

News Release



From the Office of the:

CHARLES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

For Immediate Release

CONTACT :

Jason Lang
Media Relations Assistant

301-638-2402

E-mail:
langj@charlescounty.org

Wayne Cooper
President

Edith J. Patterson
Vice-President

Reuben B. Collins, II

Samuel N. Graves, Jr.

Gary V. Hodge

Address:
P.O. Box 2150,
La Plata, Maryland 20646

301-645-0550/
DC 301-870-3000

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Charles County Commissioners Announce New Director of Emergency Services

LA PLATA, MD – The Charles County Commissioners are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Alex J. Naar of Muir Beach, California, as the new Director of the Charles County Department of Emergency Services.

Mr. Naar will assume his position with Charles County Government on March 10, 2008.

Mr. Naar has over 27 years of public safety experience in a wide range of settings. He was a volunteer firefighter in Marlboro, Vermont, a firefighter/EMT and company officer on the Amherst, Mass. Fire Department, and for the past 15 years he has worked for the National Park Service as a law enforcement ranger, management analyst, wildland firefighter and, most recently, Fire Management Officer. His postings have included Sequoia and Redwoods National Parks and Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Last year he was selected to serve in a detail at the National Park Service headquarters in Washington, D.C. where he worked on national level emergency and disaster planning issues. He has been involved with fire and All Hazards incident management for many years, most recently working on a 58,000 gallon oil spill in the San Francisco Bay.

Mr. Naar has a Bachelor's of Science in Environmental Science from Lesley College in Cambridge, Massachusetts, a Juris Doctor degree from New College of California in San Francisco, and last fall completed a Master's of Science in Emergency Services Administration at California State University at Long Beach. Recently he passed the International Association of Emergency Managers: Certified Emergency Manager exam.

Mr. Naar has co-authored two books on environmental and ecological issues. An avid supporter of public safety training, he has taught many public safety courses with topics ranging from wildland and structural fire topics, to law enforcement, emergency medicine and incident management. His audiences have included first responders, government officials, college students and members of the public.



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"I am grateful to be selected for this position," said Mr. Naar, "and look forward to working with the Charles County Commissioners, the citizens and visitors of the County, and the wide range of public safety entities in and near Charles County and the States of Maryland and Virginia as well as the District of Columbia."

"Mr Naar was unanimously selected as our new Director of Emergency Services. He has an outstanding education and background in safety administration," said Commissioner President Wayne Cooper. "His working knowledge of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will aid us in the direction we want to take as the Charles County Board of Commissioners."

"His broad variety of expertise in public safety made him the ideal candidate for the position," said Commissioner Samuel N. Graves, Jr. "I do want to say that we were blessed with many well qualified applicants, but, in the end, we all decided that Mr. Naar was best suited for the job."

Naar is married and will be relocating to Maryland from Muir Beach, California where he serves on the local volunteer fire department and disaster council.

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February 14, 2008