Functional Needs Registry, Emergency Health Profile, and Community Connect

February 13, 2023

Agenda

Introductions

Functional Needs Registry – Department of Emergency Management and Security (DEMS)

Emergency Health Profile – Department of Public Safety Communications (DPSC)

Community Connect – Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department (FCFRD)

Functional Needs Registry Overview

History/Background

- Medical Needs Registry was created in 2007 as a result of the severe impact on the Gulf Coast residents with medical needs post Katrina and Rita.
- The registry was kept on a server behind County firewalls and was a list of Fairfax County residents with medical needs or health conditions who may need help evacuating or seeking shelter before, during or after catastrophic emergency events.
- The personal and medical data was only accessible to a limited number of employees.
- The annual maintenance of the list was labor intensive for staff.
- Due to HIPPA compliance, the system could no longer be maintained as is.
- In 2015 Fairfax Alerts was launched that included a self-registering option for residents to share their access and functional needs within 12 pre-identified categories.
- The Medical Needs Registry Ended in 2015 after a period transition when there were 550 people registered. Everyone was provided with the information to sign up for Fairfax Alerts.

Functional Needs Registry Today

Functional Needs Registry Today – 1,787

- Residents now have the option of subscribing to the Access and Functional Needs Registry section in Fairfax Alerts. This subscription contains names, addresses and functional needs they have within the twelve (12) categories provided.
- A monthly Preparedness Newsletter is sent out with preparedness information.
- Weather messages are sent when there is a weather event expected. Preparedness information pertaining to that weather event is included in the email.
- Each calendar year, during January 1-30, a series of messages/emails/texts/voice mails will be sent to the “Access and Functional Needs” registrants asking them to review their registration.
- If they do not respond to the request, they will be sent two follow up communications. If they do not respond, they will receive a final message advising that they have been removed from the registry with information on how they can re-register.

Disclosure – Developed with DSB

During a crisis or emergency, Fairfax County uses this system to deliver important emergency alerts, notifications and updates to residents. Prior to and/or during a crisis emergency, Fairfax County staff use this notification system to inform residents of potential dangers or emergencies that could affect our residents. There is no guarantee that services will be provided, nor does registration guarantee that services will be received on a preferential basis.

Residents should continue to follow emergency protocol by calling 9-1-1 in the event.

Functional Needs Registry Annual Auditing Process

- Each calendar year, a series of messages/emails/texts/voice mails is sent to the “Access and Functional Needs” registrants asking them to review their registration and update their information.
- Residents have several opportunities to answer this request through the polling feature via text message, phone call, and email. If the resident does not answer any of the messages (4 texts, 4 phone calls, 4 emails) they received by the end of the process, they are removed.
- During May - July of 2020, everyone on the Functional Needs Registry received a phone call from a county staff member that was re-assigned to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). These staff verified all the contact info and asked if there was any assistance needed and made the necessary referrals.

