

Emergency Preparedness

Published by the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management
September 2015

National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month. This year's theme is "Don't Wait. Communicate. Make Your Emergency Plan Today." During National Preparedness Month, we are encouraging everyone to take part, make a plan and know what to do during an emergency. This means having an up-to-date contact list for those you may need to reach during a disaster and establishing alternate methods of communication in case traditional means are not available.



For more information on how to make an emergency plan, visit www.ready.gov/make-a-plan. To make a plan for your family, visit www.ReadyNova.org.

Also mark your calendars and plan to participate in National PrepareAthon! Day on Sept. 30. This national day of action will culminate National Preparedness Month.

Show people how you are taking action to prepare for hazard in your area by using #PrepareAthon. Share with others what you are doing to practice emergency preparedness.

Visit www.ready.gov/prepare to add your activity or event.

In This Issue

National Preparedness Month
Page 1

Shelter Training | Southeast ShakeOut
Page 2

Grilling Safety Tips
Page 3

Red Cross Emergency App
Page 4

Beat the Heat | Stay Connected
Page 5

Call Before You Dig
Page 6

Proposed Rule Making for Faith-Based Organizations
Page 7

Preparedness Quiz
Page 8



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FAIRFAX COUNTY

PrepareAthon!™

BE SMART. TAKE PART. PREPARE.

Shelter Training

By Dean Sherick

On a beautiful summer Saturday afternoon, Aug. 8, 26 volunteers were sitting inside the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Training Center learning how to assist their community during the next disaster by attending an American Red Cross class on shelters. Many of these volunteers had already completed the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training and were expanding their volunteer capabilities.

The class began with a brief presentation from a representative of the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management who provided the background of when and why shelters would be opened, the various types of shelters, who has the authority and responsibility to make the decision to open shelters and the Fairfax County Government agencies that will be engaged to assist. Don White, a local safety and security director and ARC volunteer instructor, provided the attendees with an overview of how the American Red Cross operates a disaster shelter.

The American Red Cross shelter fundamentals course addressed topics such as:

- The 3 “R”s of Sheltering: Respect – Rules – Routine.
- The type of facilities that can be used for sheltering.
- Setting up the shelter space to accommodate the needs of all who have come for assistance.
- Supplies and equipment needed to provide food, a place to sleep, personal sanitation and recreation.
- Reporting, record keeping and communications.
- Managing shelter staff and residents.

The class is the basis for volunteers to qualify to assist as shelter staff and a prerequisite for more advanced shelter training. If you are interested in learning more about how you can assist during disasters, visit:

- American Red Cross: www.redcross.org
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Council: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/



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American Red Cross Shelter Fundamentals class - Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Team
Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department Academy - Saturday, August 8, 2015



Should a disaster require evacuating an area, the Fairfax County Department of Family Services (DFS) is the coordinating agency to provide housing for displaced residents. If the need arises to open a shelter, DFS has an agreement with the American Red Cross of the National Capital Region to operate shelters. Red Cross calls on trained volunteers to help the program operate smoothly.

Dean Sherick is community liaison assistant with OEM and has nearly 40 years of public safety experience.

Great Southeast ShakeOut

The Great Southeast ShakeOut is a day of special events featuring the largest earthquake drill ever. It is organized to inspire southerners to get ready for earthquakes and to prevent disasters from becoming catastrophes.

How you prepare before an earthquake determines how you will recover. ShakeOut drill participants will take cover in homes, businesses and public spaces throughout the southeast at 10:15 a.m. on Oct. 15.



In 2014, more than 1.2 million Virginians registered their participation in the ShakeOut. You can help increase those numbers by registering to participate at www.shakeout.org/southeast/register. You can pledge your participation or a group's participation.



- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills must only be used outdoors. If used indoors, or in any enclosed spaces such as tents, they pose a fire hazard and a risk of exposing occupants to deadly carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Place the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas and foot traffic. Grills should be positioned at least 10 feet away from siding, deck railing and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep matches, lighters and starter fluid in a locked drawer or cabinet out of the reach of children.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area. Declare a 3-foot "kid-free zone" around the grill.
- Use long barbeque mitts and long-handled grilling tools to protect the chef from heat and flames when cooking.
- Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in trays below the grill so it cannot be ignited by a hot grill.



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.

