



# *NEWS RELEASE*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Sept. 30, 2010**

**For more information, contact:**

Robyn Johnson, District of Columbia Homeland Security  
and Emergency Management Agency, 202-481-3010

Ed McDonough, Maryland Emergency Management Agency, 410-517-3632

Bob Spieldenner, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, 804-897-6510

Merni Fitzgerald, Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs, 703-324-3189

## **National Capital Region Selects Homeland Security Projects to Fund**

Officials announced today how they will use \$59 million in federal homeland security funds. The money will help area bomb squads handle improvised explosive devices; aid hospitals to treat mass casualties; assist law enforcement agencies to share information; and buy protective equipment for police and firefighters.

The announcement came from local and state homeland security officials in the National Capital Region (NCR), representing the District of Columbia Mayor Adrian M. Fenty, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and Virginia Governor Robert F. McDonnell.

In July, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security awarded the NCR money through the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Grant Program. Some of the projects planned for funding include:

- **Bomb Squad Upgrades (\$511,000):** The region will purchase upgraded equipment for local squads, including electronic jammers to prevent the detonation of improvised explosive devices (IEDs). These purchases will help the region prepare for and respond to a terrorist attack using IEDs.

- more -

STATE OF MARYLAND  
Montgomery County | Prince George's County

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
City of Alexandria | Arlington County | City of Fairfax | Fairfax County | City of Falls Church | Loudoun County |  
City of Manassas | City of Manassas Park | Prince William County

## National Capital Region Selects Homeland Security Projects to Fund (cont.)

- **Medical Surge Capacity (\$3,569,040):** The region will increase hospitals' abilities to treat mass casualties by expanding a program that allows emergency rooms to track the real-time location of ambulances from every hospital in the region; increasing its stockpile of critical medicines; and retrofitting ambulance buses to transport patients who are in wheelchairs or cannot walk.
- **Public Health Planners (\$3,000,000):** The region will fund public health planners to continue work on critical projects, including mass fatality management; integration of volunteer doctors and nurses into medical surge operations; and integration of special-needs populations into existing public health and medical surge plans.
- **Law Enforcement Information Sharing (\$6,899,703):** The region will continue funding law enforcement information sharing systems. They allow local, state and federal officers to share criminal records, fingerprint records, mug shots and other data, as well as access this information in the field using their cell phones and wireless devices.
- **First Responder Protective Equipment (\$3,243,320):** The region will buy personal protective equipment for police and firefighters, as well as continue to develop regional standards for equipment interoperability.

The National Capital Region — which is comprised of 11 local jurisdictions, two states and the District of Columbia — prepares for disasters collaboratively. This includes determining how to best and most equitably allocate scarce resources such as UASI funds.

The NCR's elected officials, emergency management, law enforcement, fire and public health personnel, along with the nonprofit and private sectors, work together across the region's jurisdictional boundaries to identify and prioritize projects to improve the region's emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

Past UASI grants have been used to prepare, train, and equip law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, transportation, public health and other first responders, improving their capabilities to prevent and respond to a wide range of potential hazards in the NCR.

The funding also has been used to assist public safety officials to communicate across jurisdictional boundaries by enhancing interoperable communications; offer emergency alerts and notifications to the public; educate the public on disaster preparedness; assist special needs populations to prepare for major emergencies; increase medical readiness; and equip first responders to respond to all types of hazardous situations.

###

STATE OF MARYLAND  
Montgomery County | Prince George's County

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
City of Alexandria | Arlington County | City of Fairfax | Fairfax County | City of Falls Church | Loudoun County |  
City of Manassas | City of Manassas Park | Prince William County

## **About the National Capital Region**

The NCR encompasses the District of Columbia and parts of Maryland and Virginia, including the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William in Virginia and Montgomery and Prince George's in Maryland, which include the municipalities of Bowie, College Park, Gaithersburg, Greenbelt, Rockville and Takoma Park.

STATE OF MARYLAND

Montgomery County | Prince George's County

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

City of Alexandria | Arlington County | City of Fairfax | Fairfax County | City of Falls Church | Loudoun County |  
City of Manassas | City of Manassas Park | Prince William County