

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS NEWSLETTER



DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY

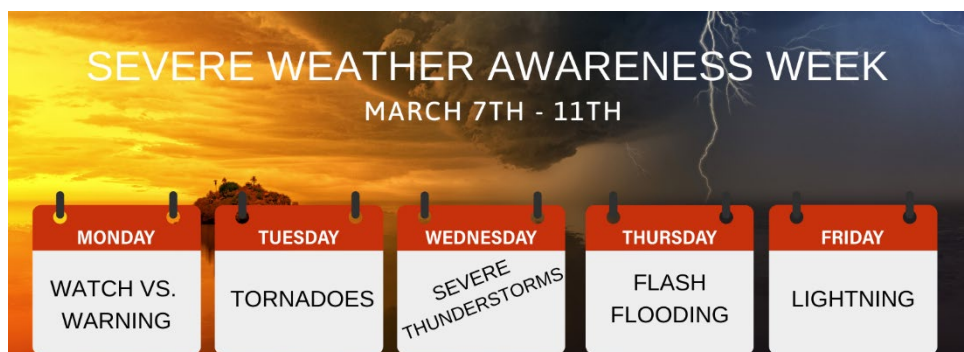
Virginia Statewide Tornado Drill – Tuesday, March 8th at 9:45 A.M.

Every school, business, workplace, and family across the state is strongly encouraged to participate in the statewide tornado drill.

Tornadoes can occur at any time of day but are particularly dangerous at night since most folks are asleep. Keep Wireless Emergency Alerts enabled on your cell phone, so you know if you are in the path of a tornado.

For additional preparedness information on tornadoes, visit: [Tornado | Emergency \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency)

Virginia Severe Weather Awareness Week March 7th – 11th



Join us in promoting severe weather safety during this year's Severe Weather Awareness Week! Each day will discuss a different severe weather preparedness topic.

- **Monday: Watch vs Warning**
 - Watch: Conditions are favorable for the event to occur. Does not mean that the event WILL occur.
 - Warning: Event imminent, occurring and heading your way, or high likelihood of occurring. Take appropriate action to protect life and property.
- **Tuesday: Tornadoes**
 - Tornado Watch: Conditions are favorable for the development of thunderstorms capable of producing tornadoes.
 - Tornado Warning: A thunderstorm capable of producing a tornado is imminent.
- **Wednesday: Severe Thunderstorms**
 - Thunderstorms are large, localized weather events. They are most common in the summer but can occur in any season.
 - All thunderstorms produce lightning and have the potential to produce tornadoes, strong winds, hail, wildfires, and flash flooding.
- **Thursday: Flash Flooding**
 - Flooding is one of Fairfax County's most common hazards. Depending on its depth and velocity, flooding can be a nuisance or a disaster.
 - Be prepared for flooding no matter where you live, but particularly if you are in a low-lying area, near a body of water, downstream from a dam, or in other areas known to flood in previous storms.
- **Friday: Lightning**
 - Lightning is of particular concern because of its unpredictability – lightning often strikes beyond what is perceived to be the storm, sometimes occurring as far as 10 miles away from rainfall.
 - If you can hear thunder, you are in danger. Don't be fooled by blue skies. If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to pose an immediate threat.

Prepare for Floods: Learn the Benefits of Flood Insurance

The National Flood Insurance Program provides insurance to help reduce the socio-economic impact of floods. Did you know that one inch of floodwater can cause up to \$25,000 in damage?

Here is some information to become familiar with:

- Most homeowners' insurance does not cover flood damage.
- Flood insurance is a separate policy that can cover buildings and/or the contents in a building.
- There is typically a 30-day waiting period for an NFIP policy to go into effect.



The National Flood Insurance Program provides insurance to property owners, renters, and businesses. For more information on this program, visit: www.FloodSmart.gov

When the Waters Rise, Will You Know What to Do?

Flooding is one of Fairfax County's most common hazards. On July 8, 2019, Fairfax County experienced nearly 5 inches of rain in a little over an hours' time. This amount of rain in a short amount of time caused flash flooding resulting in over 20 closed roads. Swift water rescue teams were taxed as they were rescuing residents who drove through flooded roadways.

Response to Floods Tips:

- If you encounter rising water, move to higher ground immediately.
- Always stay clear from floodwaters.
- Do not drive through flooded roads, even if you have a vehicle with high clearance and even if the water appears to be shallow.
- Stay away from downed power lines to avoid the risk of shock or electrocution.



Do you know what to do after a flood to stay safe? Only return home after a flood once local officials say it is safe to do so:

- Avoid walking or driving through floodwaters.
- Do not drink from floodwaters.
- Do not drink or wash with water from a flooded household well until it is tested and found to be safe to use.
- Do not eat any food that may have come into contact with flood water. **"When in doubt, throw it out."**

To find out if your property is in a **FLOOD ZONE** go to msc.fema.gov/portal/search



It's Not Luck!

As we get closer to St. Patrick's Day, here's a reminder that #ItsNotLuck that prepares you for emergencies.

Don't count on being lucky!

- Know your risk for the area that you live and work.
- Make a plan to lessen the impact of those risks.
- Build a kit to be ready for disasters and emergencies.