to-use guide is the first step toward preparing your family for any disaster.

Your privacy is also important. That's why any data entered during your online session is not saved on any server or database. You will need to save and download your plan to your computer.

Be sure to visit [www.ReadyNOVA.org](http://www.ReadyNOVA.org) to complete and download your emergency plan today!



Fairfax County, Va., publication.

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

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