

Emergency Preparedness Newsletter

Department of Emergency Management and Security (DEMS)



Resolve to be Ready in 2023 - DEMS Monthly Webinar on June 7, 2023, at 7 PM

Join us on Wednesday, June 7, 2023, at 7 PM to learn about the volunteer programs that support public safety and preparedness in the community. Join us: <https://youtube.com/live/HSMKwvJeed8>



Public Safety Open House – June 10th

Join us at 4890 Alliance Dr, Fairfax on June 10th for a fun-filled Public Safety Day in the back parking lot of the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center! 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 Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Register for free here: <https://bit.ly/3n91lcj>

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 to start your emergency preparedness journey.
- Mock 9-1-1 calls and tour – listen to what 9-1-1 calls sound like and see 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.
- Careers – Talk with the ones doing the job right now, a recruitment van will be onsite.

We hope to see you there!

Pet Preparedness Month

Does your family include a cat, dog, or other furry or feathered friend? You'll need to consider their survival during an emergency as well! An emergency plan and kit will bring peace of mind, and the assurance that your whole family is prepared to survive, if a disaster occurs.

Ensure your pet is wearing a collar with up-to-date information, such as your name and phone number. Get your pet microchipped – this will make it easier to be reunited if you become separated.

Make a plan for how to care for your pet in times of an emergency.

- Always take your pets with you if you evacuate!
- Create a buddy system with neighbors in the event you're not home.
- Prearrange an evacuation site outside of your immediate area, for your family including pets.
- Document your pets' info, including medical conditions and medications.
- Practice your plan and familiarize your pet with the process of leaving your home urgently.

Make an emergency kit for your furry and feathered friends. Use the emergency kit checklist above to get started today!

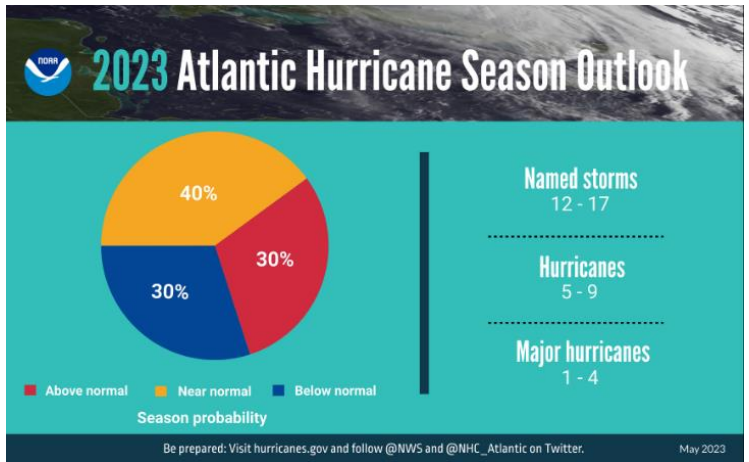
PET EMERGENCY KIT CHECKLIST

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| ✓ Food (don't forget treats!) | ✓ Picture of you and your pet |
| ✓ Water | ✓ Crate or pet carrier |
| ✓ Bowls for food/water | ✓ Familiar bed/blanket and a toy |
| ✓ Medications and vet records | ✓ Can opener (if needed) |
| ✓ First aid kit | ✓ Pet-friendly hotels/boarding facilities |
| ✓ Leash, and collar with ID | ✓ Specialty supplies for small animals/birds/reptiles if needed (heating pad, dietary supplements, etc) |
| ✓ Microchip info | |
| ✓ Medical records | |
| ✓ Cleaning products (dog waste bags, litter box, paper towels, trash bags) | |

Hurricane Season Started June 1st

2023 Hurricane Season is here and runs until November 30. As you may have seen, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released their 2023 Atlantic Hurricane Season outlook last week. As the graphic shows, there is a 40% that we will experience a “near normal” hurricane season, but also a 30% chance that this season will see above or below normal impacts from hurricanes and tropical storms.

