

Emergency Preparedness

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Survey Details What People Would Do in 'Dirty Bomb' Attacks

Most people in the National Capital Region (NCR) would follow instructions to stay where they are after a radiological dispersion device, or "dirty bomb," attack, according to a recent survey of more than 2,600 NCR residents. The survey also indicated that if an evacuation were ordered, most people would stay close to the region and not travel far.

Those findings, along with others from the survey, provide emergency and transportation officials with valuable information on public actions during emergencies. Results from the survey will help refine emergency response, traffic movement and evacuation plans.

"The survey provides in-depth information on how residents say they will respond if a regional disaster occurs. The survey data are beneficial to planners and government officials in the NCR as well as surrounding states as we look at potentially providing shelter, transportation and public information to people in need," said Michael Cline, state coordinator for the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

The survey explored how people get their

information in an emergency, information sources residents trust, the amount of advance preparation people have completed and the actions they would take under increasing levels of personal threat.

Three scenarios – at minimum, moderate and maximum hazard levels – were created for the survey, starting with a single dirty bomb released in the region, but not near the survey respondent.

The maximum level involved a situation with multiple dirty bombs released throughout the region exposing the population to radiation. The scenarios were varied to learn the effects of four factors: the level of hazard; whether the respondent was at home or at work; whether there was prior notice of the event; and the source of information and instructions about the event.

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"... if an evacuation were ordered, most people would stay close to the region and not travel far."

FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has launched a new mobile website, m.fema.gov, to make it easier to access emergency preparedness and response information. FEMA will be making several enhancements in the coming months, including the ability to apply for individual assistance when a disaster has been declared by the president, check on the status of an application and update an existing application. A video about the mobile site is available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4Kib7Am568.



Volunteer Programs Save Millions

Since 1983, Fairfax County area residents have contributed significant hours of their own time volunteering with the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD).

Members of the department’s Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS), Auxiliary Police Officers (APOs) and alumni from the Citizens Police Academy come from a variety of backgrounds and offer a plethora of skills and abilities to the agency while providing a great cost benefit to the county. In 2008, the VIPS and APOs saved the county close to \$2 million.

Police volunteers are a vital part of the department and assist in various capacities ranging from administrative support, photographers, child safety seat inspections to helping patrol the streets. They also serve an important role in staffing the FCPD Canteen, which provides officers with snacks and hydrating drinks at major police events.

On Friday, April 16, almost 100 police volunteers received recognition for their dedication and contribution to the Fairfax County Police Department.

“We award those enthusiastic volunteers that aid and support the Police Department’s mission and, more importantly, the police officers who serve their communities” says Donna Spiewak, VIPS coordinator.

Fire Prevention in the Office

Prepare your employees for fires by placing a fire extinguisher in your office; identify the exit routes out of buildings and ensure that all fire protection equipment is in proper working order.

Visit the U.S. Fire Administration “Wild Fire, Are you Prepared?” website for more details.
www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/all_citizens/home_fire_prev/wildfire/



Fairfax County, Va., publication.

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

- Awards presented at the ceremony include:
- Awards for 500 to 10,000 committed hours to the department.
- Lifetime Award (10,000 or more service hours).
- President’s Call to Service Award (4,000 or more service hours).
- Joyce McDermott Award for Outstanding Auxiliary Police Officer.
- 25 years or more of service to the department (Auxiliary Police Officers).
- VIPS/APOs of the Year for Patrol, Administration, Crime Prevention.
- Training Innovative Project Award for the FCPD Canteen Team.

To learn more about police volunteer programs, visit the Fairfax County Police Department website (search by keyword: VIPS, APO, Citizens Police Academy) at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police; or go directly to:

- VIPS: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/vips.htm
- APO: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/jobs/auxiliarypoliceofficer.htm
- Citizens Police Academy: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/services/citizens-police-academy.htm

From the Fairfax County Police Department Public Information Office

According to the National Weather Service “Sterling Reporter” newsletter (winter/spring issue), February 2010 was the snowiest month ever recorded at Dulles International Airport and Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport and the second snowiest ever recorded at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

Those records are from the two major winter storms that affected the Mid-Atlantic region during the first half of the month.



