

Emergency Preparedness Newsletter



Department of Emergency Management and Security (DEMS)



DEMS Monthly Webinar on Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at 7 PM

Join us on Wednesday, April 3, at 7 p.m. as we host the Fairfax County Health Department where they will talk about health preparedness and Public Health Awareness Week. Link: https://youtube.com/live/BoAKo9kMi_I

Safe Place Selfie – TODAY! April 3, 2024

Emergency preparedness is a critical aspect of community safety, yet it is often overlooked until disaster strikes. Safe Place Selfie Day serves as a reminder for individuals and communities to take proactive steps to prepare for emergencies and ensure they have a safe place to go when disaster strikes. Participating in Safe Place Selfie Day is easy and can be done by anyone with a smartphone and access to social media. Here's how you can get involved:



Step #1: Think about what hazards are relevant to your area and locations where you spend lots of time.

- These can be frequent hazards like thunderstorms, flooding, or extreme heat, or winter weather.
- Don't limit yourself to just one selfie post. Take selfies in various locations dependent on these different hazards. For instance, your car can be an effective refuge from lightning, but is a dangerous option during a tornado warning or flooding. Home, office, school, gym, and athletic fields are all great locations to identify your safe place.

Step #2: Get Creative.

- Have pets or children? Get them involved in the creative process. Have a pet? What is your plan for them if extreme winds threaten your home? Make things fun by including things you have in your emergency kit.
- Bend the rules by thinking beyond just a physical location. For example, your safe location may be anywhere you have access to lifesaving warnings (e.g., NOAA Weather Radio, FEMA or commercial app) or could be your proximity to safety (e.g., swimming near lifeguard stands or with a swim buddy).

Step #3: Challenge others by tagging them in your post.

- “Hey, @_____, where is your safe place when extreme weather threatens?”
- Encouraging others to participate makes you a force multiplier that could result in saving lives.

Step #4: Follow the action throughout the day.

- Stay engaged by replying to, liking, and/or retweeting your favorite #SafePlaceSelfies.

Solar Eclipse Safety – April 8, 2024

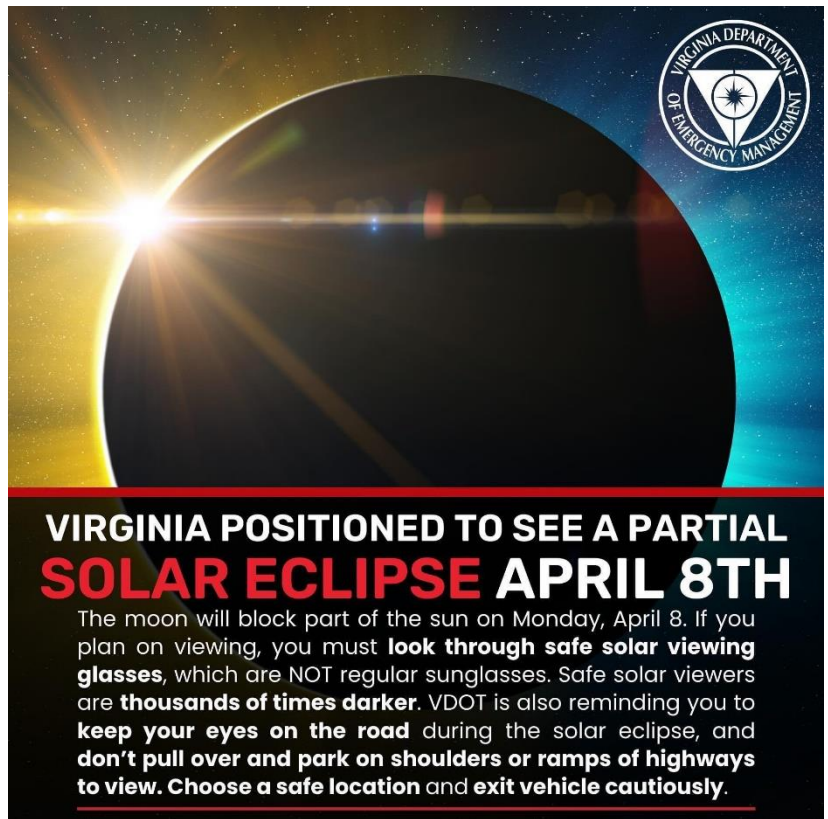
Virginia is positioned to see a partial solar eclipse on Monday, April 8. The moon will block part of the sun and create a temporary darkening of the sky.

