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News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### **Emergency Management Director selected for position at Washington University**

Ryan Nicholls has been selected as the new Emergency Management Planning Specialist for the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Mo. He will begin his new duties April 7, 2014. "This is an extraordinary opportunity for me professionally and for my family," said Nicholls. He continued, "I am getting the chance to help build a new emergency management program for this world-class medical school, literally from the ground up – my role will be that of an emergency manager, specializing in comprehensive disaster planning." Nicholls brings to Washington University several years of experience having served as the Director for the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) in Jefferson City, Mo.

Presiding Commissioner Jim Viebrock said, "Our loss is certainly Washington University's gain and we wish Ryan and his family continued success." Springfield Mayor Bob Stephens noted, "Ryan's shoes will be hard to fill as he has definitely built a program here in Springfield and Greene County that sets a very high standard for emergency management."

Nicholls holds a Master's degree from Oklahoma State University, a Bachelor's degree from Missouri State University, Associate degrees from Ozarks Technical Community College and the Cox College of Nursing Springfield, Mo. Under his leadership, the Office of Emergency Management opened the new Public Safety Center and received full accreditation from the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP).

Nicholls is a member of the International Association of Emergency Managers and the Missouri Emergency Preparedness Association. His civic involvement includes numerous board memberships as well as many volunteer efforts in the community. He and his wife Angie have six children.

Springfield City Manager Greg Burris and Greene County Administrator Tim Smith announced a nationwide search will be conducted to replace Nicholls.

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