



NEWS

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READI Brings U.S. Secret Service Seminar to Local First Responders

Washington, DC – The George Washington University’s Response to Emergencies and Disasters Institute (READI), in conjunction with the Washington Field Office of the United States Secret Service, hosted a seminar entitled “Special Event Operations – Building Relationships” on May 7, 2004 at The George Washington University’s Marvin Center. Mr. Jerome M. Hauer, Executive Director for READI, welcomed and addressed representatives from over 38 local, state and federal agencies.

Mr. Hauer commended the U.S. Secret Service (USSS) for their initiative in developing this informative program and working with READI to offer it to the National Capital Region’s first responder community. He also applauded the audience for taking a proactive approach in emergency preparedness by taking the time to attend this important and informative seminar.

The seminar drew participants from the National Capital Region’s fire, emergency medical services and law enforcement organizations, as well as representatives of many federal agencies such as the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, Homeland Security, and Treasury. The goal of this program is to build relationships with local first responders (local, state and federal) and provide information on the roles and responsibilities of the USSS in establishing protective environments for the President of the United States, Vice President of the United States, their immediate family members, Foreign Heads of State and various cabinet level personnel. The seminar also addressed the differences in developing and implementing the security plans for designated National Special Security Events and events that do not receive a NSSE designation but are visited by US Secret Service protectees. This awareness will help in the overall coordination in the event of a large scale incident during one of these Events.

Speakers discussed the United States Secret Service’s mission and their philosophy in planning for a protectee visited event. They spoke of their roles and responsibilities in pre-event planning and event operations. Also discussed were the typical actions that might be taken by the USSS to protect dignitaries during an event.

They stressed the need for vigilance in emergency preparedness training on the local and federal levels and outlined the first responder resources from the community that would be called upon by the USSS in the event of a large scale incident at an event site visited by a USSS protectee vs. a National Special Security Event.

The overwhelming interest in the seminar has produced further discussions between READI and the USSS to arrange, plan and present additional offerings on a regional and national level.

READI is proud to be a part of this important seminar and to facilitate bringing the offering to our local National Capital Region first responders. READI will continue efforts to provide emergency responders as well as public and private agencies with a thorough understanding of emergency preparedness through the coordination of training, curriculum development and presentation.