

Preparedness in the District of Columbia

“Our Regional Responsibility”

December 8, 2011



Vincent C. Gray
Mayor



Millicent D. West
Director

Agency's Mission

- **Mission:**

- The mission of the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency is to support and coordinate homeland security and emergency management efforts, ensuring that the District of Columbia's all-hazards emergency operations are prepared to protect against, plan for, respond to, and recover from natural and man-made hazards.

- **Vision:**

- Our vision is a safe and secure District of Columbia.

- **Summary of Services:**

- HSEMA coordinates all planning and preparedness efforts and ensures the development of a common operating picture before, during and following events and incidents, to facilitate good decision-making and to affect a coordinated response.



Agency's Guiding Principles

- **Residents First:**
 - All homeland security and emergency management efforts will be conducted in the best interest of all District residents and visitors
- **Risk-Based Approach:**
 - All preparedness, response and recovery efforts are based upon historical trends and data, current information and intelligence, and comprehensive risk-based planning
- **Capabilities–Based Planning:**
 - All planning efforts are based upon a functional analysis of operational requirements that dictate priority preparedness capabilities
- **Regional Coordination:**
 - Collaboration with partners in the National Capital Region as well as with the federal government in order to identify shared requirements, responsibilities, and capabilities
- **Performance Assessment and Accountability:**
 - Ensure that homeland security and emergency management preparedness, planning and recovery efforts are constantly improving and resources are allocated efficiently



Creating a Culture of Preparedness through: *Operations and Special Events Management*

Since January 2011 the Agency has:

- Processed over 100 special events through the Mayor's Special Events Task Group
- Processed over 400 Neighborhood Block Party applications
- Fully or Partially Activated the Emergency Operations Center for the following:
 - Mayoral Inauguration, State of the Union Address, BET Honors, Chinese New Year Parade, Cherry Blossom Parade and Sakura Matsuri Festival, St. Patrick's Day events, Thunder Alley, Capital Pride, National Marathon, Marine Corps Marathon, Army 10-Miler, George Washington University Graduation, Washington DC Triathlon, Safeway Barbecue Battle, Caribbean Carnival, Independence Day, Earthquake of August 23, Hurricane Irene
- Exercised capability of Continuity of Operations (COOP) site twelve times.
- Revised/Developed and Exercised Standard Operating Procedures for Joint All Hazards Operations Center (JAHOC)
- Provided Incident Management Team coordination for:
 - Winter 2011 snow events
 - North Capitol Street Power Outage
 - August 23 Earthquake Response
 - Hurricane Irene



Creating a Culture of Preparedness through: *Training and Exercise*

Since January 2011 the Agency has:

- Hosted “Mayor’s Senior Leaders Seminar on Emergency Preparedness” which included training on the Incident Command System (ICS-402) the District Response Plan (DRP) and a table top exercise with a three pronged scenario addressing natural, man-made and terror-related events – May 2011
 - Mayor’s Senior Leaders Functional Exercise for city leadership – August 2011
 - National Incident Management System (NIMS) training for senior leaders – Summer 2011
- Developed “*One City Service and Response Training*” for Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners in accordance with the “*One City Service and Response Training Emergency Act of 2011*”
- Presented the “Severe Weather Symposium” – July 2011
- Trained 50+ foster parents in basic preparedness fundamentals
- Hosted After-Action Conferences and developed After Action Reports for:
 - January 26, 2011 Snow Event
 - North Capitol Street Power Outage
- Presented the Citywide Full-Scale Exercise (Hurricane) – September 29, 2011
- Presented the Citywide Severe Winter Weather Tabletop Exercise – December 1, 2011



Creating a Culture of Preparedness through: *Outreach and Community Engagement*

Since January 2011, the Agency has:

- Participated in over 300 Community Events/Outreach Activities
- Implemented strategies to reach “special needs” populations
- Engaged private sector through presentations and by conducting four all-hazards business continuity response and recovery workshops in 2011
- Identified opportunities to meet the needs of generationally and culturally diverse communities
 - Working with DC Government agencies (and other partners) such as the Office on Aging, Office of Latino Affairs, Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, Department of Disability Services, etc.
- Planned 8 preparedness fairs in support of “Summer of Fun – Something for Everyone”
- Planned one functional exercise of the city’s emergency alert notification system for July 2011 (ALERT DC)
- Worked with community members to create “Community Emergency Management Plans” in conjunction with Serve DC



Creating a Culture of Preparedness through: *Planning & Preparedness Activities*

Since January 2011 the Agency has:

