



Disaster Resistant Times

Shenandoah Valley Project Impact

Citizen Corps Council and CERT Member Newsletter

Spring 2010

SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS AND TORNADOES FACT OR FICTION

Spring with its rapidly changeable weather is a time that we have to be aware of the possibility for severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. Do you know the facts or just the fiction about severe thunderstorms and tornadoes?

Fiction: If it is not raining, there is no danger from lightning.

Fact: Lightning often strikes outside heavy rain and may occur as far as 10 miles away from any rainfall.

Fiction: The rubber soles of shoes or rubber tires on a vehicle will protect you from being struck by lightning.

Fact: Rubber-soled shoes and rubber tires do not provide protection from lightning. The steel frame of a hard-topped vehicle provides increased protection if you are not touching metal. Although you may be injured if lightning strikes your vehicle, you are much safer inside a vehicle than outside.

Fiction: Areas near lakes, rivers, and mountains are safe from tornadoes.

Fact: No place is safe from tornadoes. A tornado near Yellowstone National Park left a path of destruction up and down a 10,000-foot mountain.

Fiction: The low pressure associated with a tornado causes buildings to “explode” as the tornado passes overhead. Windows should be opened before a tornado approaches to equalize pressure and minimize damage.

Fact: Air pressure in a tornado does not cause buildings to explode. Buildings are damaged by the violent winds associated with a tornado and by the debris being blown at high velocities. You should leave windows alone. The most important action you can take is to seek shelter at the lowest level of a building in an interior room without windows.

From: *Talking About Disaster: Guide For Standard Messages*. Produced by the National Disaster Education Coalition, Washington, D.C.

SVPI WINS AWARD

This Spring, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) announced that Shenandoah Valley Project Impact (SVPI)'s Preparedness Calendar received the 2009 Virginia Citizen Corps Superstar Award for Most Creative Outreach Activity. This award was one of seven different awards given to individuals or activities that demonstrated contributions to their communities that deserved special acknowledgement. The SVPI Preparedness Calendar has been its most requested, successful, and cost-effective educational tool. Because people are attracted to the calendar's regional historical photographs and whimsical holidays, preparedness information is displayed to residents of the Central Shenandoah Valley Region every day for an entire year. Many people work hard to produce and distribute the Preparedness Calendar. “The calendar is definitely a group effort involving many of the individuals and partnering organizations involved with SVPI,” said Bonnie Riedesel, Executive Director of the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission, “We are happy to be recognized for one of SVPI's most popular activities.”



SEARCH AND RESCUE ADVANCED CERT TRAINING SCHEDULED

An advanced training for existing CERT members on Search and Rescue techniques will be taught by the Rockingham Augusta Search and Rescue group on Thursday, April 15th from 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the CSPDC office in Staunton. Pizza will be provided for dinner. This is the first time that any SVPI CERT members have been instructed in Search and Rescue training so we hope everyone that is interested will attend this beneficial training. If you would like to attend this training, please RSVP to Rebecca Joyce, 540-885-5174 or by email to rebecca@cspdc.org.

DISASTER-PROOF YOUR IMPORTANT PAPERS

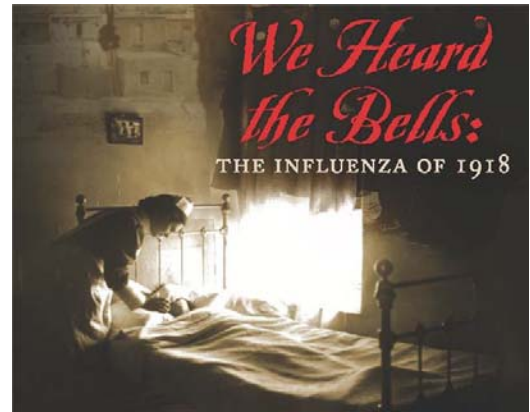
What would you do if you had five minutes to clear out of your house? Five minutes to grab every crucial financial document before the house crumbles -- property titles, wills, insurance records, Social Security cards -- and you need to do it, even with all the chaos surrounding you. Could you do it? ...

By spending a little time now preparing for the worst, you'll be more likely to remain calm in the eye of the storm -- confident in the safety of your financial documents. That will allow you to spend the crucial moments in a disaster thinking about more important things.

Don't know where to start? Here are some suggestions:

- Collect important personal papers and information related to financial transactions.
- Identify a single location to file crucial papers -- a fireproof box or a safe-deposit box.
- Create copies now (certified, in cases of birth certificates and other crucial documents) in case you need them to provide to government agencies.
- Put important original documents in plastic covers to protect them.
- Notify the appropriate people where important information will be located, in case you're not available when it is needed.
- Identify the records that you or your financial institutions keep only on computer. Because they may not be available if electrical power fails, print out copies.

- from www.bankrate.com



FLU.GOV HAS NEW FILM ABOUT 1918 PANDEMIC

Throughout history, influenza viruses have mutated and caused pandemics or global epidemics. In 1918 and 1919, the worst influenza in recorded history killed an estimated 50 million people around the world. In the United States, the death toll reached 675,000 - five times the number of U.S. soldiers killed in World War 1. The disease seemed to target young adults and pregnant women, leaving many young children without mothers or fathers. Where did the 1918 influenza come from? And why was it so lethal? What can be learned from those who survived the 1918 pandemic?

We Heard The Bells, narrated by award-winning actress S. Epatha Merkerson (Law & Order), explores the personal and family experiences of a diverse group of Americans during the influenza pandemic of 1918. History unfolds as survivors of the pandemic tell their stories. Their memories frame the key questions that still drive the search for answers to help us weather the latest and future pandemics.

Watch an eight minute trailer, which is like a short informative film in itself, of the film at www.flu.gov/weheardthebells.

- from www.flu.gov



This newsletter is published by:

Shenandoah Valley Project Impact

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The mission of Shenandoah Valley Project Impact is to strive towards disaster resistance through a holistic and broad based hazard mitigation and preparedness education and awareness program that will provide the citizens of the Central Shenandoah Valley Region the information and skills they need to protect themselves from natural and man-made disasters and improve their quality of life.