



APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 1, 2018.** Please include this application form with electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: York County

Program Title: Significant Event Briefing Dashboard

Program Category: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Stephen P. Kopczynski

Title: Fire Chief

Department: Fire & Life Safety

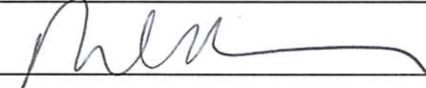
Telephone: 757-890-3600 Website: www.yorkcounty.gov/fls

Email: flsafety@yorkcounty.gov

SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Neil A. Morgan

Title: County Administrator

Signature: 

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Program Title: Significant Event Briefing Dashboard

Program Category: Criminal Justice & Public Safety

Program Overview:

In 2017, the York County Department of Fire and Life Safety/Office of Emergency Management identified the need for a concise significant event situational electronic briefing “dashboard” for major emergencies/disasters that have the potential of or actually impact our locality. In order to meet this need, the electronic significant event briefing dashboard tool was developed. This dashboard incorporates data that has been obtained for authenticated sources, as well as local specific data/information so that the recipients can quickly find the critical information related to the event. Further, this allows them to meet their mission responsibilities related to the major emergency/disaster, ultimately being better prepared for action related to the incident. This comprehensive dashboard is electronically distributed to County staff/allied agencies with York County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) responsibilities and other responsibilities in the County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), as well as external emergency management partners that have a need to know (i.e., military and Federal facilities within the geographic boundaries of the County, etc.). It is also provided to operational public safety management staff and senior County management.

1. The Problem/Need for the Program:

York County, Virginia (a Mid-Atlantic Coastal locality with a significant military presence) is at risk for a number of potential major emergencies/disasters. Whether it is a severe weather event such as a hurricane, nor’easter or winter storm, a terrorism event, an

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incident at the Surry Nuclear Power Station, a serious hazardous materials emergency or a multitude of other types of significant circumstances, we must always be prepared to effectively respond and mitigate the situation. The multitude of risks to York County requires constant planning/preparation, vigilance and the ability to effectively respond, as well as recover. In the past, the Department of Fire and Life Safety/Office of Emergency Management kept staff informed about potential or actual major emergencies/disasters through an e-mail process that required the crafting of an e-mail narrative that was not always consistent, may not have included extensive graphics and was not necessarily easy to quickly obtain a “snap shot” of the situation. While this form of communication provided necessary critical information, it required quite a bit of staff work to write and was not always recipient-friendly. The Department of Fire and Life Safety/Office of Emergency Management felt it was vital to ensure that County staff/allied agencies with York County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) responsibilities and other responsibilities in the County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), as well as external emergency management partners that have a need to know (i.e., military and Federal facilities within the geographic boundaries of the County, etc.), were provided with accurate information so that they could quickly “develop a mental picture” and become aware of the situation’s current status, as well as future potential impact. Those agencies/associated personnel with responsibilities during a major emergency/disaster require concise and accurate information so that they understand situational assessments and action plans. This tool or dashboard now provides that easy to use quick view to critical staff in a manner much improved over previous methods of providing situational awareness.

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2. Program Development:

The “Significant Event Briefing Dashboard” uses near real-time information from official/authenticated sources and hazard modeling software such as Aloha and Marplot. The briefing tool contains concise, clear information based on the hazard. This tool allows recipients/users to quickly develop a mental picture and become aware of the situation’s current status, as well as future potential impact. As a result, staff is able to better develop strategies related to County actions, public preparedness messaging/information, evacuation/sheltering decisions, routine government/school operations and/or closing decisions/modifications. Further, the dashboard provides the ability to share important messages, such as those from the County Administrator and Emergency Management.

3. Cost of the Program:

There was no cost to administer this program, other than committing staff resources to develop the product.

4. The Results/Success of the Program:

The York County Department of Fire and Life Safety/Office of Emergency Management received numerous emails and words of appreciation for this important initiative from employees, department heads and other allied organization representatives. The positive feedback helped to highlight the importance of this program County staff and other emergency management partners.

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Due to the ability to coordinate, collaborate and engage with other departments/agencies/organizations, the County is able to deliver critical situational awareness, planning and preparedness information to the broad group of personnel and entities involved in major emergencies/disasters that could affect and/or are affecting York County. Although this is not exactly measurable in statistical numbers, it is evident that there is an invaluable improvement to the local emergency management system. This new dashboard has increased everyone's awareness of their role and provided them with confidence in the system and their abilities. Due to the success of this program, we are able to share a true common operating picture to necessary organizations and their staff.

5. Worthiness of an Award:

This initiative is deserving of an award due to the increased communications and collaboration it provides for County government. The ability to develop and disseminate information that fosters a common operating picture provides a more effective system of information sharing ultimately improving the overall emergency management planning, preparedness, response and recovery system in York County, Virginia. Communications is always identified as an area that needs improvement after any significant event. This product allows concise and consistent information to be shared in a short time period, thereby increasing effectiveness, efficiency and safety.

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6. Worthiness of an Award:

During significant events, the County's Office of Emergency Management (of the Department of Fire and Life Safety) provides updates to county staff/allied agencies involved in the York County Emergency Operations Center who have responsibilities as directed in our Emergency Operations Plan. These updates are also provided to our partners/stakeholders, such as military and federal facilities within our geographic boundaries. In evaluating the updates, Emergency Management staff determined a more helpful briefing dashboard could be provided to these individuals/groups to help them better understand the event. Of course, better understanding leads to better preparedness. The dashboard includes data obtained from reliable and authenticated sources and is paired with region and locality specific information. These updates are provided via email allowing for quick delivery and receipt of the information.