The first graduating class of the Fairfax County Chaplain Corps, pictured at graduation in the Emergency Operations Center.

Community Chaplains

While Police and Fire and Rescue chaplains will continue to provide spiritual care to first responders and residents in crisis, when needed, the Fairfax County Community Chaplains will provide spiritual care and support specifically to community members during and after a local emergency or disaster.

Fairfax community chaplains may be deployed to family assistance centers, emergency shelters and disaster/emergency assistance centers. They will work under the direction of emergency responders, Police and Fire and Rescue chaplains and in coordination with mental health professionals.



Each chaplain will commit to serve as the on-call community chaplain in a weekly rotation for up to six weeks a year.

Fairfax County Community Chaplains are ordained/invested or certified clergy and each chaplain candidate must complete a community chaplain application and a Fairfax County criminal background investigation.

The Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management provides certification documentation and identification.

For more information about the program, contact Marcelo Ferreira in OEM at 571-350-1013, TTY 711.

Marcelo's Minute

Community Participation



Marcelo Ferreira

Throughout Fairfax County, community-based and faith-based organizations, as well as local businesses are becoming increasingly involved in emergency preparedness.

Groups such as the Fairfax County Citizen Corps Council and the Northern Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) allow for collaboration and ease of information transfer between those that may have a role in emergency preparedness, response and recovery. This leads to a more cohesive community response and better utilization of resources.

The extent of partnerships that have been developed is vast, but much more can be done.

Recent disasters have shown that local organizations and community members are a key aspect in the recovery efforts of a disaster.

It's better to know one another before the flood waters are knee deep, so get prepared, coordinate with your neighbors and join a local group involved in preparing for an emergency.

It's everyone's responsibility to ensure that they and their community are prepared. The frequency of natural disasters has been on the rise and although local government will do its best to help those in need, it may take first responders three to five days to reach every neighborhood. Remember the February snowstorms. Once you and your family are prepared to be self-sufficient for more than 72 hours, consider getting involved in your community's preparedness efforts.

If you or your organization are in need of a presentation about emergency preparedness or other emergency related topic, please let me know. Contact me at 571-350-1013, TTY 711; e-mail marcelo.ferreira@fairfaxcounty.gov.

It Only Takes One Hurricane

By Laura Southard

Is your family ready for hurricane and flood season? Hurricane predictors say that the 2010 season will be very busy. But it only takes one tropical system to cause extensive, expensive damage from surging water, high winds, tornadoes and inland flooding. Every Virginia family should get ready now.

Every home should have these essentials: a family emergency plan; three-day supply of bottled water and non-perishable food; a battery-powered or hand-crank radio to hear emergency information; and extra batteries.

Make a family emergency plan

If you had to leave, know in advance where you would go and where you could take your pets.

- Identify several places you could stay in an emergency – perhaps a friend’s home in another town, a hotel or public shelter if necessary.
- Choose an out-of-town friend or relative as a family point of contact, and be sure every family member has that person’s phone number.
- Go to www.ReadyVirginia.gov for family plan worksheets. Click on “make a plan.”

Get essential emergency supplies

Start with at least a three-day supply of bottled water and packaged and canned food. Add a manual can

opener, flashlights and extra batteries, first-aid kit and medications. Store in waterproof containers that have wheels or that you can lift easily.

Get an emergency supply checklist at www.ReadyVirginia.gov. Click on “get a kit.”

Listen to emergency information from officials

In case there is no power, you will need a battery-powered radio and extra batteries. Listen to local media for the best information about your area. So you can get information directly from the National Weather Service, consider purchasing a battery-powered or hand-crank radio with a weather band.

