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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **UPSHUR COUNTY EMERGENCY RESPONDERS AND SCHOOLS SPONSOR TRAINING EVENT**

Upshur County Schools and emergency responders from city and county agencies are working collaboratively to prepare for potential emergencies at the schools in the county. On **Saturday, June 2, 2018**, officials from these agencies will participate in a **community-wide emergency training event at Buckhannon Academy Elementary School**.

The training will take the form of a full-scale, **“mock disaster”** exercise. As part of the event, school and emergency personnel will respond to a simulated situation as if it were real.

The event is scheduled to take place on **Saturday, June 2, 2018, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Organizers would like the community to be aware of the event because residents will see lots of participants, observers, actors, and emergency vehicles in the area, and it may be difficult to get through the area during the event. “In order to adequately test all elements of this response, we may have emergency vehicles on city roadways and parked on streets in the area around the Buckhannon Academy school. We will keep these disruptions to a minimum.”

The training is the culmination of several months of planning. Organizers started meeting in February to set up this event. According to Dr. Tammy Samples, President of the Upshur County Board of Education, “Upshur County Board of Education members consider the safety of students and school personnel of highest priority. This community has excellent emergency responders who strive to keep our communities safe. This planning training exercise, and future similar events, will provide valuable insights into how Upshur County Schools can work collaboratively with emergency responders to ensure the safety of all students and staff.”

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