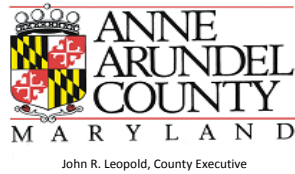


The Declaration

AN INVOLVED COMMUNITY IS A WELL PREPARED COMMUNITY.



Anne Arundel County
Office of Emergency Management

April 2011
Volume 2, Issue 2

From the Director's Desk

Fellow Citizens,

We have made it through the winter without the blizzards of last season. This season had its share of snow storms, but thankfully they could not compare to last year. The region did experience a storm that produced major power outages, but temperatures and BGE helped to make it just an inconvenience and not a catastrophe.

None the less, are you and your family prepared to go without power for at least three days? Do you have the supplies you need to survive? You can find more information about family preparedness at www.aacounty.org/OEM or www.ready.gov.

Finally, after we come to grips with the hazards we believe we will face, we are reminded that earthquakes and resulting tsunamis can have devastating effects. The crisis in Japan may be overwhelming for us to watch, but try to imagine how the citizens are coping. Are you prepared to deal with that

sort of catastrophe?

We have two nuclear power plants in the region; what would you do if one of them began to leak radiation? Go to http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/nuclear_power_plants.shtm for more information.

If you would like to donate to Japan's relief effort, contact your local Red Cross.

Be Prepared. Be Safe. Stay Vigilant.

Sincerely,
Captain Eric Hodge
OEM Director



Inside this issue:

Tips from the Trade, Tabletop	2
CCC, Teen CERT, Flood Awareness	3
Citizen Corps, Preparedness Fair	4
Japan Disaster	5
Hello My Name is...	5
Congrats!, Volunteer of the Quarter	6
Contact Info., Neighborhood Network, Recommended Websites	7
CCC Fundraiser	8

Be Prepared:

- Get a Kit.
- Make a Plan.
- Be Informed.
- Get Involved.

Tips from the Trade: Are You Ready?



Ready

Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.

Use Daylight Savings Time Change to Update Emergency Preparedness Plans

Now that you have set your clocks forward for daylight savings time, FEMA encourages all Americans to use this change to update emergency preparedness plans. According to FEMA Region X Administrator Ken Murphy, the March ritual of making homes safer from fire is also a great opportunity to review disaster preparedness plans and restock disaster kits. "The key to successful disaster response, regardless of the nature of the event, is personal preparedness," says Murphy. "And no matter how busy or hectic our daily routine, we all need to take the time to take positive action to prepare ourselves, our loved ones and our communities in the event of severe weather, earthquake—or any other major disaster." FEMA's Resolve to be Ready in 2011

campaign promotes Whole Community involvement in disaster preparedness and is led by FEMA's Ready Campaign in partnership with Citizen Corps and The Advertising Council. For more information on the Ready Campaign and Citizen Corps, visit www.fema.gov, Ready.gov and CitizenCorps.gov. Follow FEMA online at www.facebook.com/fema, and www.youtube.com/fema. Follow Administrator Craig Fugate's activities at www.twitter.com/craigatfema. Social media links are provided for reference only. FEMA does not endorse non-government websites, companies or applications.

Community Level Critical Power Failure Tabletop Exercise is now available

Today, FEMA's Private Sector Division posted a new community level Tabletop Exercise, the third in its series of free tools for continuity planning, preparedness and resiliency. The first two exercises offered tips on employee preparedness and emergency planning at the organizational level. This new one builds on that design, and has a broader community-wide scope that you can use in coordination with your local emergency management partners.

As an added bonus, this new Community level exercise includes Twitter feeds and text alerts, in addition to the Virtual News Network (VNN) videos. It has the same great simple to use and scalable format. It has also been vetted by some of you, and incorporates real-world examples.

We welcome your continued feedback on the design and usefulness of the tabletop exercises and encourage you to let others know of the availability of these planning tools. You can send comments to fema-private-sector@dhs.gov.

