Addressing Disaster Preparedness in Rural Communities

Steve Rykal
Emergency Coordinator
Chickahominy Health District
June 26, 2014
“Failing to Prepare is Preparing to Fail”
Addressing Disaster Preparedness in Rural Communities
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What We’ll Discuss Today

• Challenges Specific to Rural Communities
• What are the Threats?
• The Basics
• Other Considerations
• Volunteer Opportunities
• Useful Links & Resources
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Challenges for Rural Communities

• GEOGRAPHY
  • Larger area often w/obstacles such as rivers and mountains
  • Compromises accessibility and response times
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Challenges for Rural Communities

• LIMITED RESOURCES
  • Emergency Management Personnel
  • Limited/Unstable Funding
  • Less likely to share/pool resources w/neighboring jurisdictions
  • Limited/Spotty Internet & Cell Phone Coverage
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Challenges for Rural Communities

• **Power Outages**
  • Power is typically restored first in the most densely populated areas

• **Information**
  • TV & radio typically focus and report on news specific to the urban jurisdictions (main viewership base)
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What are the Threats?

• Tropical Storms/Hurricanes
  • Tornadoes
  • Winter Storms
  • Heat Waves
  • Earthquakes
  • Fires
• Release of Hazardous Materials
• Large Scale Disease Outbreaks
  • Terrorism
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The Basics

✓ MAKE A PLAN
✓ GET A KIT
✓ STAY INFORMED
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Make a Plan
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Make a Plan

What are the advantages of planning ahead?
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Make a Plan

• Out-of-Town Contacts
• Meeting Places/Contact Info
  • Local
  • Out-of-town
• Work & School Locations/Contact Info
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Make a Plan

- Medical Contacts
  - Doctors, Veterinarians, Pharmacists, etc!
- Insurance Contacts
  - Medical Homeowner/Rental, Vehicle, Flood
- Utility Shut-Off Instructions
- Local Emergency Contacts
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Get a Kit
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Get a Kit

Following a disaster, it may take three to FIVE days for outside assistance to reach you!
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Get a Kit

• Water
  • One gallon water per person (& pet) per day (3-5 days)

• Food
  • (3-5 days) non-perishable; high protein; requiring no cooking
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Get a Kit

• First Aid Kit
• Battery-powered or hand cranked radio
  • Flashlight
  • Batteries
• Cell phone/charger
  • Whistle
  • Dust Masks
• Can Opener
• Cash (small bills)
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Get a Kit

- Personal Sanitation Items
- Plastic Sheeting/Duct Tape
  - Multi-tool
- Local/Regional Maps
- Important Documents
- Medications/Med Supplies
- Warm Clothes/Blankets
  - Comfort Items
- Pet Items
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Get a Kit

Sample Checklist for Emergency Kit

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Get a Kit
Grab & Go!
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Stay Informed
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Stay Informed

• Know local emergency management organizations’ phone #s, web pages
  • Emergency Mgmt, Fire/EMS, Law Enforcement, Social Services, etc!

• Subscribe to Alert Services
  • Reverse 9-1-1
  • Other Local Alert/Notification Systems
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Stay Informed

• Social Media
  • Facebook, Twitter, etc!

*Many city & county governments have Facebook & Twitter pages where you can go to find local and up-to-date info on emergency preparedness.
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The Official Government Web Site of Charles City County

Welcome - Windows Internet Explorer provided by VA IT Infrastructure Partnership

Home
Board of Supervisors
Departments
Emergency Management
2014 General Reassessment
County Calendar
Budget
2014 Draft Comprehensive Plan
County Code
Geographic Information System (GIS)
Courts
Staff
Contact Us
Policy & Legal
Site Map
Facebook
Twitter

Emergency Operations Plan
CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)
WENS (Wireless Emergency Notification System)

This site has been enabled with Browsealoud. Simply by scrolling your mouse over the text that you want read to you, Browsealoud will read and speak what is written. This helps you to navigate Browsealoud-enabled websites more easily.

10900 Courthouse Rd
P.O. Box 129
Charles City, VA 23030

Phones:
(804) 652-4701
Hours:
Monday-Friday 8 am to 4:30 pm

Telecommunications Survey

Please click here to find information about a survey the County is using as part of a broadband planning effort.

Oasis - Healthier Lifestyles

Consider becoming a volunteer on helping children develop healthier lifestyles. Click here.
Immediate Emergency Services:

In the event of an emergency always dial 911

Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Information:

The Mathews County Emergency Services office handles and coordinates all responses in the event of a natural disaster and or terrorist threat. The Emergency Services Coordinator attends many training meetings throughout the year in an effort to better prepare for proper response. This office does not hold normal business hours, instead it is an as-needed service and is always on-call. In the event of an emergency, the emergency operations center would be located in the Sheriff’s office at Liburn Square.

We would like to assure you that in the event of an emergency, our County officials are working hard for the safety and well-being of our citizens. For local information such as weather related closings, delays, warnings, watches, evacuations, etc., please tune to your local television stations or listen to your radio. The Mathews County Public Schools and the Mathews County Government offices will relay this information to the media as early in the morning as possible.