FAIRFAX COUNTY

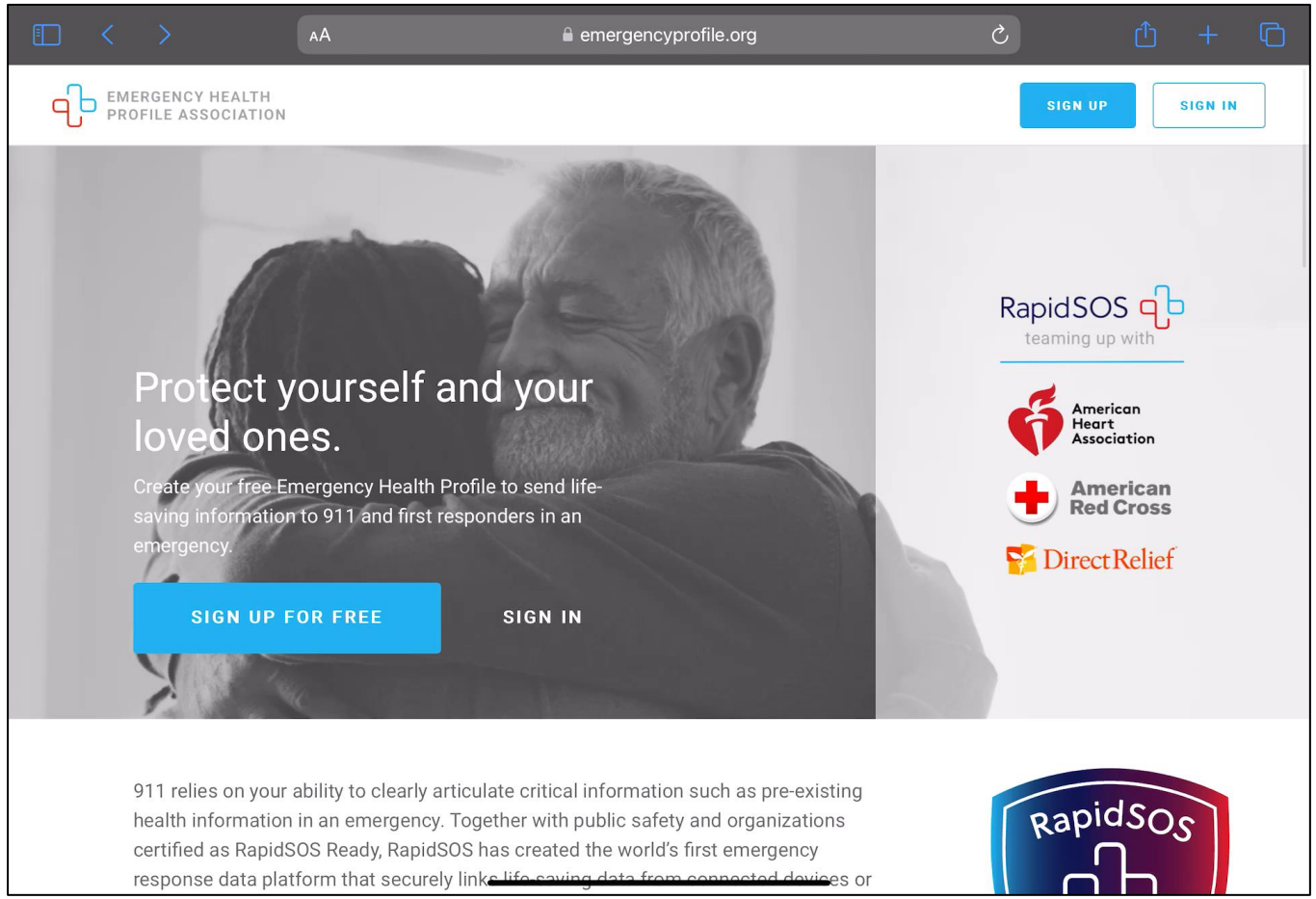
9-1-1

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS

Emergency Health Profile

- About
  - Marcus Alerts - catalyst
  - Mandated voluntary database
- Purpose
  - Critical health information shared with first responders
- How It Works
  - Info associated with individual's cell phone number
  - Third party emergency technology company RapidSOS

Emergency Health Profile - How to Sign Up



Fairfax County Community Connect

Together, Building a Safer Community, Through Prevention, Preparedness & Response