The new exercise is available on the FEMA website at <http://www.fema.gov/privatesector/exercises.shtm>

Citizen Corps and CERT Volunteers Recognized

The Citizen Corps Council of Anne Arundel County and City of Annapolis held their third annual Volunteer Appreciation and Awards event during the April Citizen Corps and CERT meeting. The awards are a way of thanking citizens of the county and city for their willingness to give their time and effort to help their family and community be prepared to take care of themselves for at least 72 hours in an emergency/disaster situation.

If you are interested in being part of the Citizen Corps Council, please contact Karen Sank at 410-222-0600 or fdsank00@aacounty.org

Teen CERT Training Opens the Door for Young People to Participate in their Community

The Citizen Corps Council and Office of Emergency Management is planning its first Teen CERT training in June at Meade High School. Twenty students will be taught basic first aid, small fire suppression, light search and rescue, disaster psychology and CERT and terrorism. This knowledge will help them in their school and are skills that can be broadened and follow them through their lives. These young people are apart of our community and giving them the tools they need and empowering them with knowledge is to everyone's advantage.

Turn Around, Don't Drown

Floods do more than damage property; they can also threaten lives if safety precautions are not followed. "Floods occur somewhere in the United States or its territories nearly every day of the year, killing nearly 100 people on average annually, and causing damage in the billions of dollars," said Jack Hayes, Ph.D., director of the National Weather Service. "Awareness, preparedness and action are the key ingredients to protecting lives and property when floods threaten. One essential safety tip is to never cross a road that is covered by water. Remember, "Turn Around, Don't Drown."

According to the National Weather Service, more deaths occur due to flooding each year than from any other severe weather related hazard. The main reason is people underestimate the force and power of water. All areas of the country can be at risk for flooding and when such

conditions are forecast, important information and life-saving alerts are available at www.weather.gov.

As little as six inches of water may cause you to lose control of your vehicle. Flood water may be much deeper than it appears as the roadbed may be washed out. Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.

In most cases, standard homeowner's insurance policies don't cover flood damages. FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program makes flood insurance available to renters, homeowners and business owners through thousands of insurance agents located in nearly 21,000 communities around the nation. .

The average cost of a policy is \$570 a year, and Preferred Risk Policies outside of Special Flood Hazard Areas can be as low as \$129 a year. Individuals can learn more about

seasonal flood risks and what to do to prepare by visiting FEMA's FloodSmart.gov website, or by calling 1-800-427-2419.

Here are some resources to get you started: The Ready Campaign has a page dedicated to flood safety awareness at www.ready.gov/floodawareness and in Spanish at www.listo.gov/floodawareness. FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program has a variety of resources at www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has a Flood Safety page at www.floodsafety.noaa.gov. Archived on the Citizen Corps website there is a flood awareness webinar. The FEMA Private Sector Office has a blog post "Flood Insurance Provides Lifeline For Business Owners." You can also visit the American Red Cross web page to learn about flood safety.

Citizen Corps of Anne Arundel County: Partners in Preparedness

The Anne Arundel County and City of Annapolis Citizen Corps Council's CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) program provided training for thirty four citizens on January 8th & 9th, 2011.

The Citizen Corps Council has appointed a CERT member, April English of Shady Side, as the CERT Coordinator for the county and city. As CERT teams are formed throughout the county, more information will be going out to other citizens as to how important they are to the Council's ongoing effort to help all citizens be prepared to take care of themselves, their family and their community for at least 72 hours during and after an emergency/disaster situation.

We invite citizens, businesses, schools, local government leaders and anyone else to join our local Council to help put forth that concerted effort.

The Council is holding its first fund raiser to support its efforts to reach all citizens through training and education. The raffle is for a Crab Feast for 6. Contact Karen Sank at 410-222-0600 or fdsank00@aacounty.org



Second Annual Emergency Preparedness Fair in the Works



The Anne Arundel County and City of Annapolis Offices of Emergency Management and Citizen Corps Council have begun preparations for their second annual Emergency Preparedness Fair. The Fair will take place on Saturday, September 10th, 2011 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Glen Burnie Improvement Association's fairgrounds on Post 40 road in Glen Burnie.