Below is a list of links to outside agencies that in the event of a man-made or natural disaster, you will be able to find information you need on how to prepare for or survive an event.

- National Weather Service/Wakefield
- Virginia Department of Emergency Management
- Ready.gov
- FEMA
- Centers for Disease Control
- American Red Cross
- Emergency Planning For The Family

If you would like to receive updates via reverse 911 phone system through our Public Emergency Alert system, please visit that website at www.coderea-va.com.
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Stay Informed

Who should I contact to learn more about emergency preparedness in my area?

• Local Jurisdiction Emergency Manager
  [www.vaemergency.gov/readyvirginia](http://www.vaemergency.gov/readyvirginia)

• Local Health District Emergency Coordinator
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Stay Informed

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio

• Programmed to WeatherBand Frequencies
• Plug-in and Battery-Powered
• AM and FM
• Approx $20 in most Big Box Stores
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Other Considerations

• Seniors
• Children
• Pets
• Non-English Speaking Population
• People w/Disabilities or Access and Functional Needs
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Other Considerations

• Orders to Evacuate or Shelter-in-Place
  • Evacuation Plans/Routes
  • Emergency Shelters
  • Your Vehicle
  • Livestock
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Other Considerations

Backup Power & Heat
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Other Considerations

Food Safety

www.fda.gov/downloads/Food/RecallsOutbreaksEmergencies/ucm076962.pdf

Water Safety

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Review and Update Your Emergency Plan and Kit Every Six Months
Other Considerations

Saturday September 27, 2014
Locations throughout Central VA
Sign Up at www.SurvivorDay.com
or dial 2-1-1

FREE Survivor Kit
One per household
(Must complete training)

Charles City
Government Center Building
10900 Courthouse Rd
Charles City VA 23030

Dinwiddie
Eastside Community
Enhancement Center
7501 Boyceton Flank Rd
Petersburg VA 23803

Heathco
Henrico County
Training Center
7701 E. Parham Rd
Henrico VA 23294

Hopewell
Hopewell City Hall - Council
Chambers
300 North Main St
Hopewell VA 23860

Powhatan
Powhatan Village Building 39120
Old Buckingham Rd
Powhatan VA 23139

Chesterfield
Eanes-Pittman Public Safety Training Center
6610 Public Safety Way
Chesterfield VA 23202

Goochland
Fire-Rescue Station #3
52 Road Street Road
Goodland VA 23103

Prince George
Moore Middle School
11455 Prince George Drive
Disputants VA 23842

Richmond
Main Library
101 E. Franklin St
Richmond VA 23219

Colonial Heights
Colonial Heights
Technical Center
3451 Conduit Rd
Colonial Heights VA 23834

Hanover
County Board Room
7516 County Complex Rd
Hanover VA 23039

Individuals with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations should contact Kathy Robbins, Senior Planner at the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission at 804-335-2000 or email at kathyr@rrpc.org prior to the event. Every effort will be made to provide reasonable accommodations.

Presented by the Central VA Emergency Management Alliance with funding from the US Department of Homeland Security. Points of view or opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of FEMA's Grant Program Directorate.
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Volunteer with Local Emergency Response Organizations
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National Terrorism Advisory System
• Replaced old color-coded Homeland Security Advisory System in 2011
• Alerts only issued when credible information is available
• Alerts include a clear statement that there is an imminent threat or elevated threat.
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More Useful Links & Resources

www.vaemergency.gov
www.vdh.virginia.gov
www.vamrc.org
www.dss.virginia.gov/community/211.cgi
www.ready.gov
www.fema.gov
www.redcross.org
www.survivorday.com
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More Useful Links & Resources

Propio Language Services

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Telephone access #</th>
<th>1-888-804-2044</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hanover Acct #xxxx</td>
<td>Goochland Acct #xxxx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles City Acct #xxxx</td>
<td>New Kent Acct #xxxx</td>
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<tr>
<td>WIC Staff Acct #xxxx</td>
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Please use the site’s acct. number where you are placing the call except for WIC staff.

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<tr>
<th>Cost Codes:</th>
<th>023 for non-grant (coop) services</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>423 for grant services</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIPS Code:</th>
<th>036 = Charles City</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>075 = Goochland</td>
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<td></td>
<td>085 = Hanover</td>
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<td></td>
<td>127 = New Kent</td>
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<td></td>
<td>000 = Grants</td>
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Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Service (CLAS) Resources

Navigating the U.S. Health Care System for Immigrants, Refugees and Migrants:

Language Identification Poster:

CLAS Act Virginia Website:

Virginia Medical Interpreter Database
VMID:

For more information or additional resources, please visit:
http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/OMHHE/healthequity/clasact.htm
or contact
Marilyn Breslow, CLAS Specialist
marilyn.breslow@vdh.virginia.gov
(804) 864-7438
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Questions?
Thank you!

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Chickahominy Health District
(804) 365-4345
Steven.rykal@vdh.virginia.gov

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