



NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
April 6, 2015**

For more information, contact:
Nicki Tidey
E911 Director
(540) 672-1234

ORANGE, VA. ORANGE COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION CENTER ENCOURAGES CITIZENS TO JOIN 'SMART ABOUT 9-1-1 DAY' EVENT DURING NATIONAL 9-1-1 EDUCATION MONTH

Local officials encourage citizens to thank 9-1-1 by joining a month-long celebration

Orange County, VA , – They are the ones you call when you need help. When it's your worst day, they are always there. They bring calmness to a panicked moment, reassure you that help is on the way, and give you the strength to hang on. They are 9-1-1.

April is National 9-1-1 Education Month, and in honor of 9-1-1, Orange County Emergency Communication is encouraging citizens to get involved with a month-long celebration. Smart911, the national public safety service available in Orange, VA, is kicking off a campaign to bring awareness to the public about how they can support their local 9-1-1 dispatch center, and become more informed about what to do in an emergency.

'Smart About 9-1-1 Day' is a virtual event that will be held on April 30, the last day of the month and citizens are urged to Prepare. Share. Stay Safe by this date. In order to do so, citizens can do 3 things:

- Join the event on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/747268302056089/>. On April 30, 2015, Smart911 will select 10 random winners from all participants to receive Amazon Gift Cards.
- Sign Up for Smart911: Give 9-1-1 the information they need to help you in an emergency. Create your family's free Safety Profile at www.smart911.com today.
- Share the message: Invite family, friends and neighbors to the event and encourage them to stay safe by signing up at www.smart911.com.

Two additional pieces of the campaign include, taking to social media to thank your local 9-1-1 Center, and learning more about 9-1-1 to become better prepared. Social media offers the chance for 9-1-1 dispatchers to introduce the faces behind the voices by tweeting out photos of themselves with the hashtag #Iam911 as well as a chance for citizens to post their messages of thanks using hashtag #thankyou911. See video here: <https://youtu.be/wsgihLKs8vY>.

The #411on911 will feature a different topic on 9-1-1 each week, geared towards providing a better understanding of the emergency response system for all members of the community. These topics and tips can be found at <http://safety.smart911.com/geteducated> or by searching the hashtag #411on911 on all social media outlets.

"Our 9-1-1 dispatchers are available for anyone who may need help, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 weeks a year. They are often the first, first responders and deserve to be recognized for all they do," said County of Orange Fire/EMS, Chief Harkness "We encourage everyone to sign up for Smart911 to help our dispatchers better help you in case of an emergency."

Smart911 allows citizens to create a free Safety Profile online for their household that includes information they want 9-1-1 and response teams to have during an emergency. When a citizen makes an emergency call, their Safety Profile is automatically displayed to the 9-1-1 call-taker, allowing them to send the right



NEWS RELEASE

response teams to the right location with the right information. In 2014, Smart911 was announced in 39 new locations across 17 U.S. states, making the private and secure service available to an additional 5 million citizens in their hometown, bringing the total coverage area to more than 1,000 communities across 40 states. Smart911 has been credited with positively impacting emergency situations across the U.S., including a missing child case in Arkansas, and saving lives, such as a heart attack victim in Nashville and a house fire victim in Michigan.

If you have any questions, please contact Orange County Emergency Communication Center, (540)-672-1234.



###