

Emergency Preparedness Newsletter

Department of Emergency Management and Security (DEMS)



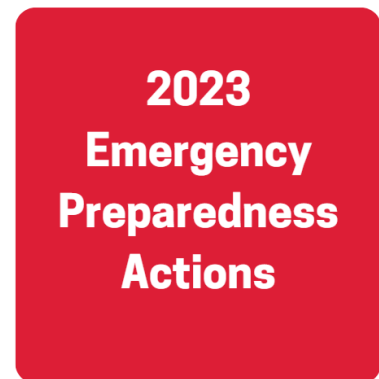
Resolve to be Ready

This New Years, resolve to be ready for any emergency. Taking steps to plan for the unexpected can mean you are more equipped to protect yourself and others if a disaster happens. Throughout 2023 we will have a call to action for each month to help you prepare.

Remember, preparedness is a marathon, not a sprint. Take your time and put together your plan.



January An introduction to emergency preparedness.	February What hazards affect Fairfax County?	March Make an emergency plan and practice it.
April Assemble your emergency kit.	May Stay informed during an emergency.	June Get involved! (volunteer)
July Respond to an emergency (what actions do you take?)	August Youth Preparedness	September See Something, Say Something Until Help Arrives
October Recover from an emergency or disaster.	November Mitigation steps to protect your property.	December Make a neighborhood plan (5 Step Neighborhood Guide).



Join us: [Resolve to be Ready in 2023 - DEMS January 2023 Webinar - YouTube](#)

Community Connect

Community Connect is a free, secure, and easy to use platform that allows residents and/or business owners to share critical information about their home or business that will aid FCFRD firefighters and paramedics during an emergency.

Any information you provide through Community Connect is completely voluntary and based on what you are comfortable sharing. The platform has made it easy for you to know what may be important by organizing your secure portal into buckets of information you can enter.

Data that you provide Community Connect is secure and is used only for the purpose of better serving you during emergency situations. Your information is never used for any other purpose.

Community Connect: <https://www.communityconnect.io/info/va-fairfax-county>

Winter Weather Safety

Winter is upon us in Northern Virginia! While this season can be a beautiful time of year, winter weather can cause dangerous situations if not properly prepared for. Taking time to implement weatherproofing and safety measures in your home will help you and your family stay warm and safe this season. Follow these tips to ensure a safe and cozy winter:

- Drain outdoor pipes and hoses to prevent pipes from freezing and bursting. If indoor pipes become too cold due to a power outage or extreme cold temperatures, periodically keep a small amount of water running from each faucet to prevent indoor plumbing from freezing.
- Have your home heating system inspected by a professional to ensure it is functioning properly and reduce the risk of fires.
- If you have a fireplace or woodstove, ensure the flue and chimney are free of buildup and debris prior to use.
- Remember never to leave vehicles, generators, or other appliances that omit exhaust running in enclosed spaces like a garage or shed.
- Do not place space heaters in small, confined rooms.
- Never use a generator indoors.
- Check the batteries in your smoke and carbon dioxide detectors.
- Make sure you have a snow shovel and ice melt on hand before snow starts to fall.
- Ensure you know how to access weather information and alerts in your area. You can sign up for Fairfax Alerts for free at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts/>.
- Keep an eye on pets when they are outdoors. They are also susceptible to cold temperatures and should not be left outside for extended periods of time.



For more information on winter safety from the National Safety Council, visit <https://www.nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/seasonal-safety/winter-safety/winter>.

Winter Car Emergency Kit

The greatest threat from winter weather is often secondary impacts, such as traffic accidents on icy roads. Carry items in your vehicle to handle common winter driving-related supplies you might need in an emergency, including:

- Car cell phone charger
- Blanket, or emergency blanket
- Winter hat and winter gloves

It's also a good idea to keep family and emergency phone numbers, including your auto insurance provider and a towing company, in your phone.



Visit our Community Emergency Response Guide for more information! Link: [Community Emergency Response Guide | Emergency Management \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)