



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of February 21, 2009**

DATE: February 2, 2009

SUBJECT: Authorization for the County Manager to enter into reciprocal agreements with federal, state, and local jurisdictions as well as private and non-profit organizations for emergency management purposes.

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the County Manager or his designee to enter into reciprocal emergency management agreements to the extent provided for in Virginia Code Sections 15.2-1724, 15.2-1726 through 15.2-1729, and 44.146.19, through 44.146.20 and 44.146.27 and to ratify any such existing agreements.

ISSUES: There are no identifiable issues associated with this item.

SUMMARY: The County Manager or his designee should be authorized to enter into reciprocal emergency management agreements that allow the Arlington County Office of Emergency Management to participate in multijurisdictional and multiagency partnerships in order to effectively prepare for and respond to regional threats and other events that are beyond the capabilities of individual jurisdictions to manage or control.

BACKGROUND: The County Board recently authorized the County Manager or his designee to enter into reciprocal and contractual agreements with federal, state, and local jurisdictions for law enforcement and fire department services. This action would extend similar authority for agreements with federal, state and local jurisdictions for the Office of Emergency Management.

The Office of Emergency Management has successfully used cooperative agreements with other agencies and jurisdictions in a variety of contexts especially for the sharing of personnel and resources to establish multiagency partnerships. These agreements typically take the form of memorandums of understanding and are limited in scope and purpose to address specific emergency management needs that cut across agency and jurisdictional boundaries. The Office of Emergency Management continues to find such cooperative agreements an effective capacity building strategy and anticipates the continued creation of, and participation in, emergency management agreements. An authorization to enter into these cooperative agreements is in the best interest of public safety.

County Manager: _____

County Attorney: _____

Staff: Jack J. Brown, Director, Office of Emergency Management

DISCUSSION: The Office of Emergency Management maintains a hard copy and catalogues each agreement that it has with other agencies and jurisdictions. Additionally, staff regularly reviews each agreement to determine whether expired agreements need to be updated and/or renewed or if an agreement is obsolete and is no longer necessary. Currently the Department has established several multiagency partnerships in order to develop a strategy of regional cooperation in carrying out a wide range of emergency management activities.

The following are working examples of the types of cooperative agreements that the Office of Emergency Management participates in and are not all inclusive:

- The Arlington County Chapter of the American Red Cross, a cooperative agreement to carry out their assigned responsibilities for planning, preparedness, and response in the event of natural or man-made disaster as authorized in 1974 Disaster Relief Act and the 1988 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.
- The Arlington Radio Public Service Club, Inc., a cooperative agreement established for the installation, operation and maintenance of county-owned auxiliary Amateur Radio equipment. With the intent to coordinate facilities, equipment and personnel of the two organizations thereby providing better service to victims of natural or man-made disasters in Arlington County.
- Hotels located in Arlington, currently with the Hilton Garden Inn – Courthouse and the Ritz Carlton – Pentagon City, both are cooperative agreements to support the county government’s continuity of operations in the event of an emergency or disaster by providing infrastructure support resources.
- A cooperative partnership with the City of Alexandria supporting the regional Outdoor Warning System project for warning residents and others of impending emergencies. A system specifically designed to provide brief-emergency instruction for pedestrian traffic. The system consists of twelve outdoor alert systems in place which are integrated with five indoor alert systems thereby enabling Arlington County and the City of Alexandria to effectively reach people during times of emergency.

FISCAL IMPACT: None

Subject: Cooperative Agreements with Federal, State and Local Jurisdictions