

Emergency Preparedness

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The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors welcomed 9-1-1 Center staff to the Sept. 22 meeting. Director Steve Souder (middle, white shirt – next to Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova) gave a presentation about text to 9-1-1. After the presentation, Bulova sent the inaugural text to 9-1-1 officially launching the service in Fairfax County. Read more on Page 7.

Southeast ShakeOut

The Great Southeast ShakeOut is an annual earthquake drill, that will be held this year at 10:15 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 15.

The drill is a chance for you and your family – as well as businesses, schools and other organizations – to practice “Drop. Cover. Hold On,” the suggested response to an earthquake.

Learn more about the drill and register to participate online at <http://shakeout.org/southeast>.



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National Preparedness Goal – Second Edition

Early this month, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and its partners released the second edition of the National Preparedness Goal.

The National Preparedness Goal describes a vision for preparedness nationwide and identifies the core capabilities necessary to achieve that vision across the five mission areas: Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response and Recovery. The goal itself is succinct and remains unchanged.

“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 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.

\$14 Million for Cybersecurity Research

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) today announced the award of eight contracts totaling \$14 million for research on technologies to defend against Distributed Denial of Service Defenses (DDoS) attacks.

Awarded through Broad Agency Announcement HSHQDC-14-R- B00017, these projects will become part of the DHS S&T Cyber Security Division’s larger Distributed Denial of Service Defenses (DDoSD) program.

“Cybersecurity is a critical technology area that is continuously changing,” said DHS Under Secretary for Science and Technology Dr. Reginald Brothers.

“We need to be able to quickly adapt to challenges like DDoS attacks and work with our partners so that solutions can be rapidly developed to ensure the security of our Nation’s networks and resources.”

Learn more at <http://1.usa.gov/1FA8Rkh>.



OEM
PREPAREDNESS
THROUGH
PARTNERSHIPS

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

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

FAIRFAX ALERTS

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

In the know, on the go.

fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts

Get Petpared Calendar



There's snow reason to be unprepared this winter.

If you have to go outside during a winter storm, bundle up. Wear mittens and a hat to stay warm. Limit your time outdoors. <http://goo.gl/3c8mH>

January 2016

Take the dog, photo submitted by Charles Noines

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Year's Day	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Launched in 2006, the American Public Health Association's Get Ready campaign helps Americans prepare themselves, their families and their communities for all disasters and hazards, including pandemic flu, infectious disease, natural disasters and other emergencies.

Beginning in 2012, the campaign has held successful cat, dog and baby photo contests in conjunction with National Preparedness Month. This year's contest used images of all animals in a fun way to promote emergency preparedness.

Grab a copy of the 2016 Get Ready calendar online at <http://bit.ly/1gRqjo8>.



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

Outreach Events

- **Oct. 7** - Springfield Chamber of Commerce, Springfield
- **Oct. 8** - Fairfax County Vendor Fair, Government Center
- **Oct. 8** - CERT Tour of OEM, MPSTOC
- **Oct. 13** - MOM's Club International, Franconia
- **Oct. 14** - Lee District Community Resiliency Group Seminar, Franconia
- **Oct. 15** - Faith Communities In Action Emergency Planning Committee
- **Oct. 15** - AFGE Local 3615 Health Fair, Falls Church
- **Oct. 15** - The Great Southeast ShakeOut (10:15 a.m.)
- **Oct. 15** - Childcare Provider Emergency Preparedness Class, Burke
- **Oct. 19** - Mason District Senior Safety Seminar, Mason Governmental Center
- **Oct. 22** - Disability Mentoring Day, MPSTOC
- **Oct. 22** - George Mason Life Safety Fair, GMU Fairfax
- **Oct. 24** - Community of Trust, TBD
- **Oct. 27** - Green Spring Retirement Community (Pending)

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.



Fairfax County, Va., publication.

