



News Release

Contact:

Patricia Derr, Medic Lt., City of Fredericksburg Fire Department

540-372-1059

pderr@fd.fredericksburgva.gov

Fredericksburg Marks “Stop the Bleed” Day

With Quick Training Opportunity for the Public

(Fredericksburg, VA) May 20, 2019 - National Stop the Bleed Day is Thursday, May 23rd and the City of Fredericksburg is offering a free day of training to the public. Our first responders will be on site demonstrating how to act quickly to save a life in the event of a serious wound. In this 5 to 10 minute lesson, the public will learn how to apply a tourniquet and staunch blood flow. Anyone who drops by City Hall at 715 Princess Anne Street between 9:30am and 1:00pm on Thursday, May 23rd will be invited to participate and ask questions. In the event of inclement weather the training will proceed on the steps of City Hall.

The upcoming training opportunity will be provided by Medic Lt. Patricia Derr and Firefighter/Medic II John McCamley of the Fredericksburg Fire Department and staff from the Mary Washington Healthcare Trauma Services. “It’s a scary and sad reality that we need to be prepared for all sorts of catastrophes where mass casualties could occur,” said Lt. Derr. “We have seen instances such as in Las Vegas, Parkland and Orlando where simple supplies and basic first aid knowledge can mean the difference in life and death.” She added that even if a wound is not a result of a mass casualty event, a quick response can be life-saving.

This public awareness and training opportunity is a continuation of the City’s ongoing efforts to empower its employees and the public to react at an emergency scene by providing immediate help. The City’s Fire Department had also received a grant from the Mary Washington Hospital Foundation, the charitable branch of the region’s Level II trauma center. With that funding and some monies from the department’s budget, fifty four “Stop the Bleed” kits with bandages, tourniquets and other supplies were placed in the community, most frequently co-located with the AED devices.

“Stop the Bleed” was proposed for Fredericksburg by Lt. Derr, who learned about the national Department of Homeland Security program designed to empower individuals to act quickly to save lives.

“We realize that seconds count,” said Fire Chief Eddie Allen. “When our staff proposed this concept, I understood its benefit and potential impact. We started the development process very quickly.” “Stop the Bleed” kits have been used for minor injuries to-date, reports Chief Allen. He added that the City stays prepared for all incidents and completed a mass casualty training event last fall.

Fredericksburg City Manager Timothy J. Baroody said, “We obviously prefer that we never have to use these kits for any reason, certainly not a mass casualty incident. But we must be prepared.” He observed that the upcoming training and both emergency initiatives speak to the City’s newly adopted City Values, including “Agile Innovation and Outstanding Customer Service.”

Everyone is encouraged to stop by City Hall on Thursday, May 23rd for free on-the-spot training to help “Stop the Bleed.” For more information about Stop the Bleed Day or the Fredericksburg Fire Department’s lifesaving programs, please visit www.fredericksburgva.gov or call 540-372-1059.

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