Outreach Events

- **Sept. 3** – Northern Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters meeting
- **Sept. 8** – National Association of Retired Federal Employees Emergency Preparedness Presentation, Vienna Community Center, 1:30 p.m.
- **Sept. 8** – Fairfax County Active Shooter Employee Program, Fairfax County Government Center
- **Sept. 12-13** – Fairfax County Citizen Corps' Ready-Set-Know Festival, Burke Centre
- **Sept. 12** – Lee District Resources Fair Emergency Preparedness Booth, Franconia Government Center, 9 a.m. - noon
- **Sept. 14** – Disability Services Board Meeting, Fairfax County Government Center, 7:30 p.m.
- **Sept. 15** – Fairfax County Employee National Preparedness Month Program, South County Government Center
- **Sept. 16** – Defense Logistics Agency National Preparedness Month event
- **Sept. 16** – Pentagon National Preparedness Month event
- **Sept. 17** – Faith Communities in Action meeting
- **Sept. 18** – Senate National Preparedness Month event
- **Sept. 21** – Fairfax County Employee National Preparedness Month Program, Fairfax County Government Center
- **Sept. 21** – U.S. Geological Survey and Department of Interior National Preparedness Month Lunch and Learn
- **Sept. 23** – McLean Citizens Association/Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce National Preparedness Month program, McLean Community Center, 7-9 p.m.
- **Sept. 24** – Fairfax County Citizen Corps Council, Fairfax County Government Center, 6:45 p.m.
- **Sept. 26** – Day to Serve Emergency Preparedness Service Project
- **Sept. 29** – Skyline Plaza Emergency Preparedness presentation
- **Sept. 30** – Fairfax County Employee WorkSafe QuickTakes Lunch & Learn, Fairfax County Government Center

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.

Red Cross Emergency App Can Help During Weather Emergencies

Mother Nature is causing all kinds of trouble across the country with extreme heat, flash flooding and wildfires affecting millions of people. The American Red Cross urges people to download the Red Cross emergency app to help them stay safe and connected during severe weather and other threats.

The all-inclusive emergency app combines more than 35 emergency alerts to help keep the user safe. This latest app from the Red Cross provides information about what to do in case of floods, thunderstorms, hot weather, tornadoes, wildfires and more. Users can find it in smartphone app stores by searching for the American Red Cross or going to www.redcross.org/apps.



Some of the many features of the app include:

- The emergency alerts are available for the user's location and to monitor where friends and family live.
- Users can turn alerts on and off to fit their situation.
- A single map provides shelter locations and weather information.
- Users can easily toggle between English and Spanish.
- Information is included on emergency first aid for situations such as heat-related emergencies and water safety for lakes and beaches.
- The app covers what to do in emergencies that affect a

large area, such as mudslides and snowstorms.

- Pre-loaded content ensures guidance from Red Cross experts is available even without mobile connectivity.
- The home fires section provides information on how to prevent fires, protect loved ones and what to do after a fire occurs.
- The make-a-plan feature helps households draw up their individual disaster plans.

"Family Safe" is another unique feature that allows people to instantly see if loved ones are okay, even if that person hasn't downloaded the emergency app. Using "Family Safe," the user can send someone a message and their response of either "I'm safe" or "I'm not safe" will come to the user. If they are not safe, the user can call them or see their location on a map. The app also has an "I'm Safe" button that allows users to let loved ones know they are out of harm's way.

Users who have downloaded other Red Cross apps will still be able to use those individual versions if they prefer.

The American Red Cross shelters, a not-for-profit organization, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families.

Reprinted from the American Red Cross website <http://rdcrss.org/1InSEsZ>

The Red Cross Emergency App

Real-time severe weather alerts and safety information, all in one app.

AVAILABLE RIGHT NOW ON

Download on the App Store GET IT ON Google play



Extreme heat events are one of the leading causes of weather-related deaths in the United States. According to statistics from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), between 1999 and 2010 heat killed 7,415 individuals in the United States. By taking care of ourselves and each other, we can prevent heat-related illness and death. Learn more from U.S. Health and Human Services at <http://1.usa.gov/1TBhwnj>.



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



Call Before You Dig

Do you really know where the underground utility lines on your property are buried? Would you bet your life on it — and the lives of your neighbors?

According to the Common Ground Alliance, an organization dedicated to protecting underground lines and those who dig nearby, an underground line is struck and damaged every six minutes in the United States.

It's likely that underground utilities are present on your property and that having them properly marked before installing a mailbox, planting shrubs, installing a fence or digging a patio is critical.

A call to 811 connects contractors and homeowners to a local one-call center that notifies the appropriate utility companies of their intent to dig. This service is free. Professional locators then are sent to the requested digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags, spray paint or both. VA811 recommends the following for homeowners and contractors:



- Plan ahead. Always call 811 at least three business days before digging and allow time for marking, regardless of the depth of the dig or familiarity with the property.
- If a contractor has been hired, confirm that a call to 811 has been made.
- After you see paint markings or flags, but before you start to dig, confirm with the call center that all utilities have responded and marked their lines.
- Consider moving your project if it is near utility line markings.

For more tips and information about safe digging and the one-call process, visit www.VA811.com.

Portions of this article reprinted from Dominion Virginia Power. <http://bit.ly/1fbZZ7s>

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

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

Back to School 2015
Every disaster is **DIFFERENT**.

Identify a **MEET-UP SPOT** ...

outside of your house,

in your neighborhood,

and just outside of your neighborhood.

emergency.cdc.gov

The school supplies were packed in backpacks, school bus schedules double-checked and the finishing touches were put on your kids first day of school outfit. Have you made sure your emergency plans are in place?

Did you know that emergency preparedness plays a major role in school life? Throughout the year, schools actively prepare for natural disasters, outbreaks and other emergency situations. Students and parents need to be aware and learn what to do during an emergency.