Also, be aware that flooding is the most common disaster in Virginia, and it is costly. Just an inch or two of water in a home or business adds up to about \$8,000 in

repairs. Homeowners insurance policies don’t cover flooding, so talk to your agent now about flood insurance. It usually takes about 30 days for a new flood policy to go into effect. See www.floodsmart.gov or call 1-800-427-2419.

Laura Southard is public outreach coordinator with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

“It is critical that every Virginian treat hurricane season seriously and understand how they could be affected by flooding, high winds and tornadoes during this time of year.”

Governor Bob McDonnell

The Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management is available to deliver emergency preparedness presentations to community organizations and homeowners associations.



If you are interested in a presentation, contact Marcelo Ferreira at 571-350-1000, TTY 711, or via e-mail at marcelo.ferreira@fairfaxcounty.gov.

According to the National Hurricane Center, Alex is the name of the first Atlantic Basin storm of 2010. Hurricane names rotate in a six-year cycle with the 2010 list being a repeat of the 2004 names.

The World Meteorological Organization retired the names of four major hurricanes that made landfall in Florida during 2004: Charley, Francis, Ivan and Jeanne. They have been replaced on the list by Colin, Fiona, Igor and Julia.

For more on hurricane names, visit the NHC at www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutnames.shtml.

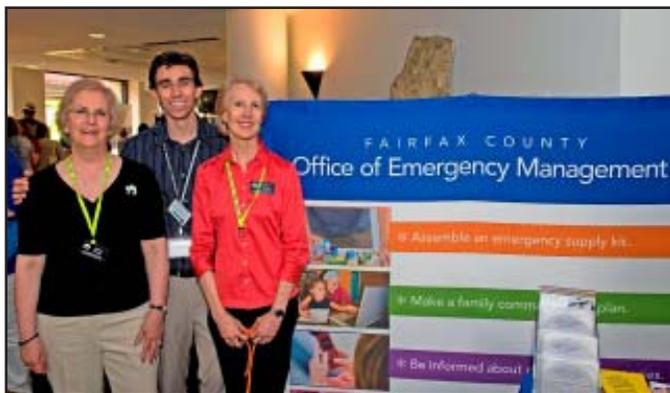
Are You Prepared?

Disasters and emergencies can affect anyone at any time. Do you have the plans and supplies in place to help withstand the first three to five days after a disaster? The Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management suggests three steps that each individual and family should take to prepare for an emergency.

1. **Make a Plan** – Determine how you will contact your family, and get back together, if you are separated during an emergency. Be sure to identify what you will do in various situations. More information is available at www.ReadyVirginia.gov and www.MakeaPlan.org.

2. **Assemble a Kit** – An emergency kit should contain basic supplies to help you withstand a disaster. It's best to think first about the basics of survival: fresh water, food, clean air and warmth.

3. **Stay Informed** – The most convenient way to stay up-to-date about local emergencies is to register for the Community Emergency Alert Network (CEAN), which delivers important emergency alerts, notifications and updates during a major emergency, and weather and traffic alerts. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean.



The Office of Emergency Management was a featured exhibitor at the Celebrate Communications Fair on May 1, hosted by the Northern Virginia Resource Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Pictured at the OEM booth is OEM community outreach liaison Marcelo Ferreira (center) with Bonnie O'Leary, director of community outreach programs for the Northern Virginia Resource Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and a Citizen Corps Council representative (left) and Cheryl Heppner, executive director of the Northern Virginia Resource Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Photo courtesy of Mark Avino



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)

The volunteers provide support for the Police Department so that law enforcement professionals have more time for frontline duty. VIPS includes auxiliary police officers, administrative volunteers, chaplains and the Citizen's Police Academy.



www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/vips.htm

Neighborhood Watch

Private citizens and law enforcement work together to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in 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)

Operated by the Health Department, MRC is composed of medical and non-medical volunteers trained to assist the community in dispensing medication during public health emergencies.



www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mrc/

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

People in neighborhoods, workplaces and schools are trained in basic disaster response skills, such as fire suppression and search and rescue to help them take a more active role in emergency preparedness.



www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/cert.htm

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

FEMA Administrator Addresses National Volunteer Conference

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Craig Fugate addressed the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (National VOAD) conference in Orlando, Fla. last month (May).

