

# News Release: Volunteers Needed to Act as an “Evacuee” for Prince George’s County Office of Emergency Management Preparedness Exercise

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For Immediate Release

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Prince George’s County Office of Emergency Management

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**UPPER MARLBORO, MD** – The Prince George’s County Office of Emergency Management will conduct an Evacuation and Sheltering Preparedness Exercise on Friday, July 11, 2014, from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School, 12650 Brooke Lane, and surrounding vicinity in Upper Marlboro, MD. The exercise provides County stakeholders an opportunity to test and evaluate the management of an all-hazards emergency that could affect the safety of persons within Prince George’s County. The exercise scenario also involves the simulation of flooding in various communities throughout the County. Volunteer actor participants are needed to enhance the opportunity for emergency responders to practice readiness and enhance capabilities. If interested in volunteering as an actor for this exercise, please click **here** (<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/pgc-oem-evacuation-and-sheltering-exercise-tickets-11884399559>) to register.

Individuals, including those with specific access needs, are encouraged to participate in this exercise. In addition, individuals with movement devices (wheel chairs, etc.) are encouraged to use these items during the exercise. Snacks and hot lunches will be provided to all exercise participants. Registration closes at midnight on Tuesday, July 8, 2014. Prince George’s County Public School students can receive community service hours for participating in this event.

The exercise will include the actual movement of actor participants from predetermined locations in the County to a shelter. The predetermined locations will simulate evacuation collection points and a door to door evacuation process. During the collection process actors will be given an evacuee profile, which will contain challenges to present to responders during the exercise. Each participant will be provided with a reporting location and time. Volunteers should not report directly to Wise High School unless directed to do so by exercise organizers.

This exercise gives County agencies and partner nongovernmental organizations an opportunity to apply emergency evacuation plans and policies affecting residents during certain emergency situations. The overall objective is to demonstrate the ability to effectively evacuate large neighborhoods within the County and establish appropriate facilities for sheltering the affected population and their pets in accordance with existing plans and procedures.

The goals of this exercise are to:

- Demonstrate Operations of the Evacuation Task Force
- Demonstrate Operations of Public Information and Warning Systems
- Demonstrate Operations of Evacuation Site Management
- Demonstrate Activation of Mass Care Shelters for People and Pets

The Prince George's County Office of Emergency Management is also advising residents in the vicinity of Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School to note the increased activity of public safety personnel and vehicles on this day is in response to this training exercise and not a real emergency. If questions about this exercise, please call the Prince George's County Office of Emergency Management at **(301) 780-8157 (tel:%28301%29%20780-8157)**. For media inquiries about this exercise or to cover this event, please contact Rhonda Jackson at **301-780-8180 (tel:301-780-8180)**.

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Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), one of the nation's 20th largest school districts, has 201 schools and centers, more than 133,000 students and nearly 20,000 employees. The school system serves a diverse student population from urban, suburban and rural communities located in the Washington, DC suburbs. PGCPS is nationally recognized for college and career-readiness programs that provide students with unique learning opportunities, including dual enrollment and language immersion.

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