FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MCHD TO PARTICIPATE IN MILITARY AND CIVILIAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE EXERCISE
MORGANTOWN, WV – JULY 19, 2017

The West Virginia National Guard (WVNG) will conduct a multi-location training exercise, Operation Dawson Storm, July 20-25 in Preston, Monongalia and Kanawha counties, in conjunction with military and civilian emergency response units within FEMA Region III which includes Washington, D.C., Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

According to the press release issued by the West Virginia National Guard Public Affairs Office, “The event’s purpose is to increase interoperability not only between units within the WVNG, but also with local first responders throughout the region. Participating units will take part in real-world training scenarios to maximize their proficiency and response capabilities.”

On July 22nd, the training exercise will be in Morgantown and will center in and around 1056 Van Voorhis Road. This area will see an increased activity in first responders, emergency vehicles and military vehicles and personnel. Randy Williams, Threat Preparedness Coordinator for the MCHD, said, “This is an unprecedented chance for the health department, first responders and other local agencies to have real interaction with our regional partners. This will create a better understanding of how we can all work together to protect the public when a real emergency occurs.”

The Monongalia County Health Department (MCHD) wants to emphasize to the public that this increased activity is only due to the training exercise that is being carried out.

The following is a list of local and regional participants:

Military participants include:

Pennsylvania Homeland Response Force
West Virginia CBRNE Enhanced Response Package
Illinois CBRNE Enhanced Response Package
New York CBRNE Task Force
35th Civil Support Team, St. Albans, W.Va.
34th Civil Support Team, Fort Pickett, Va.
3rd Civil Support Team, Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.
Joint Interagency Training and Education Center (JITEC)
321 Ordnance (Army Reserve) Firefighters

**Civilian participants include:**

- West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM)
- West Virginia Division of Forestry
- West Virginia Task Force One
- West Virginia Division of Corrections
- Northern Regional Radiation Response Team
- Federal Bureau of Investigations
- West Virginia University Police
- Preston County Emergency Operations Center
- Kingwood Fire Department
- West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources
- Monongalia County Health Department
- Ruby Memorial Hospital
- Mon General Hospital

Members of the media are invited to the health department where we will be setting up a Joint Information Center as part of the exercise. There will be a press conference at 10:30 AM and local participants will be available for interviews. If you wish to attend, please call Ted Krafczyk at 304-319-3775.

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