

# Emergency Preparedness Newsletter



Department of Emergency Management and Security (DEMS)

## Resolve to be Ready in 2023

Resolve to be ready for any emergency in 2023. Join us on Wednesday, February 1, 2023, at 7 PM to learn about what hazards affect Fairfax County and how YOU can prepare!

Join us: [What Hazards Affect Fairfax County -- DEMS February Webinar - YouTube](#)



## Hazard and Risk Identification in Fairfax County

Do you know the top hazards that we face in Fairfax County? First, what is a hazard? Hazards are something that could potentially happen but can't be calculated. For example, a hurricane making landfall in Fairfax County is possible, but we aren't exactly sure how bad it would be. Also, what is a risk? A risk is a probability of something occurring if that hazard occurs. For example, a thunderstorm with high winds would probably knock out power for an area.

As you probably already know, Fairfax County has faced many hazards over the years. Fairfax County's most prevalent hazards are winter storms, flooding and/or flash floods, and high winds and/or severe storms. These natural hazards continuously threaten communities within the county and have shown to be ferocious.

However, those aren't our only hazards. We have many other hazards that are natural in their occurrence (natural hazards), accidents or failures of technology or systems (technological hazards), or intentional acts by an adversary (human-caused hazards). With our proximity to the nation's capital, Fairfax County has to prepare, and we do that by using an all-hazards approach. Our emergency planners identify our top hazards and associates its risk in the Northern Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan (Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment [HIRA] section) and the National Capital Region Threats and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA). Identifying our hazards and risks are essential to the work we do and how the public can best prepare for our hazards.

## 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. They staff public events, lead presentations, and participate in trainings.

Interested in answering the call? Visit here for more info: [Volunteering in Emergency Preparedness | Emergency Management \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 01	<b>February DEMS Monthly Webinar</b> 7:00PM, Join DEMS for the February monthly webinar where the main topics will...
Mar 15	<b>Flood Awareness Webinar</b> 7:00PM, Join DEMS for a special March webinar where the main the main topic...

Mar 01	<b>Severe Weather Awareness Week Webinar</b> 7:00PM, Severe Weather Awareness Week is this month! Join DEMS for this special...
Mar 25	<b>Preparedness Awareness Weekend</b> 11:00AM, Join us at Providence Community Center for Preparedness Awareness...

## Celebrating Senior Independence Month

February is National Senior Independence Month! If you are a senior who is currently maintaining your independence, the thought of a disaster putting it at risk may be worrisome. Fairfax County's Department of Emergency Management and Security is celebrating Senior Independence Month by encouraging you to take proactive steps to maintain independence and peace of mind—even if a disaster or emergency strikes. Here are some tips to help protect and maintain independence in times of crisis:

- If you undergo regular medical treatment, speak to your providers before an emergency occurs to learn about their emergency plan and ask if they can help you find back-up service providers.
- Some disasters can disrupt normal services such as mail and package delivery for days or weeks. If you receive financial benefits on a regular basis, consider using an electronic deposit method instead of receiving a check in the mail. This will also help reduce the risk of stolen checks. To enroll in direct deposit for your Social Security benefits through the US Treasury, visit this link: [Go Direct® - Home](#).
- Get to know your neighbors! If you don't already know who lives in your neighborhood, introduce yourself and consider exchanging contact information with neighbors you trust. In times of need, look for opportunities to help those who live around you and don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it.
- Develop a support group of friends and family who understand your needs and can assist you in an emergency. You can also support your aging friends by organizing meetings to discuss how to plan and prepare for emergencies. AARP's [Operation Emergency Prepare](#) program is a great resource to learn what to include in your emergency plan and kit. It also has practical tips for organizing your meetings.

## Virginia Service Commission Survey



We would like to encourage you to take part in an exciting research study, called the Virginia Community Engagement Index, being conducted here in Virginia.

As its name implies, this survey will ask you to consider the various ways you engage and contribute to your community — from checking in on a neighbor to volunteering and donating to causes you care about.

You will also be asked to consider the challenges we face and how best to meet those challenges through greater levels of civic and community engagement. In short, your insights will be critical to helping leaders in Virginia develop more opportunities for people to give back and strengthen our communities together!

This survey is being conducted on behalf of the Virginia Service Commission and will take no longer than 15 minutes of your time. All responses you give will remain confidential. No reporting associated with the results will contain personally identifiable information, and all findings will be reported in aggregate.

Survey link: [https://sirresearch.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8xqwTJprXcxGVbE?org=vsc](https://sirresearch.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8xqwTJprXcxGVbE?org=vsc)

## Meet Your DEMS Community Engagement Staff



Courtney Arroyo – Ms. Courtney Arroyo is a Certified Emergency Manager who is dedicated to serving the public. Courtney earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science and a Master of Public Administration with a certificate in Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Courtney currently serves as the Community Engagement Manager at the Department of Emergency Management and Security (DEMS) where she is responsible for managing and developing preparedness programming for the whole community, increasing community resiliency, and ensuring all county residents are prepared for emergencies. She also has experience writing emergency plans, managing volunteers, managing grants, and developing programs.



Moriah Kitaeff – Moriah Kitaeff is a Community Engagement Specialist, as well as an Equity Lead for the Department of Emergency Management and Security. She studied at George Mason University for Psychology and is currently in school as a candidate for a MA in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness at Virginia Commonwealth University. In her role in the Community Engagement Division, she attends outreach events throughout the county, is a publisher for Ready Fairfax social media campaign, and leads the department's monthly webinars to promote preparedness throughout Fairfax County. Moriah is a member of the Virginia Emergency Management Association (VEMA) as well as the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE).



Carly Mullinax – Carly Mullinax serves as the Access and Functional Needs Integration Liaison at Fairfax County's Department of Emergency Management and Security. In this position she is responsible for integrating the needs of those with access and functional restrictions into county emergency plans and emergency services. She also works to engage with members of the community to promote emergency preparedness. Prior to her current role, Carly served as a police officer in Arlington County for over five years and earned a bachelor's degree in International Relations with a concentration in Strategic Intelligence from Liberty University.

## Request an Emergency Preparedness Workshop

The Fairfax County Department of Emergency Management and Security can conduct a workshop (virtual or in person) to prepare your networks for an emergency. Submit your request today:

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergencymanagement/presentation-requests](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergencymanagement/presentation-requests)

### Workshop Topics:

1. Personal Preparedness using the Community Emergency Response Guide (CERG).
2. 5 Step Neighborhood Guide Workshop – Learn how to prepare where you live!
3. Business Disaster Resilience Workshop – Learn how to prepare your business!
4. Youth Preparedness (Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, schools, etc.).