

Extreme Weather Events in Fairfax County

Over the past 20 years, Fairfax County and the surrounding region have experienced several extreme weather events, such as tropical storms, hurricanes, derechos and nor'easters. Many of these events have individually cost the county, its residents and businesses millions of dollars in damages. Climate change is expected to increase the frequency, severity and costs of extreme weather. Already, the intensity of events, such as the July 9, 2019 rainfall, which resulted in \$14.8 million in damages to Fairfax County, have been attributed to a warming climate. Included below are highlights from the extreme weather events the county has experienced in the twenty-first century thus far; this list is not comprehensive. The financial impact is provided for those events where supporting data was readily available, as are a list of other impacts and whether the event resulted in an emergency declaration at the federal, state or local level.

| Year | Event | Emergency Declaration | Impacts | County-wide Financial Impact |
|------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| 2019 | July 8 rainfall and flooding event | Local emergency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to county property, residences, and businesses • Roads wiped out | \$14.8 million (includes \$2 million worth of damages to Fairfax County Government) |
| 2019 | Nor'easter ("bomb cyclone") | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widespread power outages • Damaged buildings and residences • School closures | |
| 2018 | August 1 rainfall and flooding event* | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swift water rescues • Downed trees • Damaged roadways | |
| 2018 | March 2 windstorm | Virginia state of emergency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widespread power outages • Downed trees • Personal property and residential damages • School closures | |
| 2016 | Winter Storm Jonas | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School closures • Increased emergency management response to vehicle crashes and other incidents | |
| 2012 | Hurricane Sandy | Virginia state of emergency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-day power outages • Flooded roads • Downed trees damaged 50+ residences • School closures | \$1.5 million+ (includes costs to Fairfax County Government; community-wide costs unknown) |

*The August rainfall and flooding event was one of several heavy precipitation events in 2018, which was the wettest year on record for the Washington metropolitan area.

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|-------------|--|------------------------------|--|---|
| 2012 | Derecho | Virginia state of emergency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of life • Multi-day power outages • Downed trees damaged 100+ residences • Drinking water advisories | |
| 2011 | Tropical Storm Lee | Virginia state of emergency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of life • Downed trees • Flooding damage to schools, residences, personal property • Roads and bridges wiped out | \$10 million to bridges and roads (costs to greater community, Fairfax County Government unknown) |
| 2011 | Hurricane Irene | Virginia state of emergency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downed trees • Residential damage | |
| 2010 | February 5-6 North American Blizzard (“Snowmagedon”) | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record snowfalls • Downed trees • Supply shortages • School closures | \$2 million |
| 2008 | Tropical Storm Hanna | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power outages • Residential evacuations • Flooded roads and properties | |
| 2003 | Hurricane Isabel | Federal disaster area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding damaged and/or wiped out 2000+ residential units • Widespread tree damage • Multi-day power outages • Drinking water shortages | \$18 million |