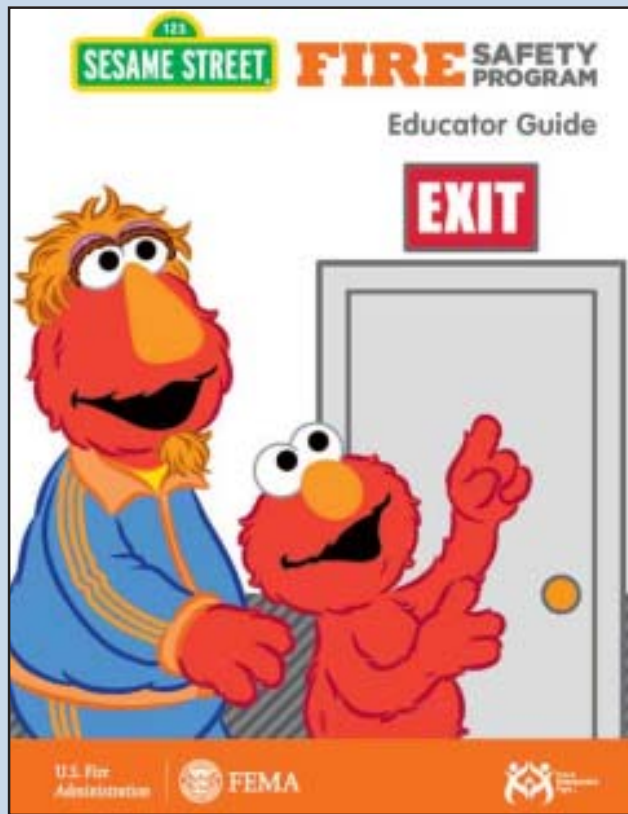
To request this information in an alternate format, call 571-350-1000, TTY 711.



New Sesame Street Fire Safety Program for Preschool Children

The U.S. Fire Administration and Sesame Workshop have released a new version of the Sesame Street Fire Safety Program for children ages 3-5. 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.

Download or preorder your free copy at <http://1.usa.gov/1FRLPW0>.



Hurricane Season

A hurricane is a severe tropical storm that can cause catastrophic damage to coastlines and several hundred miles inland. A hurricane can trigger landslides or mudslides and produce winds exceeding 155 miles per hour as well as tornadoes and microbursts. Flash flooding and coastal storm surges can occur due to intense rainfall.

A typical cyclone is accompanied by thunderstorms and in the Northern Hemisphere a counterclockwise circulation of winds near the earth's surface. The Atlantic hurricane season lasts from June to November, with the peak season from mid-August to late October.

The Atlantic hurricane season ends Nov. 30. Be sure you know the difference between a hurricane watch and a hurricane warning.

www.ready.gov/hurricanes

HURRICANE WATCH


➤ Conditions are possible in your area within 48 hours. Know your evacuation route & listen to local officials.

#HurricanePrep   Ready 

www.ready.gov/hurricanes

HURRICANE WARNING

➤ Conditions are expected in your area within 36 hours. Follow evacuation orders from local officials if given.

#HurricanePrep   Ready 

Learn more about hurricanes and hurricane safety at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/hazards/hurricane.htm.

And to receive timely severe weather alerts by email and text on your smartphone, be sure to sign up for Fairfax Alerts. You can easily do so online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts.



Emergency Warnings: When and Where You Need Them

www.capitalert.gov



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4890 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030
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DISASTERS AND FINANCIAL PLANNING

A GUIDE FOR PREPAREDNESS AND RECOVERY



New American Red Cross Financial Planning Guide

Safeguarding one's finances in case of a catastrophic event is an often overlooked aspect of disaster preparedness. In response, the American Red Cross and the American Institute of CPA's (AICPA) developed "Disasters and Financial Planning" (<http://rdcrss.org/1SxM3lj>) a comprehensive guide aimed at helping people be more proactive with their financial preparedness in advance of disasters.

This guide highlights the importance of:

- Setting aside a three-day supply of cash to cover expenses one might encounter during a disaster or emergency.
- Planning ahead by obtaining the proper insurance coverage so that disaster recovery doesn't have to come out of pocket.
- Having a solid financial plan to avoid living paycheck to paycheck.
- Having money set aside to address immediate disaster-related needs.

You can also complete the Emergency Financial First Aid Kit (EFFAK) from FEMA and Operation HOPE. Use the EFFAK to identify your important documents, medical records and household contacts.
www.ready.gov/financial-preparedness

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



What Are Your Two Ways Out?

If a fire occurs in your home, you don't want to be left without a plan of escape. According to the United States Fire Administration, fire can spread rapidly through your home, leaving you with as little as two minutes to escape safely once the alarm sounds. Creating a family escape plan is easy!

A great way to start is by following these steps:

- Walk through your home with your family and identify all possible exits and escape routes.
- Draw a floor plan of your home and mark two escape

- routes from each room using an escape planning grid.
- Get children involved in escape planning.
- Have a meeting place outside of the home.
- Practice your plan at least two times a year.