- Held “Community Conversations” in conjunction with FEMA and the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security (Wards 2, 4, 5, 8) to identify needs and ongoing concerns regarding the state of preparedness in the District
- Successfully hosted three Emergency Preparedness Council (EPC) Meetings
- Coordinating with District stakeholders to re-write the District Response Plan (DRP) and other emergency plans
- Coordinating with District stakeholders to develop “Special Needs” definition for the District of Columbia
- Provided technical assistance to District agencies in developing Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans, and agency COOP exercises - ongoing
- Participated in Department of Homeland Security “data call” for critical infrastructure assets
- Developed “First Hour Checklist” for emergencies/emergency response in the District
- Prepared CONOPS (Concept of Operations Plans) and Incident Action Plans (IAPs) for the following: Mayoral Inauguration, State of the Union Address, BET Honors, Chinese New Year Parade, Cherry Blossom Parade and Sakura Matsuri Festival, St. Patrick’s Day events, Thunder Alley, Capital Pride, Washington DC Triathlon, Barbecue Battle, Caribbean Carnival, Independence Day

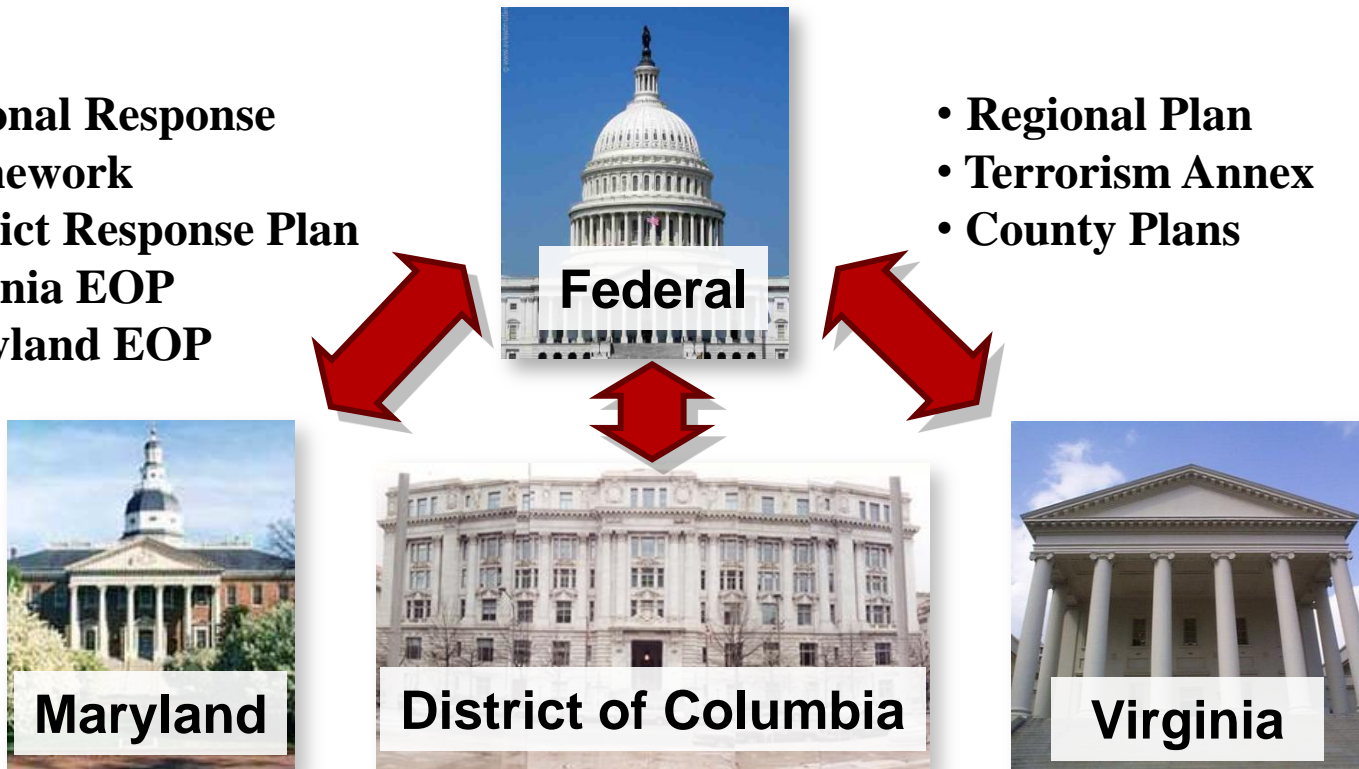


Regional and National Coordination

- The unique relationship between the local District Government, the Federal Government located within the District's jurisdiction, and the surrounding National Capitol Region's (NCR) local and state governments, all pose a coordination challenge, especially for evacuation efforts.

