

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS NEWSLETTER

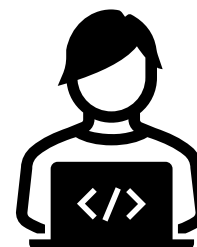


DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY

Webinar with Property Management/Landlords May 18th – Topic: Fires

The Department of Emergency Management and Security (DEMS) is hosting a lunch and learn webinar for property management and landlords to learn about the roles and responsibilities of a property management company/landlord when a fire occurs. We will have a property who recently had a fire talk about their experience, lessons learned, and what they have improved for the future.

Through this webinar, we hope to educate property managers and landlords on the rights and responsibilities, for both the property and renter, as well as share best practices to help your community or property return to normal as quickly as possible. The webinar will include a short overview and discussion regarding renter’s insurance, what it covers, and strategies to educate your renters on the importance of having it.



Join from a computer: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81202218412>

Join by phone: 888-270-9936 (US Toll Free); Conference code: 952942

Hurricane Season Starts in June

Be ready for hurricane season. Determine your personal hurricane risk, find out if you live in an evacuation zone, and review and update your insurance policies. You can also make a list of items to replenish hurricane emergency supplies and start thinking about how you will prepare your home for the coming hurricane season.

The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1st to November 30th, with the peak occurring between mid-August and late October.

Going on vacation this summer? Make sure to check the weather forecast, know if you are in a hurricane evacuation zone, and get travel insurance (in case of any disruptions).

First, know the difference between a watch and a warning!

- Hurricane Watch - Conditions are possible within the next 36 hours.
- Hurricane Warning - Conditions expected within 24 hours.



What can you do to prepare? Follow these tips:

Before

- Sign up for Fairfax Alerts and have a radio available.
- Decide early whether you will evacuate, and where to go.
- If you evacuate, bring your emergency kit with you.
- Prepare your home.
- Ensure you have insurance.
- Secure or bring inside any outdoor items.

During

- Listen to radio and television for official, up-to-date information.
- Find a safe room within your home (an interior room, closet, or bathroom).
- Do not go outside until the National Weather Service's National Hurricane Center confirms the storm has left the area.

After

- Return home when local officials say it is safe.
- Avoid walking or driving through floodwaters.
- Check in with family and friends by texting or using social media.

Resources:

- Hurricane Hazard Page in the CERG: [Hurricanes/Tropical Storms | Emergency \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/hurricanes-tropical-storms)
- NOAA Hurricane Info: [National Hurricane Center \(noaa.gov\)](https://www.noaa.gov/hurricane)

Wildfire Preparedness

In 2018 more than 58,000 fires burned nearly nine million acres across the U.S. More than 25,000 structures were destroyed, including 18,137 residences and 229 commercial structures.

Wildfire Community Preparedness Day is a national campaign that encourages people and organizations to raise awareness and reduce wildfire risks. Following these tips can reduce your wildfire risk:



- Check your home's roof and yard leaves for pine needles, and other materials that can build up and burn.
- Practice safe disposal of smoking material.
- Plan and practice a home evacuation plan.

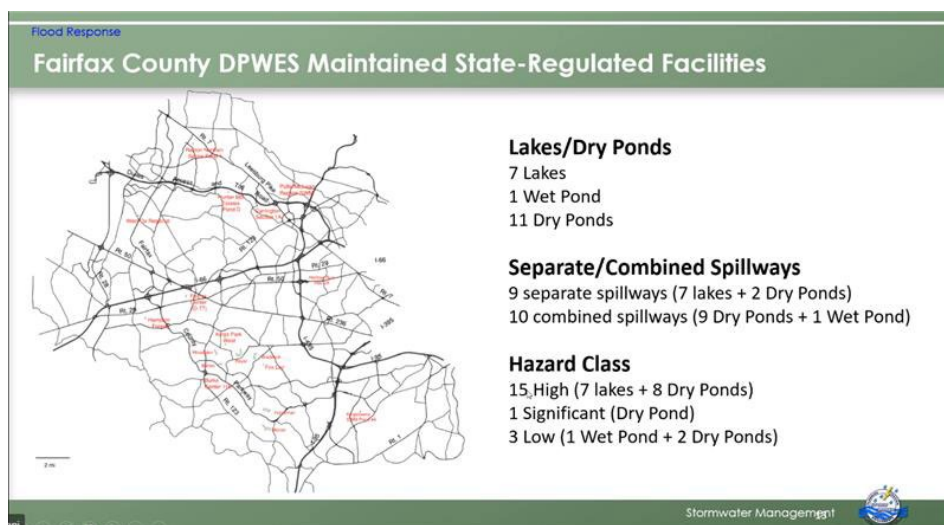
Resources: Wildfire Preparedness Info: [Wildfire | NFPA](#)

National Dam Safety Awareness Day on May 31, 2022

Dams are a critical part of the nation's infrastructure and provide a life-sustaining resource to people. There are more than 2,900 regulated dams in Virginia, the majority of which are privately owned.

In Fairfax County, the county is responsible for monitoring about **20 large dams**. In addition, there are other dams that are maintained by the state or private property owners. It is important to understand that both safe operation and maintenance are key to avoiding disaster.

- Be aware of dams in your community.
- Purchase or renew flood insurance.
- Sign up for Fairfax Alerts to receive emergency information.
- Have an emergency plan in place for your family or business and know how to evacuate.
- Inform friends and neighbors about the risk of a dam failure.



For more information, review county specific resources:

- Dam Hazard Page in the Fairfax CERG: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/readyfairfax/damfailure
- Dam Basics: [Dam Basics | Public Works and Environmental Services \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/dam-basics)
- Dam Diagram: [Dam Diagram and Description \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/dam-diagram)

Building Safety Month

All communities need appropriate building regulations to protect their citizens from disasters like fires, weather-related events, and structural collapse. The effective enforcement of modern building codes is society's best way of protecting homes, offices, schools, manufacturing facilities, stores, and entertainment venues.

This year's campaign themes are:

- Week One, May 1-8, Planning for a Safe & Sustainable Tomorrow
- Week Two, May 9-15, Exploring Careers in Building Safety
- Week Three, May 16-22, Understanding Disaster Mitigation
- Week four, May 23-31, Creating a Safe & Abundant Water Supply

Learn more about Building Safety Month at www.buildingsafetymonth.org.