

# Emergency Preparedness



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## Recommendations For Our Foreign Embassy Partners

Presented by  
The District of Columbia Fire & EMS Department  
Fire Prevention Division

# The Goals



- Explain DC Fire and EMS responsibility in the District of Columbia's Emergency Response Plan
- Heighten awareness that life safety and preservation is everyone's responsibility.
- Address human contribution to life safety in a building (Embassy) when fire or other emergencies occur.
- Highlight how the level of preparation by building occupants can improve the emergency responders abilities during an emergency.

# Making The Difference



- Technological code advances have really help today's fire service in promoting life and property preservation.
- Building features properly designed and maintained are critical and increases survivability chances greatly during and emergency.
  - ✓ Fire Protection Systems (Sprinklers)
  - ✓ Fire Protection/ Notification Systems
  - ✓ Fire Resistance-Ratings
  - ✓ Properly designed Egress systems

# The Challenge



Even with technological advancements, the human factor remains a huge challenge for the fire services.

**WE NEED TO CONTINUE LEARN  
FROM OUR MISTAKES!**

# THE RELATIONSHIP



The District of Columbia Fire Service has no authority to govern the actions and activities that take place within Federal Enclaves or embassies. However, our goals and practices should remain inline with one another at all levels.

**Ensure a safe atmosphere for employees, visitors, and Residents!**

- ✓ Local
- ✓ Federal
- ✓ Embassies

# DC Fire & EMS ROLE



FEMS responds to calls from residents, visitors, and organizations in the District. The department accomplishes this responsibility through five areas of operations:

1. Fire Prevention—preventing fires before they occur
2. Fire Suppression—extinguishing fires that do occur
3. Special Operations—technical rescue
4. Emergency Medical Services—providing pre-hospital emergency medical treatment and transport services.
5. Support Services—including administration, finance, communication, fleet maintenance, research and development, risk management, professional standards, management information and technology services, and departmental training.

# DC Fire & EMS ROLE



## District of Columbia's Emergency Response Plan

### Emergency Support Function (ESF) #4 Firefighting

- Manages and coordinates firefighting activities including search, rescue, containment, suppression, coordination of evacuation in hazard areas, and delivery of emergency medical services.

# DC Fire & EMS ROLE



## Emergency Support Function (ESF) #9—Search and Rescue (SAR)

Rapidly deploys components of the District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department (FEMS) to provide specialized lifesaving assistance in the event of an emergency involving structural collapse or other technical rescue.

- Structural Collapse (Urban) Search and Rescue (US&R);
- Waterborne Search and Rescue;
- Inland/Wilderness Search and Rescue; and
- Aeronautical Search and Rescue.



# DC Fire & EMS ROLE



## Emergency Support Function (ESF) #10 Oil and Hazardous Materials Response

- Provide a coordinated response to actual or potential discharges and/or releases of oil, chemical, biological, radiological, or other hazardous substances in the District of Columbia.

# What is an emergency ?



- An “emergency” is an event that jeopardizes
  - ❑ The occupants of a building
  - ❑ The building
  - ❑ The contents of the building
- Types of emergencies
  - ❑ Natural
  - ❑ Human based



# Emergency Preparedness



Emergency Preparedness in relation to the fire code focuses primarily on the actions of the occupants of the building or structure.

**What Impacts Emergency Preparedness in a building?**

- ✓ High levels of care related to the concentration of people.
- ✓ Physical and mental capabilities of the occupants.
- ✓ Lack of familiarity with a building
- ✓ Complexity and size of the building.

# Managing Occupants



The management of occupants in an emergency is primarily moving them away from the hazard.

- ✓ Have and Emergency Response Plan
- ✓ Verify to you have enough exits and exit capacity.
- ✓ Ensure that they are immediately accessible, adequately arrange, properly identified, and suitably protected as recommended by the fire/building codes.
- ✓ Occupants must not only know where the exits are but, when and how to use them **"TRAINING"** as recommended by the fire code.

# Managing Occupants



Various factors and situations can sometimes make building evacuation difficult or impractical.

Become familiar:

- ✓ The building, its systems, and features
- ✓ The Occupants

**Discuss potential problems to find solutions!**

# HOW CAN WE HELP ONE ANOTHER?



## When the DC Fire & EMS Department is called to an Embassy for an emergency:

- ✓ We are guided by instructions from the embassy security and will not enter until asked to do so.
- ✓ If the call was made from inside the embassy, please ensure that the information is relayed to the embassy's security staff.
- ✓ Ensure that there is an onsite interpreter to address any language barrier issues.
- ✓ Ensure that there is a listing of numbers for emergency contact persons available.

# THANK YOU



For more information on emergency preparedness, emergency evacuation planning, and the fire code please contact:



DC Fire & EMS Department  
Fire Prevention Division  
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**(202) 727-1614**  
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