If you plan on viewing, please do so safely by following these tips:

🕶️ You must look through safe solar viewing glasses, which are NOT regular sunglasses. Safe solar viewers are thousands of times darker.

🚗 The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is reminding you to keep your eyes on the road during the solar eclipse, and don't pull over and park on shoulders or ramps of highways to view. Choose a safe location and exit vehicle cautiously. Do not wear solar eclipse glasses while driving.

☀️ The sun will be very bright, so wear sunscreen, a hat and protective clothing to prevent skin damage.



911 Education Month

The Department of Public Safety Communications (DPSC) serves a population of 1.15 million people and commuters. Geographically, that is the 391 square miles that make up Fairfax County!

They are also the designated primary Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for the Town of Herndon, Town of Vienna, and City of Fairfax. DPSC, by volume, is the 10th largest 9-1-1 center in the United States. They take an average of 1.2 million calls annually, both emergency and non-emergency.

When calling 9-1-1, there are some important W's to have ready! They will always ask the following questions:

“WHERE is your emergency?” – Be prepared to give an address. If you don't have an address, be ready with important structures or landmarks.

“WHO('s calling)?” – They will need your name and phone number, just in case we get disconnected.

“WHAT is your emergency?” – Be ready to be descriptive so we they can send the appropriate resources!

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 \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#).



National Financial Capability Month

Expecting the unexpected is easier said than done, especially when it comes to finances. Being financially prepared is essential for weathering life's inevitable storms and will help you greatly in the long term. However, financial preparedness isn't just about accumulating wealth; it's about building resilience and security for yourself and your loved ones. Here are a few tips to get started:

- **Set a realistic budget.** The [Consumer Finance Protection Bureau's spending tracker](#) is a great way to see trends in your spending. As you begin to list your spending, you may identify spending you can reduce. You can also fill out a [cash-flow budget](#). This weekly tool helps you assess your income and expenses to ensure you have enough money to cover your bills and put aside money for savings, emergency funds, or other things you want and need.
- **Take advantage of free resources to increase your financial literacy.** The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's [Money Smart financial education program](#) and [MyMoney.gov](#) can help you enhance your financial skills through interactive games, podcasts, and game-based learning with separate tracks for adults and teenagers.
- **Be prepared for emergencies or disasters.** [Complete the free Emergency Financial First Aid Kit](#) to help organize your critical financial, medical, and household information. If a disaster or other emergency strikes, you may only have seconds or minutes to react. In those critical moments, your focus will be on your family's safety. Once the immediate danger has passed, having your homeowners, renters, or flood insurance policy, bank account information, and other records and contacts in one secure location will help you recover faster.

Financial preparedness is not a one-time task but a lifelong journey. By taking proactive steps to manage your finances effectively, you can build a more secure future for yourself and your family.

Preparing for People with Autism

Fairfax County public safety agencies have partnered with the Arc of Northern Virginia and the Northern Virginia Resource Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NVRC) to host a safety resource fair tailored for individuals with disabilities. This event provides a controlled and safe environment for attendees to meet and engage with first responders. Attendees will have the opportunity to interact with first responders, learn about available safety resources, and participate in various activities, including:

- Practice police traffic stops.
- Practice talking with and using fire and EMS services.
- Gain insights on how emergency planning can vary for those with disabilities.
- Receive a personalized identification card to hand to first responders in the event of an emergency.

This event will take place both indoors and outdoors, with activities set up in the parking lot.

The event is free, but registration is requested. Register by either scanning the QR code above, or by visiting arcofnva.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/arcofnva/event.jsp?event=8368&.



Fairfax Disability First Responder and Safety Resource Fair

JUNE 1ST, 2024

2:00 - 4:00 PM

**14601 LEE ROAD,
CHANTILLY, VA
20151**

QR code for registration

The Arc Northern Virginia logo

The poster features a QR code for registration, the event title, date, time, and location. It also includes several circular images showing people with disabilities interacting with first responders, and logos for Fairfax County, NVRC, and The Arc Northern Virginia.

