

# Emergency Preparedness Newsletter



Department of Emergency Management and Security (DEMS)

## Resolve to be Ready in 2023 - DEMS Monthly Webinar on August 2, 2023, at 7 PM

Join us on Wednesday, August 2, 2023, at 7 PM to learn about preparing youth for emergencies. We will focus on preparing for going back to school and how to best talk to children about preparing and practicing for an emergency. Join us: <https://youtube.com/live/FJB2TNNYMuM>

## Public Safety Open House – Rescheduled for August 26<sup>th</sup>!

Join us on August 26<sup>th</sup> for a fun-filled Public Safety Day in the back parking lot of the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center (4890 Alliance Dr., Fairfax)! This open house style event is designed to strengthen community ties and recruit future heroes for Fairfax County 9-1-1, Department of Emergency Management and Security, Fairfax County Sheriff's Office, Virginia State Police, Virginia Department of Transportation, Fairfax County Police Department – including Animal Protection, and the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department.

**Public Safety Day**

**Join us**  
August 26th, 2023 10am - 2pm  
4890 Alliance Drive Fairfax VA

**Events:**

- ✓ Career Opportunities
- ✓ Food and Games
- ✓ Tours
- ✓ Demos and Displays

**FREE ENTRY**

Bring your family and friends to enjoy an array of games, food, demonstrations, and tours that showcase the important work these departments do to keep our community safe. Children can participate in the Child ID program, while everyone can learn about and take-home emergency preparedness kits and listen to mock 9-1-1 calls. Don't miss the opportunity to admire antique police cars and connect with local public safety heroes. Career opportunities are available too. Mark your calendars and get ready for an unforgettable day of education, entertainment, and community-building!

Stop by for:

- ♦ Child ID – get an identification card made for your kids that you can take home that same day.
- ♦ Emergency Preparedness kits – take home a kit with emergency supplies to start your emergency preparedness journey.
- ♦ Mock 9-1-1 calls and tour – listen to what 9-1-1 calls sound like so you can be prepared if you need to call & do a window tour of the 9-1-1 floor.
- ♦ K9 and dogs – visit with a K9 therapy dog, police dogs, and adoptable dogs from the animal shelter.
- ♦ Vehicle display – check out police cruisers (current and antique), fire trucks, and more.
- ♦ Food – popcorn, snow cones, and food trucks.
- ♦ Games – win prizes by playing Plink-o and a lollipop ring toss; hang out with family and friends with cornhole and other yard games.
- ♦ Careers – Looking for a rewarding career in public safety? Talk with first responders and visit the recruitment van that will be onsite.

**Event location:** 4890 Alliance Drive Fairfax, VA 22030

**Event time:** 10 AM – 2 PM

**Parking location:** 4975 Alliance Drive Fairfax, VA 22030

## National Weather Service Webinar – 2023 Hurricane Season Outlook

The Fairfax County Department of Emergency Management and Security hosted the National Weather Service to give residents the 2023 Hurricane Season outlook. The recording goes through a presentation led by Kevin Rodriguez, a lead meteorologist for the National Weather Service from the Baltimore/Washington office. The presentation goes in depth about what a hurricane is, the hurricanes that have affected our area in the past, and what the hurricane outlook is for the remainder of 2023. Webinar: <https://youtu.be/orlCPQe6RTQ>



## Back To School Preparedness

It's that time of year where you might be thinking about all the back to school shopping you have to do in the next few weeks. However, it is really important to talk to your children about preparing for emergencies, especially if an emergency happens when they are at school.



**Children Can be Confident During an Emergency** - Children who are prepared experience less anxiety and feel more confident during actual emergencies and disasters.

In school, kids practice many drills such as a fire drill (evacuation), a shelter in place drill (tornado or earthquake), and a lockdown drill (active violence). How can you help prepare your kids for those kinds of drills? Talk to them about the different types of emergencies that can happen and some of the actions they might have to take. It is important to emphasize they should follow the instructions given by the teacher.

Parents, we have some work for you as well! That's right – some homework for the adults!

1. Find out the school or childcare center's emergency plans. Ask how you will receive information if there is an emergency at your child's school.

