

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS NEWSLETTER



DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY

Financial Preparedness Month

If a disaster or other emergency strikes your community, you may only have seconds or minutes to react. In those critical moments, your focus will be on your family’s safety. Once the threat of harm has passed, having your homeowners or renters’ insurance policy, bank account information, and other household records and contacts will be very important as you begin the recovery process. The Emergency Financial First Aid Kit (EFFAK) can help you be ready (link below).

The nonprofit organization Operation HOPE, in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), created the EFFAK in 2004 to help individuals and families collect and organize critical financial, medical, and household contact information.

Four Steps to Financial Preparedness:

1. **Assess and Compile:** Gather your important financial documents and contacts.
2. **Review:** Review your insurance policies and financial paperwork to be sure that they are still accurate and current.
3. **Safeguard:** Store paper and electronic copies of all files in safe locations.
4. **Update:** Revisit and your EFFAK regularly. Updates are especially important when significant changes in your life occur.



Emergency Financial First Aid Kit (EFFAK): www.fema.gov/emergency-financial-first-aid-kit

#SafePlaceSelfie Day April 6th at 11:11 A.M.

One of the most essential preparedness actions anyone can do is to identify their safe locations from various extreme weather threats. Knowing where to go ahead of time can minimize hesitation and ensure your decisions are good ones even under great duress.

On April 6, 2022, the National Weather Service will host the #SafePlaceSelfie day. A #SafePlaceSelfie is a photo capture of your safe location when a specific hazard threatens your area. It does not have to be an actual “selfie” of yourself, but could be a pet, an image of just the location, or some other creative way to illustrate the point that being “Weather-Ready” involves knowing where to go to stay safe.



Post your pictures and tag @ReadyFairfax and use the hashtag #SafePlaceSelfie

Tornado Drill Recap

Fairfax County participated in the Virginia Statewide Tornado Drill on March 8, 2022, which coincided with Virginia's Severe Weather Awareness Week. Make sure you know where to go if you receive a tornado warning!

Grab your popcorn and watch the Tornado Safety Video:

<https://youtu.be/P7RcfwRPsCY>

Tornado Safety Hazard Page:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/readyfairfax/tornado

Here are a few steps to consider while you are preparing:

Before:

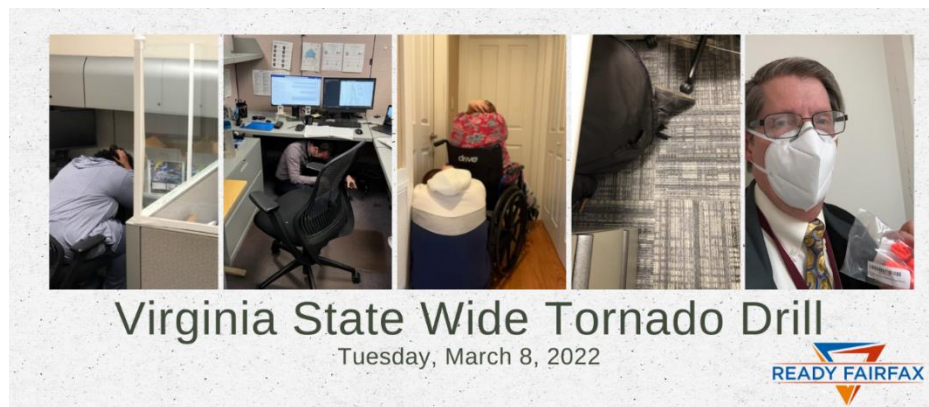
- Practice sheltering in place in the interior of your residence or business.
- If there is a tornado watch, pay attention to a weather radio, commercial radio, television, or a news website for up-to-date information.
- During a tornado watch (not a warning), secure or bring inside any outdoor objects that could blow away or become "missiles" and cause damage.

During:

- Go immediately to the lowest level of your building, to an interior room or hallway.
- Stay away from windows and doorways.
- Do not stay in a trailer or a mobile home. Go immediately to a building with a strong foundation.
- If you are in a car, or if shelter is not available, lie flat in a ditch or other low-lying area. Do not seek refuge under a bridge or overpass.
- Plan to stay in your shelter location until the danger has passed.

After:

- Return home when local officials say it is safe.
- Stay clear from damaged buildings and infrastructure.
- Check in with family and friends by texting or using social media.



National Public Health Week (NPHW) April 4 – 10, 2022

Community:
Collaboration and
Resilience



Where we live impacts our communities' health and we can make our communities healthier, stronger, and safer! We're excited to announce that the 2022 NPHW theme is "Public Health is Where You Are."

National Public Health Week is a time to recognize the contributions of public health and highlight issues that are important to improving our nation's health.

This year National Public Health Week is looking at the intersections of our lives that affect our health and well-being and do what they can to make our world a more equitable, safe, healthy, and just place.