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N.B. # 2
1-25-03

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City of Alexandria to Host Full Scale Hazardous Materials Drill

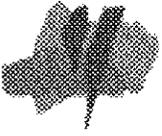
The City of Alexandria, in cooperation with several other public safety agencies, is planning a full-scale hazardous materials drill for Saturday, Feb. 8. The drill will be held in and around the Albert V. Bryan US Courthouse in Alexandria from 8:30 am until about 3 pm. The exercise will simulate a hazardous materials release during a fictitious high media and public day at the federal courthouse. Jamieson Avenue from Englehardt to Mill Road and Elizabeth Lane will be closed during part of the drill.

"This exercise is not in response to any threat nor to any change in the federal government's threat level," said James Gower, Acting Fire Chief. "This drill culminates months of preparation, training and practice exercises. It will provide participating agencies an opportunity to develop interagency coordination and to assess their state of readiness."

In addition to members of the Alexandria Fire Department HazMat team, participants will come from the Alexandria Police and Sheriff's Departments, US Marshals Service, Federal Protective Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, US Marine Corps Chemical Biological Incident Response Force, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, and US Attorney's Office. More than 300 people will be participating as role players and responders.

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Jane Malik

01/24/03 01:39 PM

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Subject: Training Exercise Advisory

The following letter regarding an upcoming training exercise is being distributed to the businesses surrounding the federal courthouse.

January 24, 2003

The City of Alexandria and the U.S. Marshal would like to share with you information about an emergency preparedness exercise that will be held on Saturday, February 8, at the Albert V. Bryan U.S. Courthouse. The City of Alexandria will conduct a full-scale hazardous materials drill to give City public safety departments and a variety of local, state, and federal agencies an opportunity to practice a coordinated response to an emergency. The drill, a large scale version of the Fire Department's annual hazardous materials exercise, is part of an ongoing emergency preparedness program.

The drill will simulate a hazardous materials emergency involving an overturned training tanker trailer on a fictitious high media and public day at the federal courthouse. Volunteers will play the role of "victims" both inside and outside the courthouse building. The exercise is expected to run from 8:00 am until about 3:00 pm plus additional time for setting it up prior to the event and cleaning up afterwards. Jamieson Avenue from Englehart to Mill Road and Elizabeth Lane will be closed during part of the drill. Significant impacts on nearby properties are not anticipated.

Judging by reaction to past exercises, we know that there will be citizens who would like to be involved as role play "victims" in this drill. If you or any of your associates would like to be role players, please call the Alexandria Fire Department at 703-838-4600 for information about signing up.

Participating agencies will include the Alexandria Fire Department, Alexandria Police Department, Alexandria Office of Sheriff, U.S. Marshal's Service, Federal Protective Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Marine Corps' Chemical Biological Incident Response Force, Virginia Department of Emergency Management and U.S. Attorney's Office. More than 300 people are expected to participate as responders and role players.

If you have any questions, call Jane Malik, Alexandria Fire Department, 703-838-4339.

James T. Gower
Fire Chief

John F. Clark
U.S. Marshal