** NEWS RELEASE**

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**July 28, 2016**

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**WE’RE JUST A FEW KEY STROKES AWAY**

*Cook County Homeland Security and Emergency Mgmt. launches new site and twitter handle*

Cook County residents now have access to safety and preparedness information geared specifically for them. The County’s Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) has launched its new website and Twitter handle to provide residents with the most up-to-date alerts and give them the tools they need to plan for their families’ safety in a variety of emergencies.

The website contains information about how to prepare for hazards common to this region. It also has specific sections devoted to residents with functional needs, seniors, children and pets. Residents can check the site for the most updated cooling and warming center information during extreme weather. They can also learn how to take action to make the community safer.

“This isn’t our site, this site belongs to the residents of Cook County,” said Ernest Brown, executive director of the DHSEM. “We want to make sure that the information we provide to residents through our website and our Twitter account is useful and actionable.”

The url for the DHSEM site is: [www.cookcountyhomelandsecurity.org](http://www.cookcountyhomelandsecurity.org)

The DHSEM Twitter handle is: @CCDHSEM

The department’s twitter account will provide residents with the latest information during emergencies, provide timely safety tips and showcase the work DHSEM personnel do on behalf of the County’s residents every day.

The DHSEM encourages residents to visit the site and follow them on Twitter and looks forward to feedback to ensure that the site continues to provide information about what residents can do to prepare for, respond to and recover from all incidents.

For more information, media may contact Natalia Derevyanny at natalia.derevyanny@cookcountyil.gov or 312.718.4125.

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The Cook County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management integrates first responders, their departments and resources from 134 Cook County municipalities, and serves as the central agency in Cook County for coordinating efforts to prevent, protect against, mitigate the effects of, respond to, and recover from all incidents, whether man-made or natural. For more information, visit our website at [www.cookcountyhomelandsecurity.org](http://www.cookcountyhomelandsecurity.org).