From school supply shopping to re-acclimating your kids to that early morning routine, there is a lot of preparing that goes into the start of the new school year.

While getting prepared to send your kids back to school this year, take the time to build an emergency kit, make a family disaster plan, and know how you will reunite with your kids if there is an emergency during the school day.

Learn more from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) public health matters blog at <http://1.usa.gov/ITgAEMx>.

ReadyNOVA.org

ReadyNOVA
Plan to Be Prepared

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

Proposed Rule Making for Faith-Based Organizations

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has published in the Federal Register a supplemental notice of proposed rule making on Nondiscrimination in Matters Pertaining to Faith-Based Organizations.

Following an initial proposal published in 2008, DHS proposes to issue a rule to ensure that faith-based organizations may compete on an equal footing with other organizations for direct federal financial assistance for which they are otherwise eligible, and to allow those groups to fully participate in federally supported social service programs, while beneficiaries under those programs also receive appropriate protections.

The proposed rule would implement policy set forth in Executive Orders issued by President Barack Obama and by President George W. Bush, including Executive Order 13559, "Fundamental Principles and Policymaking Criteria for Partnerships with Faith-Based and Other Neighborhood Organizations" (Nov. 17, 2010).

The principal provisions of the proposed rule are:

- Equal treatment, nondiscrimination and independence for faith-based organizations seeking to participate in social service programs funded by alongside assurance that such organizations may not discriminate against beneficiaries of the social service programs on the basis of the beneficiaries' religion.

Faith-based organizations participating in DHS programs would maintain their independence, including



practice of their religious beliefs and selection of board members.

- DHS direct financial assistance could not be used to support explicitly religious activities. Indirect financial assistance – such as a voucher or certificate placed in the hands of a beneficiary, who can use the voucher with a choice of providers – could be used for programs with more religious content, so long as the beneficiary has a true choice of providers including an adequate secular option.

- Beneficiaries of social service programs provided through faith-based organizations would generally receive a notice of the protections afforded to them, and could seek a referral to a different provider for programs receiving direct DHS financial assistance.

- The existing statutory and regulatory provisions pertaining to employment discrimination based on religion would not be affected by the proposed rule.

A copy of the supplemental notice of proposed rule making on Nondiscrimination in Matters Pertaining to Faith-Based Organizations is available online at <http://1.usa.gov/1P1bqLA>.

DHS is seeking public comment on the proposed rule. Any public comments must be received by Oct. 5, and can be submitted through the eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov, or by other means set forth in the proposed rule.

Reprinted from FEMA



FEDERAL REGISTER
The Daily Journal of the United States Government



Preparedness Quiz

Think you're prepared for anything? Put your disaster preparedness skills to the ultimate test by taking this quiz!

- What is the first step in preparing for any type of disaster?
 - Charging your iPhone.
 - Sealing the windows and doors.
 - Buying bread and milk.
 - Building an emergency kit and creating a plan for your household.
- The safest shelter location varies by _____.
 - Whether Mercury is in retrograde.
 - Your spouse's mood.
 - The type of hazard.
 - How fast you can drive.
- During a pandemic outbreak, the federal government recommends storing how much food and water?
 - One week.
 - One month.
 - One year.
 - Two weeks.
- If you are advised by authorities to stay indoors during a hazardous material release, which of the following should you *avoid* doing?
 - Seal gaps under doorways and windows with wet towels or plastic sheeting and duct tape.
 - Bring pets inside.
 - Turn on air-conditioning and ventilation systems, taking care to set ventilation systems to the lowest possible recirculation setting.
 - Take shallow breaths through a cloth or towel if you suspect gas or vapors has entered the building.
- Which of the following *should* you do during a volcanic eruption?
 - Approach the lava flow to take pictures for the local news.
 - Enact your childhood make-believe game of "the ground is lava."
 - Help your neighbors who may require special assistance such as infants, elderly people and those with access and functional needs.
 - Drive or walk through river valleys and low-lying areas.
- During a tsunami, which of the following is *not* advised?
 - Move inland to higher ground immediately; go as high or far as possible.
 - Going down to the shore to watch the tsunami come in (or to watch the water recede from the shore).
 - Follow evacuation orders issued by authorities and follow them as promptly as possible.
 - Take your pets with you during an evacuation.
- Extreme space weather (i.e., variable conditions on the sun and in space) could potentially cause damage to critical infrastructure — especially the electric grid. True or false?
 - True.
 - False.
- All of the following are ways to protect yourself during a landslide or mudflow EXCEPT:
 - Stay alert and awake during a severe storm.
 - Listen for unusual sounds that might indicate moving debris, such as trees cracking or boulders knocking.
 - Curl into a tight ball and protect your head if escape is not possible.
 - Attempt to cross bridges or roads if a landslide or mudflow is approaching to avoid getting stuck on one side.

ANSWERS (from Ready.gov): 1(D); 2(C); 3(D); 4(C); 5(C); 6(B); 7(A); 8(D)



OEM
PREPAREDNESS
THROUGH
PARTNERSHIPS



Fairfax County, Va., publication.

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