FEMA and National VOAD also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the conference to broaden the communication and coordination between FEMA and National VOAD's committees.

"Volunteer organizations are an important part of every community, which makes them equally important to the nation's emergency management team," said Fugate.

"It's the faith-based and nonprofit groups that know their communities best, and by strengthening the partnerships between us, we can help keep the people we serve safe," he added.

"This is an exciting day for National VOAD to have Administrator Fugate at our conference," said Diana Rothe-Smith, executive director of National VOAD. "The signing of this MOU shows that FEMA understands that National VOAD is a part of the team."

National VOAD is a coalition of more than 50 nonprofit and faith-based organizations and state and local groups that participate in disaster response. The annual conference brings volunteer organizations together to share knowledge and coordinate to help disaster survivors and their communities.

Follow FEMA online at www.twitter.com/femainfocus, www.facebook.com/fema and www.youtube.com/fema. Also, follow Fugate's activities at www.twitter.com/craigatfema.

The social media links provided are for reference only. FEMA and the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management do not endorse any non-government websites, companies or applications.



The Fairfax County Police Department has started a Facebook Fan page. There is no cost to join; to become a Police Department fan, sign up at www.facebook.com/fairfaxcountypolice.

There is also a new police emergency alert category within the county's Community Emergency Alert Network (CEAN). With this new group the police can send geographically targeted alerts, to include timely information on significant criminal incidents in neighborhoods and important announcements. There is no cost to sign up for alerts at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean.



To assist county residents during heavy rain with the potential for flooding, the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) has created a flood response plan that mobilizes employees to monitor water levels and the safety of local dams.

DPWES staff have been trained to provide advance notice to residents in flood-prone areas and in inundation zones below state-regulated dams.

This effort includes around-the-clock monitoring of sensors that provide real-time data on rainfall amounts, water levels and other details about storms and hurricanes that allow county staff to evaluate if there is an imminent threat to public safety.

One of the tools the county uses is the Community Emergency Alert Network, or CEAN. To receive emergency alerts through the CEAN system, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean.

For more information about how to protect yourself and your family during floods, how to protect your home from flooding and how to prepare for a flood event, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/stormwater/floodprotect.htm, or call the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services at 703-324-5500, TTY 711.

FEMA Widgets

The FEMA Private Sector Division recently launched the new FEMA private sector widget leveraging Web 2.0 tools to enhance the ability to protect, prepare, respond, recover and mitigate against all forms of disasters as well as enhance community resiliency across the nation. FEMA's goals with Web 2.0 tools are to:

- Provide timely and accurate information related to disaster preparedness response and recovery.
- Provide the public with another avenue for insight into the agency's operations.
- Engage in what has already become a critical medium in today's world of communications.



To get the FEMA widgets, visit www.fema.gov/help/widgets/.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has launched a new Twitter profile. Follow @CDCgov for up-to-date, credible health and safety information from CDC. Get daily updates on featured health topics, CDC news and events, resources and more. To follow CDCgov on Twitter, go to <http://twitter.com/CDCgov>.

20th Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act

July 26 marks the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which guarantees equal opportunity for people with disabilities in public accommodations, commercial facilities, employment, transportation, state and local government services and telecommunications. More information about the anniversary and the ADA is available online from the U.S. Census Bureau at www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb10-ff13.html.

Crime Solvers Joins Facebook and Launches Deadbeat Parents Page

Fairfax County Crime Solvers program hopes to reach more people by utilizing Facebook and implementing a new Deadbeat Parents page on its website.

Social network sites have increasingly gained in popularity during recent years. More than 400 million people are members of Facebook, which was rated the number one global, social-networking site in December 2009, according to a Nielson Company survey. Facebook members can become fans of Fairfax County Crime Solvers and follow their updates. Crime Solvers regularly posts information on wanted persons, unsolved crimes, suspects caught in the act and more.

