

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency



Open Government Report 2014

To institutionalize a culture of transparent, open, and accountable government, and to expand opportunities for resident participation and collaboration, this Report describes how the District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency has and will continue to develop and enhance transparency, public participation, and collaboration. In accordance with Mayor's Order 2014-170, this report addresses the following topics:

1) Transparency

The District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA) is dedicated to our mission to promote and protect life safety by ensuring that the District of Columbia is prepared to prevent, protect against, respond to, mitigate, and recover from all threats and hazards. To this end, HSEMA will publish the final versions of the District Preparedness Framework and associated documents on both our [Publications webpage](#) and the HSEMA [Freedom of Information Act \(FOIA\) Reading Room](#). The public can view all HSEMA Press Releases and other important news on HSEMA's [Newsroom webpage](#). HSEMA keeps District constituents informed via our Facebook page and Twitter feed, as well as, through the use of our electronic application (available on both Apple and Android devices) and AlertDC, the official District of Columbia communications system that sends emergency alerts, notifications, and updates directly to user devices.

HSEMA is fully committed to responding to FOIA and District Department of Transportation (DDOT) Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Traffic Camera Feed requests from the public. HSEMA's [Open Government, FOIA, and CCTV](#) webpage describes the process for requesting this information and the timeline for responses. In order to ensure timely response to FOIA requests, HSEMA has developed a robust FOIA Response Procedure (attached) that sets out the process for HSEMA employees to respond to FOIA requests in a complete and timely manner, through the HSEMA's designated FOIA Officer.

HSEMA continues to maintain the public's access to information by providing finalized public planning documents as detailed above, in addition to providing emergency preparedness guides on our [Emergency Preparedness webpage](#). The HSEMA Community Outreach Team works closely with citizens, employees, visitors, communities and businesses to provide vital emergency preparedness information.

HSEMA works closely with the Office of the City Administrator (OCA) and the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) to identify a significant number of datasets which OCA and OCTO expect to publish online later this year. If no dataset

from HSEMA is selected to be included in this 2014 release, we will continue to work with OCA and OCTO to identify datasets appropriate to publish in 2015. In the future, requirements for open data reporting will be provided by the Chief Data Officer.

2) **Public Engagement and Participation**

Although HSEMA generally does not promulgate rules or regulations that affect the public, we will accept public commentary on published planning documents. Comments received will then be considered and may be incorporated during the next planning cycle.

HSEMA shares information and resources that keep the public informed by consistently conducting Community Outreach events throughout the District's eight (8) wards. HSEMA maintains an active social media presence via our [Facebook page](#), [Twitter Feed](#), and electronic application (available on both Apple and Android devices). HSEMA encourages all District residents, commuters, businesses, and visitors to sign up for AlertDC, the official District of Columbia communications system that sends emergency alerts, notifications, and updates directly to user's devices. In 2013 and 2014, HSEMA launched a comprehensive campaign urging all residents and visitors to sign up for AlertDC, which resulted in a significant increase in user sign-ups. Additionally, HSEMA's website remains up-to-date with important emergency preparedness related information designed to keep the public informed on what to do in an emergency, including how-to videos and instructions for making an [Emergency Go Kit](#). Additional preparedness resources can be found on the Agency's [Emergency Preparedness](#) webpage.

In 2013, HSEMA established the [Business Emergency Management Operations Center \(BEMOC\)](#) to help facilitate the interaction between the public and private sectors before, during, and after an emergency.

3) **Collaboration**

In 2014, HSEMA established an unprecedented coordinated planning process that incorporates the expertise of various District, federal, regional and non-governmental entities to ensure that the needs of the whole community are appropriately addressed. Throughout the revamped planning process, HSEMA includes representatives from non-governmental and community organizations to provide commentary and input on mass care services and business preparedness.