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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New mobile app will help Carroll County prepare for emergencies

Westminster, September 28, 2015 - Carroll County Emergency Management has released a new iPhone and Android mobile app. The Prepare Me Carroll app is designed to help keep Carroll County citizens, businesses, and visitors prepared for emergencies. The mobile app includes emergency alerts (push notifications) which app users will receive like a text message on their smartphone, and is available for download free of charge from the app stores.

App users can also help friends, family, and neighbors in their preparedness efforts via the "Share our App" feature.

Users who download the app onto their smartphones can see the local weather forecast, radar, and alerts. The public can keep informed of power outages, traffic, and closings features via news on Facebook and Twitter. The Emergency Preparedness Resources includes information on how to prepare for ten different kinds of emergencies. The Emergency Kit Checklist is an interactive feature helpful in assembling items needed before an emergency. Users may sign up for Carroll County emails, and receive emergency alerts and messages (push notifications) through the app.

"The Prepare Me Carroll app puts real-time information in the hands of our residents and visitors, allowing them the most up-to-date information in the palm of their hand," Emergency Management Coordinator Doug Brown said. "I hope that our citizens will make sure their family and friends download this free and helpful resource."

The Prepare Me Carroll app was funded through a Department of Homeland Security Urban Area Security Initiative grant. Mobile apps are the trend for sharing of important information in the U.S., where nearly 200 million people own smartphones.

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CARROLL COUNTY

The Americans with Disabilities Act applies to the Carroll County Government and its programs, services, activities, and facilities. Anyone requiring an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or who has a complaint should contact The Department of Citizen Services, 410.386.3600 or 1.888.302.8978 or MD Relay 7-1-1/1.800.735.2258 as soon as possible but no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event.

Download the **Prepare Me Carroll** mobile app onto your smartphone or tablet. It is available free of charge from the iPhone and Google Play (Android) app stores.

Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.ocv.carrollcountymdema>

iPhone: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/carroll-county-md-ema/id1002090598?ls=1&mt=8>

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