

Emergency Preparedness Newsletter



Department of Emergency Management and Security (DEMS)

DEMS Monthly Webinar on September 6, 2023, at 7 PM

Join us on Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at 7 PM to learn about National Preparedness Month, See Something, Say Something, and the Until Help Arrives Program. <https://youtube.com/live/4J7alSQ0frA>

Let's Celebrate National Preparedness Month!

Since September 11, 2001, the U.S. Government has taken steps to encourage all citizens to make their own survival preparations. In 2004, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) launched the annual campaign, now known as National Preparedness Month, to remember the events of September 11th and highlight the importance of being prepared to the nation. The 2023 theme is "Take Control in 1, 2, 3". This theme empowers everyone, especially older adults, to 1) assess their needs, 2) make a plan and 3) engage their support network to stay safe when disaster strikes. The campaign will focus on preparing older adults for disasters, specifically older adults from communities that are disproportionately impacted by the all-hazard events, which continue to threaten the nation.



Each week in September, the National Preparedness Month campaign will focus on a different aspect of preparedness for individuals, families, and communities. The Fairfax County Department of Emergency Management and Security (DEMS) will use the [Community Emergency Response Guide \(CERG\)](#) Series to walk residents through the steps to prepare.

Week 1: Introducing the theme and transition period (September 1st – September 3rd)

Week 2: Hurricane Season Specific Preparedness (September 4th- September 8th)

Week 3: Technology (September 11th – September 15th)

Week 4: Emergency planning (September 18th – September 22nd)

Week 5: Have a plan for any occasion (September 25th- September 30th)

Fairfax County is also launching the 2023 Emergency Preparedness Survey to assess the culture of personal disaster preparedness and resilience in Fairfax County. How prepared are you? Here is your chance to tell us!

Survey link:

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/fd34b75072184e5daf72eb338421b3b9?portalUrl=https://Fairfaxcountygis.maps.arcgis.com>

Emergency Preparedness Survey

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FEMA and FCC Plan Nationwide Emergency Alert Test Oct. 4 - Test Messages Will be Sent to All TVs, Radios, and Cell Phones

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), will conduct a [nationwide test](#) of the [Emergency Alert System](#) (EAS) and [Wireless Emergency Alerts](#) (WEA) on Oct. 4.

The national test will consist of two portions, testing WEA and EAS capabilities. Both tests are scheduled to begin at approximately 2:20 p.m. ET on Wednesday, Oct. 4.

The WEA portion of the test will be directed to all consumer cell phones and will be the third nationwide test, but the second test to all cellular devices. The test message will display in either English or Spanish, depending on the language settings of the wireless handset. The EAS portion of the test will be sent to radios and televisions. This will be the seventh nationwide EAS test.

The purpose of the Oct. 4 test is to ensure that the systems continue to be effective means of warning the public about emergencies, particularly those on the national level. In case the Oct. 4 test is postponed due to widespread severe weather or other significant events, the backup testing date is Oct. 11.

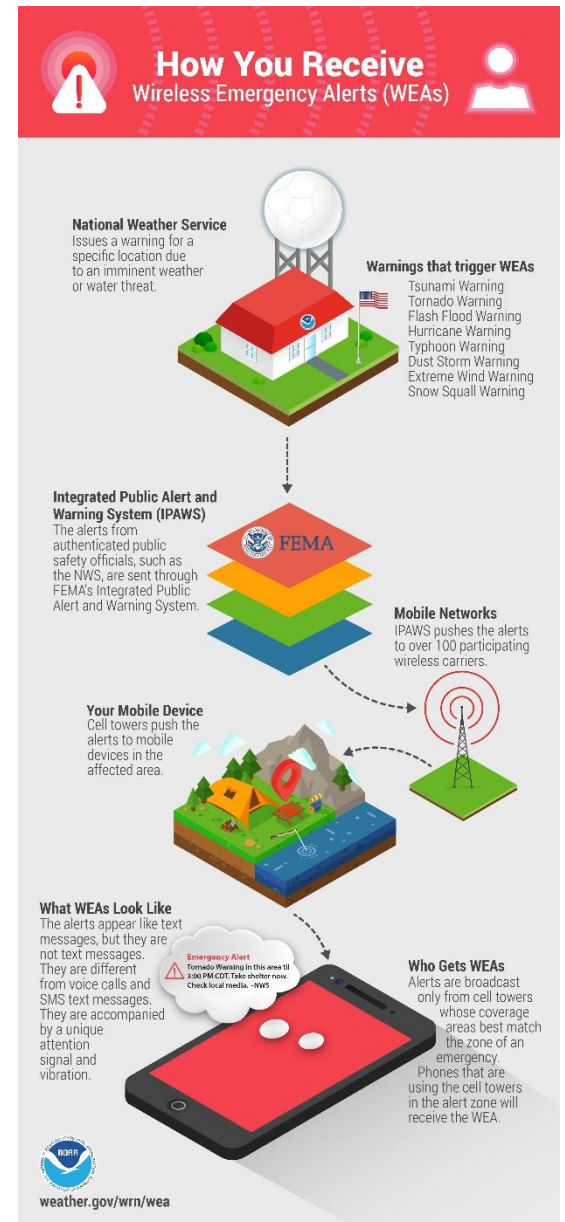
All wireless phones should receive the message only once. The following can be expected from the nationwide WEA test:

- Beginning at approximately 2:20 p.m. ET, cell towers will broadcast the test for approximately 30 minutes. During this time, WEA-compatible wireless phones that are switched on, within range of an active cell tower, and whose wireless provider participates in WEA, should be capable of receiving the test message.
- For consumers, the message that appears on their phones will read: "THIS IS A TEST of the National Wireless Emergency Alert System. No action is needed."
- Phones with the main menu set to Spanish will display: "ESTA ES UNA PRUEBA del Sistema Nacional de Alerta de Emergencia. No se necesita acción."

WEA alerts are created and sent by authorized federal, state, local, tribal and territorial government agencies through the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) to participating wireless providers, which deliver the alerts to compatible handsets in geo-targeted areas. IPAWS helps ensure that these alerts are accessible to the entire public, including people with disabilities, with the alerts being accompanied by a unique tone and vibration.

Important information about the EAS test:

- The EAS portion of the test is scheduled to last approximately one minute and will be conducted with the participation of radio and television broadcasters, cable systems, satellite radio and television providers and wireline video providers.
- The test message will be similar to the regular monthly EAS test messages with which the public is familiar. It will state: "This is a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System, issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, covering the United States from 14:20 to 14:50 hours ET. This is only a test. No action is required by the public."



See Something, Say Something

“If you see something, say something” is a national campaign that raises public awareness of the importance of reporting suspicious activity to state and local law enforcement.

By reporting suspicious activity, you play a role in keeping your community safe. Spread the word on how to recognize and report suspicious activity on #SeeSayDay.

What is suspicious behavior?

- Unusual items or situations such as an unattended bag or a vehicle parked in an odd location.
- Eliciting or gathering information, such as a person questioning about building operations or security at a level beyond curiosity.
- Surveillance that goes beyond casual or professional interest such as repeat and/or prolonged observation.

Report suspicious activity:

- If there is an emergency, call 9-1-1
- To report suspicious activity in Virginia call 877-4VA-TIPS (877-482-8477)
 - WHO did you see?
 - WHAT did you see?
 - WHEN did you see it?
 - WHERE did it occur?
 - WHY is it suspicious?

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. Workshop Topics:

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

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 \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](http://Volunteering in Emergency Preparedness | Emergency Management (fairfaxcounty.gov)).

