

PRESS RELEASE: Feb. 22, 2012

### **City-County disaster plan to be tested this summer**

City and county personnel are preparing for a joint disaster exercise that will be held this July at the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, Md.

The NETC is home to the Emergency Management Institute (EMI), a federal training organization that is working with the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management to design a comprehensive disaster exercise that will test the city and county's disaster response plan.

Agencies must file an application with EMI before the resources to build a custom-designed exercise are committed. Numerous applications are received every year, but only a few are selected to receive this type of training. Representatives from EMI are visiting the area this week to meet with local officials as they gather information they will use to build this exercise.

"We are doing this because we know plans must be tested to uphold to the challenges of disaster response," says Ryan Nicholls, Director of the Office of Emergency Management. "Our community leadership wants to continue improving the coordination and communication efforts required in high-impact events."

The dates for this exercise are July 16-19. Representatives from dozens of public and private agencies throughout the community are scheduled to attend.

For more information about this exercise contact Ryan Nicholls, Director of the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management, at 417-869-6040 or Warren Robinson, Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management Public Information Officer at 417-861-2478.