There is no cost to join Facebook; sign up at www.facebook.com.

Fairfax County Crime Solvers also has launched a new page on its website, www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.com devoted to deadbeat parents.

Failure to pay child support is a crime and viewers may visit the website weekly to see the new faces of these deadbeat parents and other wanted fugitives as well. If you recognize them, contact Crime Solvers at 1-866-411-TIPS (8477), send an anonymous e-mail through the www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org website or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES (274637).

A \$100 to \$1,000 cash reward will be paid for information that leads to an arrest.

You never have to give your name or appear in court.

Virginia law requires drivers to give active emergency vehicles space. When approaching a stationary police or fire vehicle displaying active emergency lights, slow down and be alert.

If there are two or more lanes available in your direction, and it is safe to do so, move over a lane to give the emergency responders more space and yourself more reaction time.

Survey..

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Among the overall findings:

- Of those at home during the event for all three scenarios, nearly 80 percent decided to stay home.
- For those at work during a minimal event (in which no shelter-in-place order is given for the respondent's area), only 41 percent would stay at work, with 33 percent leaving to go home.
- For those at work during a moderate or maximum event when a shelter-in-place order is given, approximately 70 percent would stay at work.

Survey results related to residents' evacuation plans revealed:

- People located in Virginia at the time of the event are likely to stay south of the Potomac River. Those in Maryland or Washington, D.C., are likely to stay north of the river.
- In every threat level, a majority (70-80 percent) of evacuees would go to destinations within the National Capital Region. In more hazardous conditions, a pattern of traveling farther away is evident with most respondents traveling farther into Virginia and Maryland.
- Together, the states outside of Washington, D.C., Virginia and Maryland would receive 21-30 percent of evacuees, depending on hazard level. Under a mandatory evacuation, Delaware could receive 1.3 percent of evacuees, Pennsylvania 5.2 percent and West Virginia 2.5 percent. People going to other northern states total 5.4 percent; other southern states, 5.0 percent; and other states to the west, 2.5 percent.
- About 90 percent of those in a mandatory evacuation situation would travel by motor vehicle.

Other findings include:

- The president, the Department of Homeland Security and the governor were cited as the most trustworthy sources of information, with the youngest respondents giving the president the highest level of trust.
- During the first 48 hours after a major local emergency, whether they chose to stay or to evacuate, residents expect emergency managers to supply information about the emergency and help with any needed decontamination, more than they expect food distribution or anti-looting patrols.
- About 54 percent have prepared a personal emergency

plan, an emergency supply kit, or arranged a meeting place away from home for use by family members. Only 13 percent had done all three.

- About 15 percent of respondents said they had experienced the events of Sept. 11, 2001, in a way that caused them to take action by either sheltering-in-place or evacuating, and those attacks were often listed – along with weather-related events – as motivation to get prepared for an emergency.
- Denial and “not wanting to deal with it” were most likely to hold people back from preparing.

“Understanding whether residents will decide to ‘stay or go’ is the basis for developing effective emergency plans and systems for the National Capital Region and surrounding areas,” said Cline. “This survey will be an important tool as regional emergency officials consider the safety of millions of people.”

The survey was commissioned by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management from the University of Virginia Center for Survey Research (CSR) and the Center for Risk Management of Engineering Systems. Work began in February 2009, with data collection accomplished from September to December. CSR called cell phone and landline phone numbers of randomly selected area residents to gather data for the survey.

Before the survey was conducted, questions were refined and interpreted in several workshops with emergency managers, public information officers and first responders from the NCR. Content also was tested on three focus groups with 50 residents of Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C.

The project is one of seven being conducted in partnership with Delaware, Washington, D.C., Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia, which have been collaborating for several years under the Regional Catastrophic Planning Grant Program of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

A report on the survey, “Population Behaviors in Dirty Bomb Attack Scenarios: A Survey of the National Capital Region,” is available at www.vaemergency.com/library/behavior_study/index.cfm.