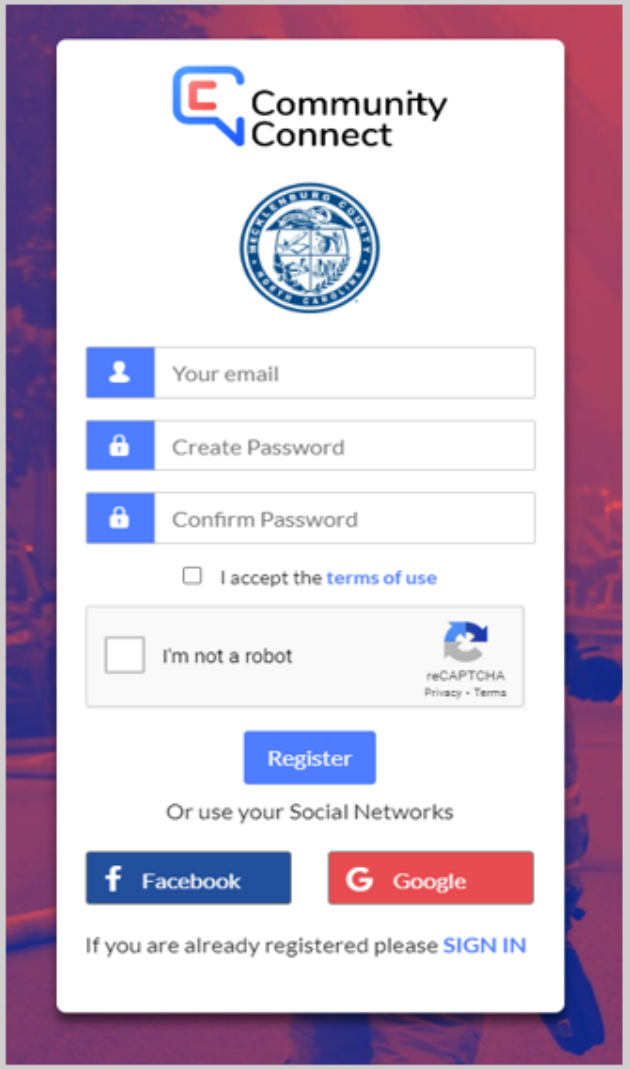
Create or Update Your Profile Today

RESIDENTS

BUSINESS OWNERS

What & How About Community Connect?

- **Community Connect** is a free, secure, and easy-to-use platform that allows homeowners to share critical information about their household that will aid first responders and emergency response personnel when responding to their residences.
- **By providing important information** about your household that will be helpful at the time of an emergency, the Department can ensure that you and everything you care about are protected to the best of the department's ability



Your Property

Understanding critical information such as your residence type, whether or not you have fire sprinklers, or designated family meeting places, improves our ability to respond and make decisions during an emergency.

Your People

Let us know who is best to contact in case of an emergency. Your contacts can help us with everything from access, to how to deal with potential hazards or locate occupants. Getting in touch helps us better communicate at the time when it's needed most.

Your Needs

If you or members of your family have mobility or other types of functional needs that may require additional assistance, letting us know means we can plan accordingly and respond more quickly to those needs.

Your Pets

Your pets are part of the family too. We want to make sure that we are able to evacuate pets and best handle them as best we can during an incident. Tell us about any type of pet at your residence – even take a photo so we can spot them easily!

WHAT KINDS OF INFORMATION CAN I PROVIDE?

Any information you provide through **Community Connect** is completely voluntary and based on what you are comfortable sharing.

Residents

Your Plans

Upload images and documents outlining your plans in case of different types of emergencies. Let your First Responders know what procedures you, your staff, and your guests will be following in case of an emergency.

Your People

If you or people at your facility have mobility or other types of functional needs that may require additional assistance, letting us know means we can plan accordingly and respond more quickly and effectively.

Your Property

Keep us aware of the most important access and utility details, your fire control systems, if there are hazardous materials on-site and other key pieces of critical building information.

Your Contact Info

Enter your contact details - we'll send you a text message to inform you and/ or the members of your team in the event that we are ever called to your property during an emergency.

WHAT KINDS OF INFORMATION CAN I PROVIDE?

Provide your business, school, age-care facility, or other public location First Responders with critical information, valuable emergency plans, and more - available at a moment's notice in the event of an incident. Stay aware of First Responders' notifications through text messages if they are dispatched to your property.

Business Owners

Functional Needs Registry Retirement

Functional Needs Registry Retirement Plan

- With the development and implementation of Community Connect, the Functional Needs Registry will plan to retire at the end of 2023.
- There will be several months of communicating this message and presenting the options of what to register for to the current registrants.
- All Functional Needs Registry profiles will remain in Fairfax Alerts, the subscription to the Functional Needs Registry is the only component being removed.
- Residents will continue to receive preparedness messaging through the Emergency Preparedness Newsletter.