You should begin preparing your family now for hurricane season. Hurricanes, even as they evolve or dissipate into tropical storms and depressions, are powerful and can produce catastrophic damage.



Before (Preparedness)

- Decide if you will evacuate (bring your emergency kit with you).
- Prepare your home (shut off utilities, secure property, etc.) and secure outside objects.
- Put together a kit and don't forget your pets or service animals. Checklist: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergencymanagement/cerg
- Make a family communications plan so you can connect during an emergency.
- Review your insurance coverage and inventory and document your property in advance, including photographs, in case you need to make an insurance claim.
- Stay Informed and Emergency Alerts – [Fairfax Alerts](#), NOAA Weather Radio, social media, news.

During (Response)

- 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.
- Check on your neighbors if it is safe to do so.

After (Recovery)

- 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.
- Practice generator safety – Carbon monoxide poisoning is one of the leading causes of death post-storm. Never use a portable generator inside your home or garage.
- Protect yourself while cleaning up – wear protective clothing and masks.
- Children should not participate in clean-up work.
- Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water.
- Avoid wading in flood water, which can contain dangerous debris and wildlife.

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.).

Prepare for Extreme Heat

During extreme heat days, it is important to take precautions to “beat the heat”. Stay indoors, drink plenty of liquids, wear loose-fitting clothing and know the signs of heat exhaustion. See below for heat safety tips.

Stay informed by signing up for Fairfax Alerts on various topics including heat emergencies. Did you know that you can sign up for important emergency alerts and updates during a heat emergency? Fairfax Alerts can be sent via phone, text, email and more.

Subscriptions to select:

1. Emergency Alerts
2. Severe Weather → Non-Precipitation: Excessive Heat Warning, Excessive Heat Watch, and Heat Advisory.

To sign up, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts.

Before (Preparedness)

- Drink plenty of fluids. Know your body and know what is normal.
- Stay inside and out of the heat. Reschedule outdoor activities, if possible.
- Never leave children, older adults, or pets alone in a car.
- Dress in loose-fitting, lightweight, and light-colored clothing to help maintain normal body temperatures.

During (Response)

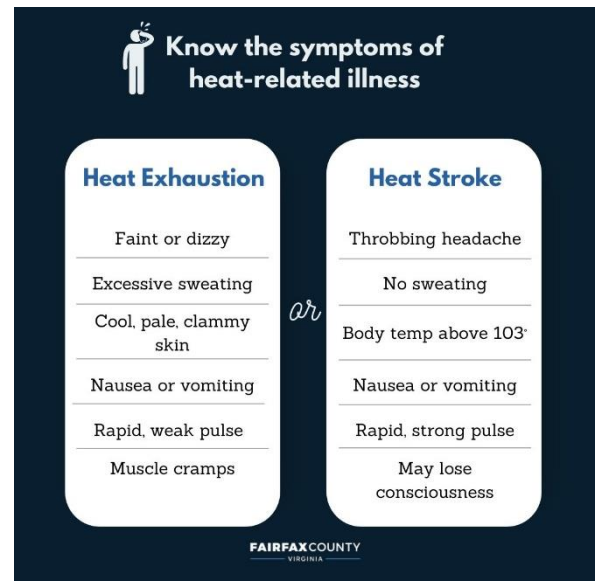
- Stay indoors as much as possible and limit exposure to heat and sun.
- Visit Fairfax County Cooling Centers - including libraries, community centers, recreation centers, Fairfax County Government Center, and shelters.
- Drink plenty of water or electrolyte sports drinks and avoid strenuous work during the warmest hours.
- Use a buddy system when working in extreme heat, have a phone handy, and take frequent breaks.
- If you must exercise, consider indoor activities.
- If you feel woozy, overheated, or unwell, act immediately!
 - Stop any strenuous activity.
 - Get somewhere cool.
 - Drink something if you can.
 - Cool your skin by taking a cold bath or holding anything cold against your body.
 - Call someone for help or call 911 - do this before your condition compromises your critical thinking skills.
- Check on older neighbors and any neighbors without air conditioning.