Lorton Public Safety Day – Communities of Trust

Join Communities of Trust and many other public safety partners on April 20th at South County High School (8501 Silverbrook Rd, Lorton) for Public Safety Day! This year Public Safety Day and South County High School's Spring Fling have been combined for one day of education and fun. Look forward to booths and showcases from:

- Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department
- Fairfax County Police Department
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- Department of Emergency Management and Security
- And more!

The event is hosted from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM and no sign-up is necessary. We hope to see you there!

Future FBI Agents in Training (FIAT) – Application due by April 5th

The FAIT program is a 5-day program hosted at our building (FBI Washington Field Office: 601 4th St NW, Washington, DC 20535) where students receive a comprehensive look into the FBI. The program will take place from July 15 -19. Students are taught about what the FBI does, how we do it, and job opportunities. Students will also be involved in interactive activities teaching them investigative skills, evidence recovery, etc. Students involved in our program take a day trip to Quantico where the main FBI Academy is located (we will provide transportation to Quantico). Students do not have to want to work for the FBI to attend!

Students are eligible to apply if they are 16 - 18 years old and reside in Washington DC or northern Virginia. Applications are due by April 5. There is no cost for the program, we just ask students to provide their own transportation to and from our building each day. I have attached a flyer with additional information. Please share the flyer and program information with the communities you serve!

FAIT Application: <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/2024-washington-future-agents-application-1.pdf/view>

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.

- Introduction to Preparedness
 - Introduction to Preparedness is also now available as an e-learning course on our website under the new page titled [Community Preparedness Training](#)
- Until Help Arrives
- 5 Step Neighborhood Guide Workshop – Learn how to prepare for where you live!
- Business Disaster Resilience Workshop – Learn how to prepare your business!
 - E-learning coming soon!
- House of Worship Workshop – Learn how to prepare your house of worship.
- Youth Preparedness (Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, schools, etc.).

Drug Take Back Day

Saturday, April 27, 2024
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.



- ✓ Drop off unused or expired medications at the locations listed below.
(Accepted items: prescription and non-prescription pills, e-cigarettes and vaping devices with batteries removed, small liquid packs/pods for e-cigarettes and vaping devices, prescription ointments, and medications for pets. Not accepted: illegal drugs, pressurized canisters [inhalers/aerosol cans], needles, large sources of liquids, non-prescription ointments, and lotions.)
- ✓ Disposal is FREE, convenient, confidential, and safe.
- ✓ Safe handling of unused or expired medications:
 - Protects the environment.
 - Prevents drug misuse.
 - Prevents accidental poisoning.



Drop-Off Sites

<p>Fair Oaks District Station 12300 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway Fairfax, VA 22033</p>	<p>Tysons Emergency 8240 Leesburg Pike Vienna, VA 22182</p>	<p>Sully District Station 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard Chantilly, VA 20151</p>
<p>Franconia District Station 6121 Franconia Road Alexandria, VA 22310</p>	<p>Mount Vernon District Station 2511 Parkers Lane Alexandria, VA 22306</p>	<p>West Springfield District Station 6140 Rolling Road Springfield, VA 22152</p>
<p>Mason District Station 6507 Columbia Pike Annandale, VA 22003</p>	<p>Reston Hospital Center 1850 Town Center Parkway Reston, VA 20190 <i>Outside Pavilion 1, across from Parking Garage B</i></p>	<p>Town of Vienna Police Department 215 Center St South Vienna, VA 22180</p>

Need help with a substance misuse issue? Learn more about local services at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb.

Can't make it to Drug Take Back Day? No problem. Learn about year-round prescription and over the counter medication disposal, including those prescribed by veterinarians at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/drug-disposal.

The DEA Drug Take Back Day is coordinated by the Fairfax County Police Department in collaboration with various Fairfax County government departments: Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, Health Department, Neighborhood and Community Services, Public Works, and Environmental Services, and in partnership with the Rotary Clubs of Fairfax County, the Fairfax Prevention Coalition, and local businesses.



A Fairfax County, Va., publication March 2024. For more information or to request information in an alternate format, call the Community Services Board at 703-324-7000, TTY 711.

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