

Emergency Preparedness Newsletter

Department of Emergency Management and Security (DEMS)



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

Join us on Wednesday, January 3, at 7 p.m. to learn about our theme for our webinars for 2024. Link: <https://bit.ly/3S78all>

Volunteer at Give Together – MLK, Jr. Weekend of Service January 15, 2024

Each year the nation celebrates Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a federal holiday marking the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. In recognition of Dr. King's vision of a "Beloved Community" that cares for each other, this day has been designated as a National Day of Service – "a day on, not a day off."



To give back on this day, we invite you to join us at Give Together, on January 15, 2024, and serve in the community with others. This event engages families with elementary aged children to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy by performing fun, hands-on projects all the while educating our youth on the value of volunteering. Families can participate together, and teens can register to support as Event Volunteers, earning service hours in the process.

The Department of Emergency Management and Security (DEMS) will have an emergency kit packing station at the event!

Two available shifts are available: 10 AM - 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

Registration Link: [MLK, Jr. Weekend of Service 2024 - Volunteer Fairfax](#)

Risk Reduction Starts with You: Community Risk Reduction Week!

The week of Martin Luther King Day is Community Risk Reduction week! Community Risk Reduction week aims to reduce the frequency and impacts of emergency events for both the individual and first responders. Through preparing yourself for unexpected emergencies, you ultimately reduce the risk for everyone around you. Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department (FCFRD) will release information on their week's activities at: <https://ffxfirerescue.wordpress.com/>.

As the title says, risk reduction starts with you! By preparing yourself and encouraging others to get prepared you reduce the risks our community faces. For more information on preparedness and Community Risk Reduction week visit, <https://crrweek.org>.



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



Winter Weather Safety

When winter weather is in the forecast, the safest thing that you can do is to stay inside. That said, if you must go outside in icy or snow conditions, there are precautions that you should take:

- Make sure steps and walkways are clear before you walk. Be especially careful if you see wet pavement that could be iced over.
- Wear boots with non-skid soles.
- If you use a cane, replace the rubber tip before it is worn smooth.
- Wear multiple loose layers of clothing. The air between the layers helps to keep you warm.
- Put on a hat and scarf, as a large amount of body heat is lost from the head and neck when uncovered.
- Change your clothes right away if they get damp or wet.

Power outages are another concern with winter weather, as ice and snow can cause trees to fall and damage power lines. When this happens, it makes sense to want to look for ways to warm your home, but it must be always done in a safe manner:

- Install working carbon monoxide detectors on every level of your home. Carbon monoxide is a harmful, odorless gas that is hard to detect. Having a CO detector can protect you and your whole family.
- Never heat your home with a gas stovetop or oven.
- Generators and fuel should always be used outdoors and at least 20 feet away from windows, doors, and attached garages.

ABOUT CO DETECTORS... WHAT ARE THEY ANYWAYS?



To learn more about winter weather, visit:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/readyfairfax/winterweather>.

Winter Weather Outlook with National Weather Service

Ready for winter? Brian Lasorsa, Lead Meteorologist with the National Weather Service Baltimore/Washington Office, joined Courtney Arroyo, the Department of Emergency Management and Security's Community Engagement Manager, for a special winter weather outlook for Fairfax County and Northern Virginia.

While the overall winter may be mildly warmer, Lasorsa expects things to turn a bit colder and snowier as we head into January, based on long-range forecasts. He emphasizes that several online National Weather Service resources can help you stay informed about upcoming winter weather and plan accordingly when threats arise. He advises residents to follow advice from local officials during hazardous conditions.

NWS has several products for winter weather conditions and forecasts to predict precipitation patterns and intensity, identify areas at risk for extreme weather events, predict the duration of cold spells, and assess the likelihood of snowfall and ice storms.

To find winter weather conditions, maps, etc., visit the National Weather Service at www.weather.gov/washington/wintermaps. Follow the National Weather Service Baltimore/Washington on [Facebook](#), [X](#), and on [YouTube](#).

Video Link: https://youtu.be/c_Z0E8UkeOE.

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.

Video: <https://youtu.be/JrTL2DlcUFI>

Registration Link: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/alerts-and-emails

Community Connect

What kinds of information can I provide?



Your Property

Understanding critical information such as your residence type, whether or not you have fire sprinklers, or designated family meeting places, improves our ability to respond and make decisions during an emergency.



Your People

Let us know who is best to contact in case of an emergency. Your contacts can help us with everything from access, to how to deal with potential hazards or locate occupants. Getting in touch helps us better communicate at the time when it's needed most.



Your Needs

If you or members of your family have mobility or other types of functional needs that may require additional assistance, letting us know means we can plan accordingly and respond more quickly to those needs.



Your Pets

Your pets are part of the family too. We want to make sure that we are able to evacuate pets and best handle them as best we can during an incident. Tell us about any type of pet at your residence - even take a photo so we can spot them easily!

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



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
- 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!
- House of Worship Workshop – Learn how to prepare your house of worship.
- Youth Preparedness (Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, schools, etc.).

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