There is no admission to the fair. There will be representatives and

equipment from the Police and Fire Department as well as many other organizations. Games, food, demonstrations and information will be available regarding Emergency Management preparations and citizen's preparations for possible hazards in the county and city of Annapolis.

Save the date for the next fair in September 2011 and join us for an informative and fun day!

What To Do Concerning the Japan Disaster

FEMA is closely monitoring the affects of the earthquake and subsequent tsunami that struck Japan earlier this month, and as directed by the President, FEMA is in close contact and coordination with state and local officials and stands ready to support them in any way needed, through their regional offices in the West Coast and in the pacific area.

FEMA is working in support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) who is the lead federal agency when it comes to responding to international disasters.

If you are looking for ways to help, you can **donate** to support Japan Tsunami Response by going to <http://www.interaction.org/>. For additional information and updates on response efforts, you can go to the USAID Disaster Assistance Website. FEMA's immediate priority is the safety of the people and communities in the affected areas. We remind everyone who lives in the region to monitor their local news for updates and directions provided by their local officials.

If you are concerned about the safety of friends or family and you cannot get in touch with them, you may contact the U.S. State Department.

Hello, My Name Is...

Hello, My Name Is... Tom Riggins.

Tom is the Systems Analyst for the Office of Information Technology but is based out of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). He began his career with the county 11 years ago, working at OEM the last 4 years.

He was a Chemical Engineer for 13 years, specializing in polyurethane foams for the military, automotive, and other specialty application fields.

On a daily basis, Tom is responsible for the care and maintenance of servers.

When asked what he likes most about his job, he said, "It is an honor to work with the staff of the Office of Emergency

Management. Their sense of teamwork and their dedication to public service is admirable."

Tom received his Bachelor of Science in Materials Engineering from Drexel University. He has also been a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer for the past 11 years.

A long-time resident of Baltimore County, Tom and his family have lived in Ellicott City for the last 18 years.

His favorite part about working for OEM?—"The ability to work with specialized equipment such as the Christie A/V system and the Tandberg video-conferencing systems. I have found it rewarding to be able to use these and other Public Safety technologies in creative ways to help the public and to teach other to do the same".



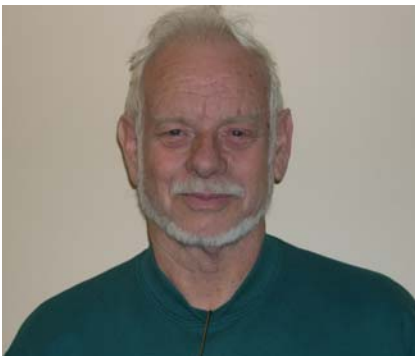
Congratulations to Tari Martin & Family

We are happy to announce that Tari Martin, the Geographic Information Specialist for the Office of Emergency Management has a new addition to her family. William Sean was welcomed into the world on January 24th, 2011.

Congratulations to Tari and her family!



Volunteer of the Quarter



Rusty Bristow is *The Declaration's* Volunteer of the Quarter for April. Rusty began his volunteer relationship with the Office of Emergency Management through Citizen Corps' Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). He received his CERT certification in June 2010.

Rusty has continued his commitment to emergency management, and his favorite part of being a volunteer is serving the community and helping the community and individuals be prepared for an emergency.

Additionally, Rusty has been treasurer of the Harmon's Community Association for over 10 years; president of the Jessup Improvement Association for over a year; works with the Police

Community Relations Council for the Northern and Western Districts; served on the BWI Neighbors committee; the 295 Share Holders committee; 175 Improvement committee; the Ft. Meade Environmental Restoration Advisory Board, the Special Advisory Committee (SAC).

He runs an auto repair business in Hanover since 1990, specializing in Volvos and enjoys car racing. He has lived in Hanover for 42 years where together with Juanita Miller, he enjoys 5 children, 12 Grandchildren and 12 Great Grandchildren.

