



NEWS RELEASE

St. Charles County Government Department of Community Health and the Environment

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAY WORKSHOP TO EMPHASIZE DISASTER PLANNING AMONG AREA FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

St. Charles County, Missouri – In a disaster, many look to their faith as a means for support. When a tornado, flood, fire, disease outbreak or other emergency impacts our community, faith organization leaders may wonder — “What Can We Do to Help?” or “What Resources Can Help Us?”

To help answer those questions and to illustrate plans available to help individuals, families and entire organizations, a variety of agencies in Lincoln, St. Charles and Warren counties are teaming to present a ***Faith-Based Emergency Planning Workshop*** on Tuesday, May 7 at Quail Ridge Lodge (5501 Quail Ridge Parkway in Wentzville, inside St. Charles County’s Quail Ridge Park). Beginning at 9 a.m., the workshop will help faith leaders and congregations prepare for, respond to and recover from potentially dangerous or disruptive events. Those interested in attending this event should register before April 26 at <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/3403823929> or by calling Doug Bolnick at (636) 949-7408.

Open to faith leaders from all denominations, the three-hour conference will emphasize planning as a means for protecting the congregation and reducing the disruption of normal operations for the organization. Among the topics covered during the ***Faith-Based Emergency Planning Workshop*** are:

- Cole County Sheriff ***Greg White*** (an ordained minister himself) will provide the conference’s welcoming address and will explain “The Impact of Preparedness Planning on Recovery.”
- ***Mark Dietrich***, from the St. Louis County Office of Emergency Management, will outline the scope of preparedness planning through “I Didn’t Know What I DID NOT KNOW!”
- ***Emma Epplin***, from the Lincoln County Health Department; ***TJ Runge***, from the American Red Cross; and ***Doug Bolnick***, from the St. Charles County Department of Community Health and the Environment; will illustrate “How to Develop a Family and Individual Preparedness Plan.”
- ***Ina McCaine-Obenland***, St. Charles County Division of Emergency Management, ***Ed Gilliam***, City of St. Peters Office of Emergency Management, and ***Michael Daniels***, Warren County Emergency Management Agency, will discuss “How and Why Develop an Organizational Plan?”
- St. Charles County Community Organizations Active in Disaster Chairperson ***Sheila Harris-Wheeler*** will lead a presentation on community resources entitled, “Getting Involved – the Next Steps”

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Agencies sponsoring the *Faith-Based Emergency Planning Workshop* are: the American Red Cross, Barnes-Jewish St. Peters Hospital, Community Council of St. Charles County, Community Organizations Active in Disaster, Crider Health Center, the Lincoln County Emergency Management Agency, the Lincoln County Health Department, Lincoln County Medical Center, Progress West HealthCare Center, St. Charles County Government, the St. Charles County Ambulance District, Sts. Joachim and Ann Care Service, SSM Health Care, the State of Missouri, and Warren County Government.

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