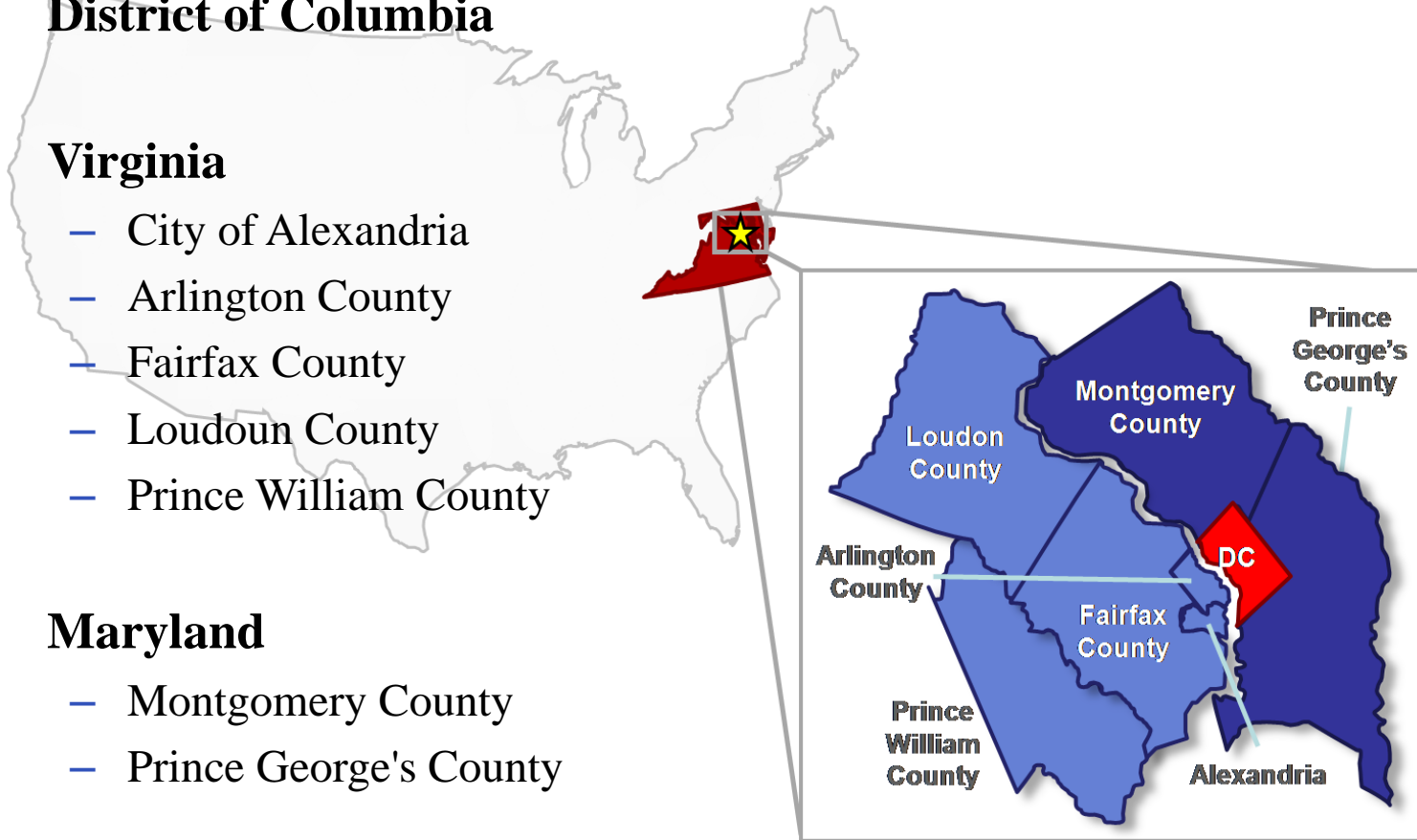
- **National Response Framework**
- **District Response Plan**
- **Virginia EOP**
- **Maryland EOP**

- **Regional Plan**
- **Terrorism Annex**
- **County Plans**



National Capital Region

- **District of Columbia**
- **Virginia**
 - City of Alexandria
 - Arlington County
 - Fairfax County
 - Loudoun County
 - Prince William County
- **Maryland**
 - Montgomery County
 - Prince George's County



Major Challenges Facing the Region

PRIORITY THREATS

- **Terrorist Threats:**
 - Improvised Explosive Devices
 - Aircraft as a Weapon
 - Hostage Taking/Assassination
 - Chemical and/or Biological Agents
 - Cyber Attack
- **Natural Disasters:**
 - Hurricanes
 - Winter storms
 - Thunderstorms
 - Extreme Heat/Cold
 - Earthquakes
 - Tornadoes

POSSIBLE HAZARDS

- **Urban Issues:**
 - Transportation Accidents
 - Urban Crime
 - Urban Fires
 - Urban Flooding
 - Utility Failures (e.g., power outages, water main breaks)
- **Other Concerns:**
 - Demonstrations/Civil Disturbances
 - Critical Resource Shortages
 - Viruses and Epidemics



Events that make DC a Unique Jurisdiction

- **Holiday Activities**
 - Independence Day
 - Christmas Tree Lighting
 - Thunder Road
- **National Special Security Events**
- **IMF / World Bank Meetings**
- **Presidential Election**
- **Presidential Inauguration**
- **State Funerals**
- **Festivals**
- **Parades**
- **Sporting Events**
 - Professional Sports
 - Marathons
- **Memorial Dedications**



Thank You For Your Attention

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