More tips can be found at <http://bit.ly/1hYo4hF>.

Your first priority in any emergency is keeping yourself and your family safe. You can find more information about escape planning and fire safety by visiting the U.S. Fire Administration at www.usfa.fema.gov/.

Campus Fire Safety Tips

Each year, on- and off-campus college and university students have hundreds of fire emergencies. Most of these fires are caused by smoking materials and cooking. The United States Fire Administration (USFA) suggests the following campus fire safety tips:

When cooking:

- Cook only where it is permitted.
- Keep cooking area clean and uncluttered.
- Keep an eye on what's being cooked, especially if cooking at high temperatures.
- If a fire starts in a microwave, keep the door closed and unplug the unit.

If smoking:

- Make sure cigarettes and ashes are out. Never toss hot cigarette butts or ashes in the trash can.
- After a party, check for cigarette butts, especially under cushions because chairs and sofas catch on fire fast and burn fast.
- Be aware of how risky it is to smoke when drinking or drowsy.

Never disable or remove batteries from smoke alarms. Smoke alarms can provide the crucial extra minutes necessary to escape from the fire. Have a plan that includes multiple escape routes for the same location.

Visit the USFA website for more information on fire safe college housing.

www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/college.html

ReadyNOVA.org

ReadyNOVA

Plan to Be Prepared

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

CapitalRegionUpdates.Gov



News & Info - Around the Region

Text to 9-1-1 Is Here

Text to 9-1-1 is the first step toward ‘Next Generation 9-1-1,’” said Steve Souder, director, Department of Public Safety Communications (DPSC), as he announced the Fairfax County launch of the system at the Sept. 22 Board of Supervisors’ meeting. Fairfax County is the first jurisdiction in Northern Virginia – and one of the largest 9-1-1 centers in the country – to implement this service.

Texting, increasingly popular as a fast, easy and efficient way to communicate with friends and family, can make a critical difference in an emergency.

“The county’s text to 9-1-1 will enhance the lives of our residents who need 9-1-1 on what is literally the worst day of their life,” Souder emphasized.

The new system is not meant to replace calling 9-1-1, but rather to offer another avenue to reach a 9-1-1 call-taker when you need help in a critical situation. Text to 9-1-1 is intended primarily for use in several scenarios:

- For an individual who is deaf, hearing impaired or has a speech disability.
- For someone who is in a situation where it is not safe to place a voice call to 9-1-1.
- For a medical emergency that renders a person incapable of speech.
- If you are unable to call 9-1-1 due to being in a remote location with limited voice network availability.

There are a couple of points to keep in mind to utilize this text service. You must be subscribed to your wireless carrier’s text or data plan in order to make or receive text messages. Also, the service is not always available when roaming.

Many months of staff time and planning went into the launch, beginning in spring 2013. Fairfax County spearheaded the discussions with the region about incorporating a text to 9-1-1 service. Not all area jurisdictions have launched text to 9-1-1 at this time. If text to 9-1-1 is not available in your area, or is temporarily unavailable, you should receive a message indicating that text to 9-1-1 is not available and to contact 9-1-1 by phone.

For more information on text to 9-1-1, go online to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/911/text-to-911.

Get Ready to Shake Out.

DROP! COVER! HOLD ON!

October 15, 10:15 a.m.

Shake Out

Register at www.ShakeOut.org

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

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

Pet Preparedness

A significant number of families have pets and they're part of the family. They need to be ready for a disaster too; take simple steps now so they're prepared.

How to Prepare Before a Disaster



Not all shelters will accept pets, plan in advance for shelter options that will work for both you and your pets.



Develop a buddy system with neighbors or friends to make sure that someone is available to care for your pets if you are unable to do so.



Assemble an emergency kit for your pet.



What Goes in Your Pet Emergency Kit:



Food and water (3 days) bowls, manual can opener



Medicines, medical records, and first aid kit



Collar with ID tag, harness, or leash (include backups)



Crate or pet carrier



A picture of you and your pet together



Important documents: registration & vaccination



Familiar items: favorite toys, treats, and bedding



Plastic bags/litter for cleaning up after your pet

What to Do During a Disaster



Bring your pet inside immediately.



Separate dogs and cats. Anxiety may affect their behavior.



Feed them moist or canned food so they will need less water to drink.



Have extra newspapers, for sanitary reasons.



This information is only a portion of what you need to be prepared; for more information and resources, visit Ready.gov and FEMA.gov.

