

The Seaboard

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Hurricane Preparedness Week May 15-21, 2016

It only takes one storm to change your life and community. Tropical cyclones are among nature’s most powerful and destructive phenomena. If you live in an area prone to tropical cyclones, you need to be prepared. Even areas well away from the coastline can be threatened by dangerous flooding, destructive winds and tornados.

Hurricane Preparedness Week is your time to prepare for a potential land falling tropical storm or hurricane. Learn how with the daily tips below. Share these with your family and friends to ensure that they are prepared.

- May 15th: Determine your risk.
- May 16th: Develop an evacuation plan.
- May 17th: Secure an insurance check.
- May 18th: Assemble disaster supplies.
- May 19th: Strengthen your home.
- May 20th: Identify your trusted sources of information.
- May 21st: Complete your written hurricane plan.

Check out the NHC web site, <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov> for more info.



Tri—County CERT Meeting

The Joint Planning meeting with Worcester , Wicomico , and Sussex Counties and Ocean City CERT was held on Wednesday April 13th at the Fire Training Center in Newark. Somerset and Dorchester Counties were also invited.

The purpose of the meeting was for each represented group to conduct an overview about their current organization including goals, objectives, and

training. Some of the topics discussed were recertification in CPR/first aid, getting the CERT word out through social media, and possibly creating a CERT brochure with action pictures.

One of the most important discussions was getting CERT personnel active in their own neighborhood. The best ways to do this included handing out Preparedness pamphlets, as well as talking to them about being

prepared and finding out how you can help.

Kelly Brinkley from Worcester County Volunteer Services gave a talk about giving back and volunteering within your community. It just “makes one feel good”.

Preparedness pamphlets can be picked up for distribution from Worcester County Emergency Services. Please contact Tom Kane at 410-632-3080.



SKYWARN

The SKYWARN presentation on April 6th, at Wor-Wic Community College was very well attended. Bill Sammler from the NWS at Wakefield, VA. gave the presentation. “SKYWARN storm spotters are part of the ranks of citizens who form the Nation’s first line of defense against severe weather. There can be no finer reward than to know that their efforts have given communities the precious gift of time—seconds and minutes that can help save lives”.

Please check out the NWS Wakefield website for more information.

WCHD Conference

Early in April we had the opportunity to set up a display at the Worcester County Health Department’s annual conference in Ocean City. A lot of Preparedness pamphlets were given out and there were many inquisitions about the next CERT class. Thank you current and past CERT members for talking it up.



Emergency Management Institute



FEMA

I have had some questions recently about advanced training for CERT personnel and what would I recommend. My thoughts about training are that “you can never have enough tools for the tool box”. So never stop training; train when your time permits. Here are some recommendations:

The Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, MD offers on-line Independent Study courses for free. Here is the website: <http://training.fema.gov>. To start the course work, you must register for your FE-MA SID number. This number will be yours forever. You will use it to register for future classes or get copies of your transcript. The link for this is on the front page of the web site. There are hundreds of classes on many topics. After you register for the class, go to the exam page and print it. Then go back and take the course. When you complete the course you'll take the exam electronically and submit it. Then you will receive an email within an hour or so about your success with the exam. If you pass, there will be a FEMA certificate attached. If you are unsuccessful, you are free to take the exam again.

A few of my recommendations are:

- 1 - Emergency Management
- 10, 11 - Animals.
- 100, 200, 700, 800 - Incident Command
- 315, 317 - CERT courses
- 324 - Hurricanes

There are more topics available and the content areas are quite varied.

Another source is the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) web site. Here is the link: <http://mema.maryland.gov>. Toward the bottom of the page there is a link for Training & Exercise Calendar. This will take you to the access MEMA LMS page. Then go to View Events Calendar. All of these classes are free and do involve classroom time. If I could recommend an Incident Command class, it would be the ICS 300 - Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents. This class is 3 days long. It is offered locally in Worcester County twice a year.

As we have said in our classes and meetings, if there is a training topic that you would like to have and share with CERT personnel, let us know. We will put forth our best effort to make it happen.

Thanks again for all you do. Give me a call or send an email if you have any questions or ideas.

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