

Emergency Preparedness Newsletter

Department of Emergency Management and Security (DEMS)



National Preparedness Month

The 2023 theme is “Take Control in 1, 2, 3”. This theme empowers everyone, especially older adults, to 1) assess their needs, 2) make a plan and 3) engage their support network to stay safe when disaster strikes.



Week 5: Have a plan for any occasion (September 25th- September 30th)

- Be informed of what disasters are common in your area.
- What to have with you while traveling?
- What to include in your car kit?
- Have an evacuation plan keeping in mind mobility, hearing, or other difficulties, including transportation if you don't have a driver's license or vehicle.

What's In Your Area?

Fairfax County is vulnerable to a wide range of hazards. These hazards threaten the safety of residents and have the potential to damage or destroy property and disrupt the economy. While we cannot eliminate hazards, we can lessen their impact. The hazards in the Community Emergency Response Guide (CERG) are grouped by common characteristics and do not imply any rank-order. The hazard section provides examples of what to do for each of Fairfax County's most prevalent hazards.

Natural Hazards

- Thunderstorm
- Hurricane/Tropical Storm
- Flooding
- Coastal Flooding
- Winter Weather/Extreme Cold
- Extreme Heat
- Tornado
- Earthquake
- Emerging Infectious Diseases

Human-caused Hazards (accident or intentional)

- Cyber Attack
- Acts of Violence/Terrorism
- Hazardous Materials

“Everyday” Emergencies

- Structure Fire
- Power Outage/Blackout
- Medical Emergency



Read more about the hazards in Fairfax County in the Community Emergency Response Guide (CERG):

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergencymanagement/cerg

Volunteer with the Emergency Management Volunteer Corps

The Department of Emergency Management and Security's (DEMS) Volunteer Corps 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 \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#).



Traveling? Are You Prepared?

Have an emergency roadside kit (and change it for each season). Emergency kits should include basic supplies that are tailored to every person's need. You will need additional supplies if you are traveling with children, seniors, individuals with access and functional needs, or pets. Regular maintenance such as tune-ups, oil changes, battery checks, tire rotations, and A/C checks go a long way toward preventing breakdowns.

Check the weather and sign up for local emergency alerts to the area you are visiting so you can stay in the know while you are there.

Emergency kit checklist: [Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Guide](#)

Please Take the Annual Emergency Preparedness Survey

Fairfax County is launching the 2023 Emergency Preparedness Survey to assess the culture of personal disaster preparedness and resilience in Fairfax County. How prepared are you? Here is your chance to tell us!

Survey link:

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/fd34b75072184e5daf72eb338421b3b9?portalUrl=https://Fairfaxcountygis.maps.arcgis.com>



Evacuation Planning

Activity limitations, whether permanent or temporary, can interfere with or prevent successful evacuation. In addition, not knowing what to do or where to go during an emergency can be a substantial barrier.

People with special needs may face many different forms of potential barriers including physical and transportation barriers. Physical barriers might include curbs, steps, stairways, narrow doorways, and aisles; and inability to use mobility devices (canes, walkers, wheelchairs). Transportation barriers, which restrict access to appropriate, reliable, and accessible transportation, both public and private.

Each person has different needs and should be consulted about how best to provide assistance. It is important to assess capabilities, limitations, and needs and to determine what type of evacuation assistance will be required in an emergency. Self-assessment tools can be used not only to help identify who may need assistance during an evacuation, but also to assess preparedness.

Don't wait! Get your support network involved and walk through what assistance you may need and make a plan!

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. 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.).