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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOPS OFFER TIPS AND TOOLS FOR BUSINESSES

Charleston, W.Va. - Businesses will have the opportunity to learn tips and tools to help them reestablish operations as quickly as possible after fires, floods, major disease outbreaks, and other types of disasters. Several emergency preparedness workshops will be offered at the 2009 Faces of Leadership conference on Wednesday, July 15 or Thursday, July 16 at the Charleston Civic Center.

WHAT?: Emergency Preparedness Workshops, including:
Don't Be an Ostrich! Build Your Own COOP, *Alexandra Podolny & Joshua Easton, University of Maryland, Center for Health and Homeland Security*
What if there was a serious fire at your agency's building? What if your office was flooded? How would you continue to provide the services you offer? What about your records? Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP) ensures that your organization can maintain essential functions during and after any emergency. Learn the key elements of a functional COOP plan. Leave with a COOP template and fundamental planning tools for your agency. Don't hide your head in the sand! If you don't have a plan in place, you can't afford to miss this session!!

WHEN?: Wednesday, July 15, 1:30-3:00pm
and
Thursday, July 16, 11:00am-12:30pm

WHO?: West Virginia Citizen Corps and University of Maryland presenters
Alexandra Podolny and Joshua Easton

WHERE?: Charleston Civic Center
Charleston, West Virginia

WHY?: For businesses, each day in the aftermath of an emergency means the loss of money, time, and product. These workshops will help businesses prepare for such events.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Interested individuals and businesses can get more information by visiting [.volunteerwv.org](http://volunteerwv.org). A registration form can be downloaded from the web site.

Scholarships are also available to volunteers from disaster service organizations. Please see the attached scholarship form and brochure highlighting the various disaster preparedness workshops at this year's conference. Individuals may register for a single day or several days of the conference. Contact Heather Foster or Moya Doneghy at 1(800) 984-3577 for more information.

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