

News Release

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Charleston County Observes April as National 9-1-1 Education Month

The County joins other national public safety leaders to promote 9-1-1 awareness and proper usage

April is National 9-1-1 Education Month and <u>Charleston County Government</u> is encouraging public safety officials, schools, government officials and industry leaders to engage in this national effort to educate the general public about the importance and appropriate use of 9-1-1 services.

This month-long campaign is designed to help citizens of all ages recognize the importance of 9-1-1 and their role when calling 9-1-1. Charleston County Consolidated 9-1-1 Center encourages you to call 9-1-1 in an emergency to save a life, stop a crime or report a fire and to always know your location.

"Charleston County is always providing 9-1-1 education to the public. April provides us with a time that we can refocus our message to the public and target areas that we may not have reached before," said Charleston County 9-1-1 Consolidated Center Director Jim Lake.

During the month of April, our public educators will reach out to the community through various events. Beginning at the start of the month, Charleston County Consolidated 9-1-1 Center's Public Education team will visit the following events and locations:

- Mount Pleasant Citizen Police Academy, April 9
- Children's Museum of the Lowcountry, April 10
- Finger Lickin Chicken Wing Fling Thing, April 12
- Memminger Elementary School, April 17
- Spring Into Safety event, April 18
- Charleston Lions Club, April 28

In January, the Charleston County 9-1-1 Consolidated Dispatch Center <u>announced</u> the launch of <u>Smart911</u>, a national service that provides 9-1-1 dispatchers with a private online profile of the individual or household calling with an emergency. The program allows citizens to create a free Safety Profile for their household that includes any information they want 9-1-1 and first responders to have in the event of an emergency. If that citizen needs to dial 9-1-1, their Safety Profile will immediately display on the call taker's screen, saving seconds and even minutes in response to the emergency. The service is free to Charleston County citizens.

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