EXHIBIT NO. 1

WS
9-13-05

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION ON THE CITY'S EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2005

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE MEETING

COUNCIL WORK ROOM

AGENDA

1.	Opening Comments	City Manager James K. Hartmann
2.	Presentation	Emergency Management Coordinator Mark Penn
3.	Council Comments	

Individuals with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements to participate in the City Council Work Session may call the City Clerk and Clerk of Council's Office at 838-4500 (TTY/TDD 838-5056). We request that you provide a 48-hour notice so that the proper arrangements may be made.

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Alexandria City's Emergency Preparedness

PLANS

The City has a good, detailed Emergency Operations Plan.

Plans are developed utilizing experiences and assumptions of known or assumed risks. Whenever we experience new disasters we evaluate our plans and adjust accordingly.

The City updated the Emergency Operations Plan to reflect lessons learned during the response to Hurricane Isabel.

Some of the changes included:

The development with Transportation and Environmental Services of a site investigation study for debris management, which can be used for future events that require the management of debris such as a hurricane.

The development of a Regional Mitigation plan through the Northern Virginia Regional Commission. This plan will develop projects to mitigate natural disasters in the Northern Virginia Region.

Adoption of the National Incident Management System

EVACUATION PLANS

The City plans to evacuate people as needed depending on the emergency incident. We do not share the same risks as New Orleans for a hurricane and flood.

Generally, evacuations involve only a portion of the City. Most common is evacuation to a school or other facility for a localized incident.

If evacuation out of Alexandria is necessary, we will use the major routes in the City, Duke Street, King Street, Route 1, Interstate 495 and Interstate 395.

We plan to use Dash buses and school buses when necessary.

We will notify people using our Telephone Emergency Notification System (TENS), going door to door, or by public address system, radio, TV, and weather alert radio.

We have designated buildings to be used as shelters; we will notify people where to go.

We are working with others in the region to develop evacuation plans involving large numbers of evacuees.

SOME LESSONS FROM HURRICANE KATRINA AND PREVIOUS EVENTS

Every citizen needs to be personally prepared for up to three days with water, food, medicine, blankets, flashlights, etc. until emergency personnel can get to them.

People need to tune into official messages regarding evacuations or shelter-in-place recommendations. Purchase weather alert radios; listen to official news reports.

Detailed evacuation plans are needed that includes support for those without transportation and proper sheltering options with appropriate support.

All communities need continuity of government operations plans that include relocation plans to sustain local governments during disasters.

The locality needs to be self reliant for at least 72 hours before outside help will arrive.

Command and control needs to be defined and visible.

All plans must be operational.

WHAT IS THE CITY DOING?

PLANS UPDATE

The City has recently completed a self assessment of our emergency management program by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program.

We will be adjusting our plans to meet the standards of the program.

Plans are in place to update our plans and procedures to mirror the Federal Response Plan and the National Incident Management System including the shift to utilizing Emergency Support Functions (ESFs).

The City is involved in regional planning efforts at the Council of Governments and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission. The region has committed to update plans to reflect lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina.

The City is beginning the development of a Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) as a part of a regional planning effort.

DISASTER EXERCISES

The City has participated in several regional terrorism exercises, which included the entire National Capital Region.

The City held two exercises, one focused on distribution of medicine/vaccine coordinated with the Health Department and the other a full exercise of the City's Emergency Operations Center.

The City is preparing another exercise using our Emergency Operations Center in October 2005.

The City will be participating in a Northern Virginia Regional Exercise in January 2006.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASES

Federal and State funds have enabled us to purchase equipment such as:

Two Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) trailers with large quantities of protective suits, gloves, boots, re-breathers, decontamination equipment.

A Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) trailer with medical treatment equipment such as a stock of triage tags and mats, backboards, oxygen, IV bags, bandages, and other supplies to treat approximately 300 stable patients and 50 critical patients.

40 Personal Dosimeters located in the Police, Sheriff, and Fire Departments. The devices warn personnel that there are measurable radiological levels at a scene.

A Portable Radiological Monitor: The portable radiological monitor, similar to an airport screening system, is a walk-through screening unit.

Variable message sign boards

Generators for traffic signals

Satellite Phones

TRAINING

The City has provided advanced training to Police, Fire, Sheriff, Health, Transportation and Environmental Services and other employees related to their response to major incidents.

SPECIALTY TEAMS

The City has specialty teams and offices:

Tech Rescue, Hazardous Materials, Marine Operations, SWAT, Medic-SWAT, Homeland Security – Policing Unit, Canine Unit, Office on Intelligence and Internal Security (Police Department), and Office of Emergency Management (Fire Department).

PUBLIC EDUCATION EFFORTS

"Be Ready," an Alexandria awareness campaign, continues to send volunteers door-to-door with emergency preparedness kits. The literature bags contain English/Spanish preparedness fact sheets, Red Cross/FEMA family disaster planning information, and a magnet with emergency contact numbers in Alexandria. Over 12,000 households have been reached so far.

City staff in the Police Department and Office of Emergency Management and Health Department staff have provided preparedness programs to civic associations and other groups.

The City has over 200 trained Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members to help in the time of disaster.

The Citizen Corps Council held an Emergency Preparedness Public Forum last year. People in attendance were invited to ask questions or comment on emergency preparedness issues in Alexandria.

City Council reconstituted the Citizens Corps Council with representatives from across the City.

A Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) has been started by the Health Department with over 35 trained volunteers.

The City has partnered with the Alexandria Chapter of the American Red Cross and the National Capital Region Preparedness Campaign.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MESSAGES

Grant money is being used to hire a contractor to develop multi-language emergency management/public information messages to be ready in case of an emergency affecting non-English speaking Alexandrians.

CITIZEN/EMPLOYEE NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS

Later this fall the City will offer a public notification system with the ability to send text messaging to any web capable device including cellular telephones, personal digital assistants (PDA), pagers, Blackberry devices, and e-mail accounts. Other jurisdictions in the region have similar systems.

The City has the TENS system – a Telephone Emergency Notification System which enables the City to send voice messages to every phone number in the 911 database if necessary.

The region through the Council of Governments is considering the use of outdoor warning devices such as sirens to alert our citizens. There is currently a pilot project being formulated, but this has not been finalized. We will continue to work with others in the region and report back on this.

WHAT SHOULD CITIZENS BE DOING?

MAKE A PLAN/ GET A KIT/ TUNE IN/BE TRAINED

Each person/family/business needs to have a plan. Choose a meeting place, have an out of town contact, plan where to go and who to stay with, if you have a pet make arrangements before a disaster strikes, most shelters do not accept pets.

Get a kit, include food, water, medicine, important papers, battery operated radio, flashlight, first aid supplies, personal hygiene items and more for at least three days.

Tune in! Purchase a weather alert radio, listen to WTOP the official emergency information radio channel 820 am, 1500 am, 104.3 fm and 107.7 fm.

Each person should participate in training programs offered by the Red Cross or the Community Emergency Response Team training offered by the City. Sign up at www.alexandriava.gov/fire/CERT or call 703-706-3940 ext. 231.

QUESTIONS?