After (Recovery)

- Consult a medical professional if a heat-related condition does not approve.
- Continue to drink plenty of water.

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 \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts).



Firework Safety

The best way to protect your family is not to use fireworks at home - period. The U.S. Fire Administration recommends attending public fireworks displays and leaving the lighting to the professionals.

Did you know:

- In 2021, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 11,500 people for fireworks related injuries; 32% due to burns, with 67% of injuries occurring to the eyes, head, face, ears, hands, and fingers. These injury estimates were obtained or derived from the Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CSPC) 2021 Annual Fireworks Report (cpsc.gov).

Safety tips:

- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks, including sparklers.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy, in case of fire or other mishap.
- After fireworks complete their burning, put them into water to prevent a fire.
- Make sure fireworks are legal in your area, and only purchase them legally.

Lightning Awareness Week June 18 to 24

Lightning is one of the most underrated weather hazards. It makes every single thunderstorm a potential killer, whether the storm produces one or one thousand bolts. You should take appropriate action when threatened by lightning.

Most people struck by lightning are struck not at the height of a thunderstorm, but before and after the storm has peaked. Lightning can strike more than 10 miles away from the location of rainfall. That means that if you can hear thunder, you are within striking distance. Seek safe shelter immediately, and remember these lightning safety rules:

- Watch the sky often for changing conditions.
- The threat of lightning increases as a storm approaches, peaks when it is overhead and gradually diminishes as it moves away.
- When thunder roars, go indoors and stay there until 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder. For those who are hearing impaired, remember See a Flash, Dash Inside.
- The best shelter from lightning is an enclosed sturdy structure such as your home or building. Stay away from windows and electrical appliances and avoid plumbing.
- People struck by lightning DO NOT carry a charge and are safe to touch. Providing immediate medical attention to lightning victims could save their lives.



The First Crisis Communications Workshop

On May 10, 2023, the Fairfax County Crisis Communications Workshop took place, bringing together representatives from Fairfax County Public Schools and various Fairfax County Government agencies. The primary focus of the workshop was to build relationships and discuss effective communication strategies during a crisis.

The workshop commenced with an introduction by the Department of Emergency Management and Security, emphasizing the importance of preparedness and collaboration in emergency situations. Agencies briefed their guiding plans and policies and then a brief scenario was presented where agencies walked through what their actions and needs would be.



Overall, the Fairfax County Crisis Communications Workshop proved to be a valuable opportunity for Fairfax County Public Schools and government agencies to come together and strengthen their crisis communication strategies. Hopefully this is the first of many more to come!

DPWES Prepares for Hurricane Season with Flood Response Exercise

On May 3, more than 150 staffers from the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) Stormwater Program participated in a full-day drill that simulated a hurricane impacting Fairfax County. In the exercise, Hurricane Dana made landfall in the Outer Banks and 6-10 inches of rain was forecast for Fairfax County. DPWES activated to respond to the storm. Field observers and dam monitors were dispatched to locations throughout the county to take readings and pictures, and to report their observations back to staff in the operations center.



At stormwater’s operations center, command staff and the flood monitoring and modeling staff utilized the county’s flood warning system and existing plans to monitor the situation and notify partners, including DEMS, of any emerging issues. Calls from the public were also simulated to generate service requests and investigations of structural flooding. Training exercises help prepare DPWES and the county to respond to major flooding events and emergencies.






**STAY SAFE.
GET CONNECTED.**

WWW.FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV/TOPICS/ALERTS-AND-EMAILS



Sign up for emergency, weather and transportation alerts, as well as tax deadline and event reminders.

It's simple. If we can't reach you, we can't alert you.



Community Connect is a free, secure and easy to use platform for families and business. Share critical information that will aid first responders and emergency response personnel.



Create your free emergency health profile to provide real time critical health and medical information to first responders during an emergency or crisis event.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/alerts-and-emails