If you live in Fairfax County, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) has a Text Messaging for parents and students for times when it is critical to notify FCPS parents as quickly as possible. Link to sign up: <https://www.fcps.edu/resources/parent-communication-overview/fcps-text-messaging-parents-and-students>

2. Update your emergency contact information. Make sure that the school has up-to-date emergency contact information for your child. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a great printable template for you to use: <https://www.cdc.gov/parents/backtoschool/Backpack-Card.pdf>
3. Understand the reality of reuniting after an emergency. If public safety officials require that a school building be evacuated, students and staff members will be safely transported by bus to a designated parent-student reunification center. Parents will be informed of the reunification location via FCPS' emergency messaging system and local media. At the reunification center, students will be released to their parents upon presentation of proper identification.

For some additional resources or to read more on how you can prepare for the 2023-2024 school year, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/parents/children/back-to-school.html>

## Request an Emergency Preparedness Workshop

DEMS conducts workshops (virtual or in person) to prepare your networks for an emergency. Submit your request today: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergencymanagement/presentation-requests](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergencymanagement/presentation-requests). Workshop Topics:

- Personal Preparedness Using the Community Emergency Response Guide (CERG).
- 5 Step Neighborhood Guide Workshop – Learn how to prepare for where you live!
- Business Disaster Resilience Workshop – Learn how to prepare your business!
- Youth Preparedness (Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, schools, etc.).

# Prepare an Emergency Water Supply

In our area, severe weather and other emergencies can happen anytime. Here are a few things you can do to prepare an emergency water supply for your home or business:

- Store at least 1 gallon of water per person per day for a minimum 3-day supply.
- Be sure to account for pets.
- Store water in a cool, dark place in your home, office, or car. Replace the water every six months, and check expiration dates on store-bought water.
- Use of food-grade water storage containers, such as those found at surplus or camping supply stores, is recommended if you prepare stored water yourself.
- Sign up for **Fairfax Alerts** to stay up to date on any drinking water related emergencies



## Fairfax Water

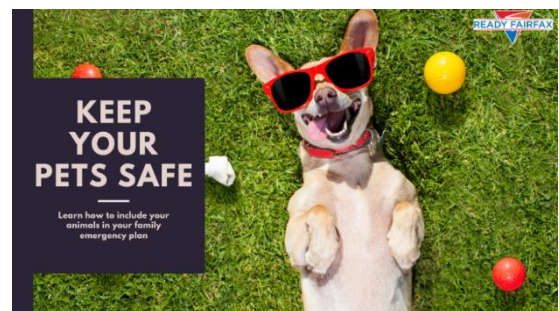
[www.fairfaxwater.org](http://www.fairfaxwater.org)

To learn more about preparing an emergency water supply, visit <http://bit.ly/46WczDj>.

## National Dog Month: Prepare Your Dog (And Other Pets!) For Emergencies

In times of emergency, it's crucial to have a solid plan in place to protect every member of your family, including your beloved pets. Pets are part of our families, and they rely on us to keep them safe during challenging times. And that can be easier to do if you prepare yourself and your pet appropriately. One of the best ways to get started is to create a pet emergency kit! It should include things such as:

- Food
- Water
- Collar with ID tag
- Harness or leash
- Pet carrier
- Sanitation items such as pet litter and a litter box
- Comfort item, such as a toy or blanket
- Veterinarian contact information
- Vaccination records



Not all evacuation shelters accept pets, so it is important to research pet-friendly hotels, or make arrangements to stay at friend's house, so you are not stressed trying to find a place to stay during an emergency. Include your pets in your emergency drills too! Making sure that they see their carrier as a safe place so that they will go in willingly when asked, will save valuable time during an evacuation. This can be done by leaving the carrier out, so your pet doesn't only associate it with leaving, or even putting treats in the carrier to make it a place they look forward going to!

For more information on how to include your pet in your emergency planning, visit: [Make an Emergency Plan | Emergency \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency)



Fairfax County offers several resources to help residents stay informed and communicate important information to first responders during an emergency. Below are three resources residents of Fairfax County may utilize to help them be prepared and resilient during an emergency.

