



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Olson Group in collaboration with Dukes County to Present

Island-Wide Emergency Management Strategic Plan

Public presentation on May 28th invites all islanders to review the plan and weigh in on the future of island-wide public safety

EDGARTOWN, MA — The Olson Group in collaboration with Dukes County will present its Island-Wide Emergency Management Strategic Plan at a public event on **Thursday, May 28, 2026, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.** at the Oak Bluffs Public Library. The presentation will be delivered by The Olson Group, Ltd in collaboration with Dukes County. The Olson Group, Ltd. is a professional emergency management consultant firm engaged by Dukes County to develop the plan.

The strategic plan charts a coordinated approach to emergency preparedness and response across all of Martha's Vineyard and Gosnold. As the only island-wide governmental agency, Dukes County is uniquely positioned to lead emergency planning for events where no single town could sustain operations and recovery on its own.

The May 28th event is an opportunity for town officials, first responders, health and human services organizations, and the general public to learn what the plan covers, ask questions, and provide input before it is finalized.

“As islanders, we are stronger together — that is true in everyday island life, and it becomes obvious when responding to island-wide emergencies,” said Martina Thornton, County Manager. “This plan is about making sure that every town, every agency, and every resident can count on a coordinated response when it matters most. We want the public to know that a roadmap towards better preparedness for emergencies was created, see the plan and be part of the conversation.”

The Olson Group is a professional emergency management consulting firm engaged by Dukes County to lead the strategic planning process. Their work draws on best practices in island and coastal community preparedness and their years of experience with creating emergency management response plans and managing active operations.

Event Details

What: Public Presentation — Island-Wide Emergency Management Strategic Plan

When: Thursday, May 28, 2026, 4:00–6:00 p.m.

Who: Open to all island residents, town officials, and partner organizations

Where: Oak Bluffs Public Library, Oak Bluffs, MA and on Zoom

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88089279484?pwd=LdUEbZ91XAewS2Hzt57LuDhGkrqQ6A.](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88089279484?pwd=LdUEbZ91XAewS2Hzt57LuDhGkrqQ6A.1)

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Meeting ID: 880 8927 9484

Passcode: 383125

About Dukes County

Dukes County is the only island-wide governmental agency serving Martha's Vineyard and Gosnold. Founded before the United States itself, the County fulfills legislatively required functions, coordinates regional services, secures grants, and executes island-wide projects — delivering public services across all town lines that no individual town could sustain alone.

For more information, contact Martina Thornton at manager@dukescounty.gov or 508-696-3840.