To learn more about how to get involved contact Karen Sank at fdsank00@aacounty.org or call 410.222.0611.

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." – George Santayana

**Anne Arundel County
Office of Emergency
Management
Henry L. Hein
Public Service Building
Suite 102
7480 Baltimore
Annapolis Blvd Glen
Burnie, MD 21061-
3542**

oem@aacounty.org

www.aacounty.org/oem

OEM Staff

Director:

Captain Eric Hodge

Executive Officer:

B/C Steve Thompson

Planner & Newsletter

Coordinator:

Christina Macey

Planner:

Teresa Chapman

Planner:

Karla Schaffer-Mandell

GIS Specialist:

Tari Martin

Systems Analyst:

Tom Riggins

Systems Programmer I:

Linda Fennell

Community Outreach &

Volunteer Coordination:

Karen Sank

Exercise & Training:

Chrissy Calp

Assistant to the Director:

Denise Rogers

Recommended Websites and Literature

- Citizen Corps
 - <http://www.citizencorps.gov/>
- Are You Ready? Campaign
 - www.ready.gov
- Maryland Emergency Management Agency
 - <http://www.mema.state.md.us/MEMA/index.jsp>
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
 - www.fema.gov
- Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
 - www.dhs.gov
- Domestic Preparedness Journal
 - www.domesticpreparedness.com

The **Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management** coordinates resources and facilitates the response and recovery efforts of local, state, federal and private agencies in emergencies and is charged with:

- Developing and maintaining a Comprehensive Emergency Management Program for all-hazards
- Coordinating Emergency Planning with county, state, federal and private agencies to protect life, property and the environment from the effects of natural and manmade disasters
- Mitigating the impact of hazards
- Preparing the community to respond to disasters and terrorism
- Responding to emergencies by activating our Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- Establishing recovery systems to return the county and its residents to a normal state as soon as possible



Prepare Your Community for Emergencies!

A sense of community in a neighborhood ties people together but that community becomes even more important during an emergency. Helping neighbors take care of themselves and their families promotes a feeling of well-being and safety.

Neighborhood Network helps communities to be self-sufficient during an emergency or disaster situation. Communities learn to gather contact information, develop a resource list, identify people who might need assistance during an emergency and create an action plan to organize neighborhood assistance when it is needed.



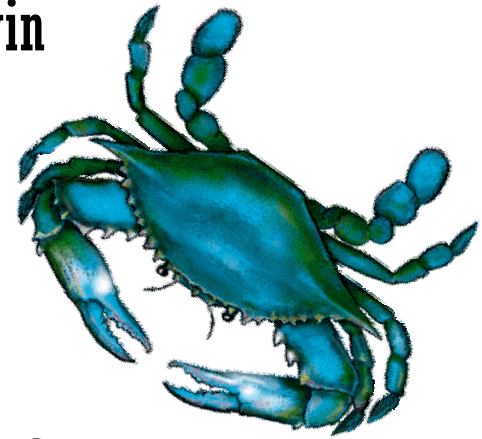
Also, free Community Emergency Preparedness presentations are available for groups, organizations and businesses that want to learn more about preparing for large emergencies and disasters. FEMA recommends that individuals and their families plan to be self-sufficient for 3 days and up to 1 week after a disaster. This presentation is the first step in becoming prepared. Participants learn what hazards the county faces, how the county plans for emergencies and disasters and--most important-- what citizens should do to prepare.

For more information about how to start a Neighborhood Network in your neighborhood or to schedule a free presentation call the Office of Emergency Management at 410-222-0600 TODAY!



The Citizen Corps Council of
Anne Arundel County & City of Annapolis
announce a chance for you to win

A Crab Feast for 6!!



Prize includes:

**Bushel of Steamed Crabs, Case of Beer,
Case of Soda and Mallets delivered to your
door in Anne Arundel County or Annapolis**



\$3.00 a Chance or 2 for \$5.00

Drawing July 12, 2011

**For raffle tickets,
contact Karen Sank**

at 410-222-0611 or

fdsank00@aacounty.org