

The Seaboard

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The Public as a Resource

“In the case of almost any disaster, the fastest response will be from your neighbor.” This is a quote from Craig Fugate, past director of FEMA. I think it is true! If we think about all the disasters lately, hurricanes, fires, and shootings, the 911 system is being taxed to its limits. The bigger the disaster, the less likely our local government can provide the best response. That leaves the burden on the general public to be the responder and care giver until help arrives.

For smaller disasters there are multiple organizations that can respond, our local VOADs, Red Cross, Faith Based groups, Salvation Army, and so on. For larger disasters there is such a high demand for services that we wind up falling short on providing those services whether they be public or emergency services. In these situations, we have in the past told the public to be patient and wait. I do not think this is the best solution

and may increase the number of injuries or lives lost.

The solution is to encourage the public to take CERT, or another first responder class, so we can learn how to best help ourselves, our family, and/or our neighbors.

Municipalities also need to put forth the effort to keep the public involved in the Emergency Planning process and encourage participation in training events such as CERT. Our Outreach presentations are another avenue to preach preparedness and tell the public about classes available to make you, your family, and your neighbors better prepared for disasters.

Thank you for all that you do!!

Until Help Arrives

This past September, our office, along with Volunteer Services offered a short 3 hour FEMA course called Until Help Arrives at the Ocean Pines Library. We thought that, since September was Preparedness Month, this would be a good time to host such a program. The premise of the course was to emphasize that **“You are the Help Until Help Arrives”**. The goal was to teach participants the basic skills to keep people with life threatening injuries alive until professional help arrives. We covered topics such as:

1. Call 911 - How it works and what to expect.
2. Stay Safe - You are #1, sizing up the scene, and general safety practices.
3. Stop the bleeding - Use of a tourniquet and what causes shock.
4. Position the Injured - Preserving body position for both the conscious and unconscious.
5. Provide Comfort - Using simple words and actions to provide comfort and assistance to the injured.

the two presentation dates with 20-25 participants for each session. We advertised through our Public Information Officer, who used social media and regular media to get the word out. Each topic had a different speaker which added variety to the presentations.

If anybody would like more information about this program, or the possibility of presenting to your group/organization, please contact Tom Kane by phone at (410) 632-3080 or by email at tkane@co.worcester.md.us.

6. Before You Go/Prepare At Home - Have a Plan, what supplies to have ready, sign up for alerts, and train/practice your skills.

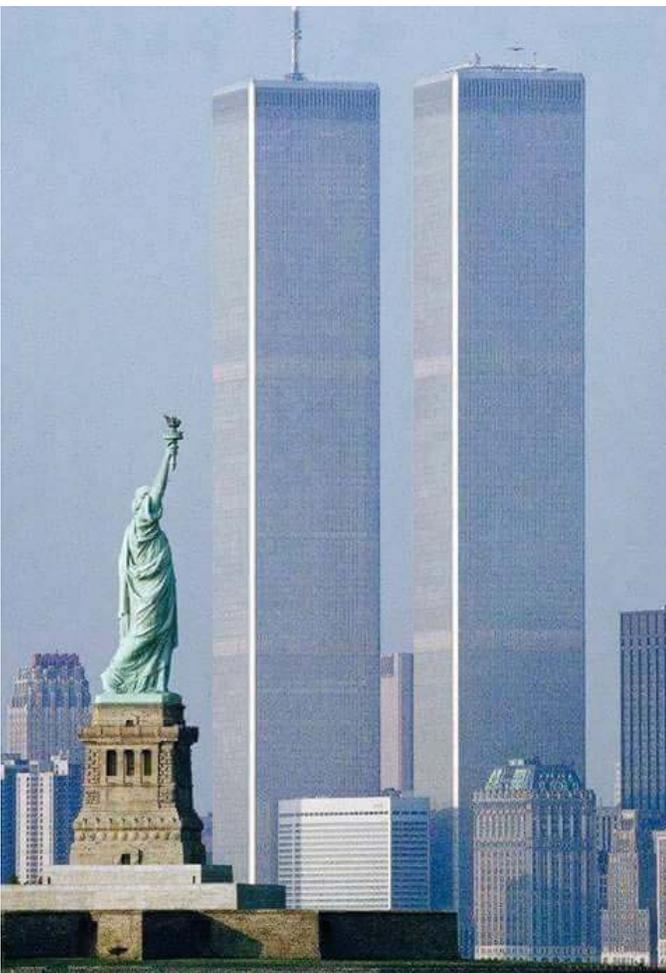
We had a very good turnout for

Reminder: Our current CERT class is in full swing. It is at the Fire Training Center in Newark and we have 18 enrolled. Our skills day is November 4th, 8am-12pm at the FTC. If anybody wants to stop by and help with skills or go through a station for a refresher, you are welcome to attend. Call me to register.

CERT ID Cards

If any current or past CERT personnel would like an ID card with your picture on it, make an appointment with me. The card has to be made here in Snow Hill in our Emergency Operating Center because that is where the photo machine is located, plus, if you are interested, this will provide an ideal opportunity to tour our facility including the 911 center.

Having the ID card could prove useful in identifying yourself should you roll up on an accident scene or be asked to help out with an event.



Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore

We would like to send along our deepest thanks and gratitude to the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore and Kelly Brinkley of Worcester County Volunteer Connection for providing a grant that we are benefiting from. Kelly wrote the grant and with it we have purchased a Rescue Randy (pictured to the right), a wound simulation kit to simulate bleeding and care, CPR masks, and other tools for our CERT classes. This will allow us to have more hands on practice and continuing skills assessment. We are very lucky and very thankful!



Winter Weather

With winter fast approaching, NOAA has released their winter weather outlook. It looks like we are in line for an average year according to the probability maps.

Temperatures has a higher probability to be warmer than normal across the eastern and southern portions of the US. Precipitation has equal chances of normal occurrence.

Even though the last two winters have seen above average temperatures, snow storms can still occur. Snow storms are generally not predictable more than a week in advance because they depend on the strength and track of the storm. Also La Niña can influence our winter weather, but NOAA predicts it will be weak and potentially short lived. La Niña usually influences above average precipitation and colder than average temperatures across the northern US and below normal precipitation and drier conditions across the southern US. Again, we appear to fall right in the center.

Essentially, just flip a coin and be prepared and follow the weather as the season approaches!