

# The Seaboard

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## Watch for Potential Fraud & Scams

Do you live in an area that has been declared a disaster? Do you know somebody who is in a declared disaster area and you want to help them? To safeguard against disaster related fraud, FEMA officials recommend the following precautions:

1. Ask for ID. A FEMA or SBA shirt or jacket is not absolute proof. Federal employees carry official, laminated photo ID.
2. Safeguard personal information, such as your Social Security or bank account numbers. Some companies require the last four digits of your SS number to access your account. FEMA inspectors never require this information.

3. Federal workers never solicit or accept money and don't charge for inspections.
4. FEMA inspectors verify damage but do not hire or endorse specific contractors to fix homes or recommend repairs.

Just because we are out of Hurricane Season doesn't mean we can't get hit with, or guide somebody else with, winter weather damage.

Anyone in doubt about the authenticity of a FEMA or Small Business Administration (SBA) representative may call the toll-free tele-registration number at (800) 621-FEMA and select the helpline option to speak with an operator.

### FEMA Staff: These are examples of FEMA federal identification:

FEMA Employee (Legacy Style Badge)	Other Agency Employee Working with FEMA	FEMA Contractor (may also have Red Border)	FEMA Urban Search & Rescue	Back of Identification Credential	Personal Identity Verification (PIV) Card

## MEMA: A Center for Preparedness Excellence

The Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) has a staff of over 70 emergency management professionals divided into three directorates: Preparedness, Operations, and Administration.

The Preparedness Directorate includes exercises and training, planning, public information, private sector integration, mitigation, and recovery.

The Operations Directorate includes regional programs, the Maryland Joint Operations Center.

The Administrations Directorate handles agency logistics,

personnel, supplies, fiscal services, grants management, and technology support. The Executive Director's office has overall responsibility for the agency and direct interaction with the national Capital Region activities.

MEMA 101: Intro. to MEMA. This short video is available to anyone, and the purpose is to help communicate the mission and scope that MEMA is responsible for. Here is the link:

<https://youtu.be/54utQg7CA00>

Local Recovery Planning Toolkit: This Local Recovery Planning Toolkit includes materials to support locally managed

short term and intermediate recovery efforts, as well as materials to assist with the transition

to long term recovery managed by a Long Term Recovery Committee. Here is the toolkit link:

<http://mema.maryland.gov/Pages/Local-Recovery-Planning-Toolkit.aspx>

The reason why I mentioned these resources is because between Gatlinburg, TN, Wayne County, NC, and VA. Beach, VA, there is a lot of recovery continuing and I thought that it would just give you a perspective on those places and how lucky we are. Hopefully we won't need these resources but if we do, we know where to look for them.



## Training

There will be a CERT class starting March 6, 2017, and it will be at the Ocean Pines Fire Co., 911 Ocean Pkwy., Berlin, MD. Anyone wanting to get information or register can email me or call my office.

On Saturday March 11th, there will be a Compass and Map Reading class in OC at the Beach Patrol Headquarters on Talbot St., 2nd floor. The class will run from 8 a.m. to approximately 12:30 p.m.

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These are pictures from our Skills Day back in November. Top left is Mike Collins explaining shoring and cribbing. Top right is Connie Rhode explaining stand pipes and gas cut off.

Bottom is Bill Lubeck and Joe Lieb helping with loads, lifts, and carries. Of course CPR, AED, and First Aid were covered. Once a CERT, always a CERT! We can hold review sessions any time we get a group of CERT members who want to review. Thanks and be safe.