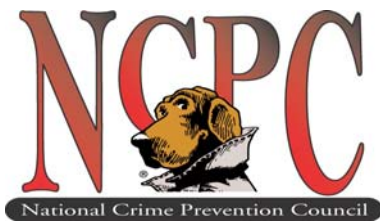


NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 5, 2003

Contact: George Rice, NCPC, 202-261-4181
Art Bushkin, Stargazer, 703-934-6681

McGRUFF THE CRIME DOG® TEAMS UP WITH THE STARGAZER FOUNDATION TO HELP FAMILIES, BUSINESSES, SCHOOLS, AND COMMUNITIES PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES

ReadyLink is Free and Takes a Bite Out of Fear

Washington, DC. The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) has partnered with The Stargazer Foundation to distribute ReadyLink™, a free web-based capability that enables people, families, groups, and organizations to stay in touch and maintain access to critical news and health and safety information during and after an emergency.

In the aftermath of September 11, one of the most difficult challenges was the ability of individuals, families, and communities to communicate effectively. The volume of calls in and out of New York and Washington, D.C. crippled major communications carriers, which were under equipped to accommodate the onslaught of calls brought about by this tragedy. Major media websites were flooded with traffic and unable to respond to the demands placed upon them by an anxious public. The inability of family members to communicate with one another in a timely fashion stimulated uncertainty and fear.

“In response to September 11, the Department of Homeland Security has strongly recommended that every family in America prepare a communications plan,” said Jack Calhoun, NCPC’s President and CEO. “We believe ReadyLink™ answers this call with easy to use tools at no cost, so we are partnering with the Stargazer Foundation to reach as many people and communities as possible.”

ReadyLink™ provides communications templates for emergency planning that can be downloaded, filled out, and saved on your computer; or printed, filled out, and distributed to all group members. The technology is simple to use and accessible via any Web browser, including public access points such as a libraries. ReadyLink™ users can simply log onto www.StargazerNET.net/ReadyLink and automatically gain access to a secure message board and conference room, where group members can communicate online to inform each other of their status in the aftermath of any incident. The platform also provides access to vital media and government information all from one convenient location.

“While the government has a significant role in addressing our nation’s preparedness, each one of us is also responsible for securing our families, our homes, and our communities against threats and acts of terrorism,” said Arthur Bushkin, Chairman and CEO of the Stargazer Foundation. “We believe ReadyLink™ can be an integral part of the nation’s overall emergency preparedness planning by putting it in the hands of families and the communities. Adequately mapping out all ends of the information and communication chain can make all the difference in providing for the safety of family members and communities, and for instilling the sense of comfort we all require.”

###

The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) is a private, nonprofit tax-exempt [501(c)(3)] organization whose primary mission is to enable people to create safer and more caring communities by addressing the causes of crime and violence and reducing the opportunities for crime to occur. NCPC offers training, technical assistance, and a national focus for crime prevention: it acts as secretariat for the Crime Prevention Coalition of America, more than 4,000 national, federal, local, and state organizations committed to preventing crime. It also operates demonstration programs in schools, neighborhoods, and entire jurisdictions and takes a major leadership role in youth crime prevention and youth service; it also administers the Center for Faith and Service. NCPC manages the McGruff® Take A Bite Out Of Crime® public service advertising campaign. NCPC is funded through a variety of government agencies, corporate and private foundations, and donations from private individuals. Website: www.ncpc.org

The Stargazer Foundation Founded in 1999, the Stargazer Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, nonprofit public charity whose mission is to leverage technology to support endeavors that improve the human condition. The Foundation fulfills its mission through StargazerNET (www.StargazerNET.net) a state-of-the-art technology platform and portal.