**Fairfax Alerts** allows residents of Fairfax County to sign up for free emergency alerts to be sent directly to their phone via text message or email. Residents who sign up for Fairfax Alerts will receive alerts and warnings if there is an emergency or potential for a public safety emergency in the area of one of the addresses they register in the system. Alerts can be customized to include traffic, weather, and community updates. Sign up at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts/>.

**Community Connect** is a free, secure, and easy to use platform that allows Fairfax County residents and business owners to share critical information with first responders and public safety personnel. The platform has made it easy to know what information may be important by organizing the secure portal into buckets of information. Residents who sign up for Community Connect may enter information on the layout of their home or business, where the utility shutoffs are located, who resides in the home, information on disabilities or access and functional needs, and important information about pets (such as their name and favorite hiding place). This information is stored under the registered address and will only be available to first responders when emergency personnel are dispatched to a registered address.

The information entered in Community Connect is secure and is used only for the purpose of better serving residents during emergency situations. The information is never used for any other purpose. Follow this link to sign up for Community Connect: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/alerts-and-emails](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/alerts-and-emails).

**The Emergency Health Profile** is a free, voluntary database for residents to enter any relevant information on their mental health, developmental disability, pre-existing conditions, allergies, emergency contacts, and more. The information entered is registered under the phone number(s) entered in the user profile and is automatically forwarded to dispatchers if a call is placed to 9-1-1 from a registered phone number. Emergency communications dispatchers can forward the information to first responders to aid them in their efforts to help the resident who called 9-1-1.

The database will only be used for emergency or crisis response and not shared with any other county agencies or departments. To sign up, visit the Emergency Health Profile sign-up page on the Department of Public Safety Communication's webpage: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/911/emergency-health-profile>.

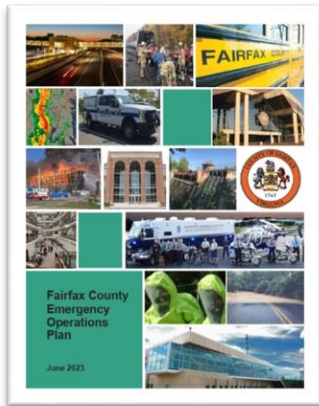
## Volunteer with the Emergency Management Volunteer Corps

The Department of Emergency Management and Security's (DEMS) Volunteer Corps volunteers are trained in emergency preparedness and emergency management principles to help inform the public by staffing public events, leading presentations, and participating in trainings. Interested in answering the call?

Visit here for more info: [Volunteering in Emergency Preparedness | Emergency Management \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/volunteering-in-emergency-preparedness-emergency-management).

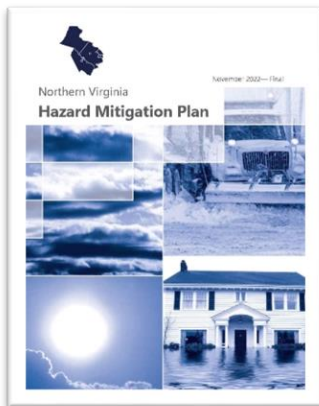


## Updated and Approved: Emergency Operations Plan and Hazard Mitigation Plan



On June 27<sup>th</sup> of this year, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved the 2023 Fairfax County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and adopted the 2022 Northern Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The Fairfax County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is a multi-discipline, all-hazards plan that establishes a single, comprehensive framework for the management of major emergencies and disasters within the County. The EOP establishes the overall roles and responsibilities for emergency operations, as well as the concept of operations for the County. The Commonwealth of Virginia requires all local jurisdictions to have an Emergency Operations Plan and it is renewed every 4 years.



the Northern Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies hazards, establishes mitigation goals and objectives, and identifies projects that will help prepare for and reduce the impacts of natural disasters. The plan outlines the county's natural, technological, and manmade hazards and risks. The most important portion of this plan are the strategies that are identified by departments and agencies in Fairfax County to mitigate any recurring cascading impacts from our identified hazards. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) requires the county and other Northern Virginia partners to update this plan every 5 years.

Both plans are essential to the Department of Emergency Management and Security and help us educate the public on our capabilities, as well as what our biggest hazards are.

## Community Emergency Response Guide for Kids

There are several publications for kids in Fairfax County. Download a copy today and do the activities with your kids!

Link: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/readyfairfax](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/readyfairfax)

