

Emergency Preparedness Newsletter

Department of Emergency Management and Security (DEMS)



DEMS Monthly Webinars

Check out our monthly webinar series each month where we talk about a variety of preparedness topics! Link: <https://bit.ly/DEMSWebinar>

National Preparedness Month 2025: Preparedness Starts at Home

September is National Preparedness Month, and this year's theme, "Preparedness Starts at Home," highlights the importance of being ready for emergencies right where you live. Disasters can happen unexpectedly, and having a plan, supplies, and knowledge can make all the difference.

Below are a few tips to get you thinking about emergency awareness and what you can do to be prepared for emergencies:



1. Create a Family Emergency

Plan: Develop an evacuation plan that includes a designated meeting point so your family can safely reconnect if separated during an emergency. Practicing your plan in advance ensures everyone knows what to do and feels confident if a real emergency occurs.

2. **Build an Emergency Kit:** Keep an emergency kit stocked with essentials like food, water, clothing, medications, and other supplies. Having one ready means you can grab it quickly during an emergency and ensure you still have access to the items you need most.
3. **Stay Informed:** Sign up for local emergency alerts in your area to receive timely notifications. Staying informed helps you respond quickly and appropriately when emergencies occur.
4. **Know the Risks to Your Area:** Understand the types of emergencies most likely to affect your community, such as tornadoes, wildfires, or hurricanes. Knowing your risks helps you focus your preparedness efforts and ensures you're ready for the hazards you're most likely to face.
5. **Access and Functional Needs:** Consider the unique needs of your family, friends, or neighbors, such as medical conditions, mobility challenges, or other accessibility requirements. Planning ahead ensures everyone can get to safety and have the support they need during an emergency.

There are also a number of resources that Fairfax County has to help you prepare for and respond to an emergency. Some of these resources include:

- **[Fairfax Alerts](#):** Sends emergency notifications to your phone to alert you to road closures, weather events, etc.
- **[The Community Emergency Response Guide \(CERG\)](#):** An emergency guide that will help you and your family prepare for disasters by walking you through how to build emergency kits, create emergency plans, and generally prepare for emergencies.

- **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training**: A training provided by the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department that will teach you how to respond to an emergency and administer emergency care in order to help your friends, family, and neighbors during an emergency.

With these tips and information, we encourage you to think about your family's emergency plan during National Preparedness Month and see if there is anything you can do to be better prepared for when a disaster may strike.

How Prepared Are We, Fairfax? Share Your Voice in the 2025 Emergency Preparedness Survey

Disasters—natural or man-made—often strike without warning. While we can't prevent them, we *can* prepare. That's where you come in.

The Fairfax County Department of Emergency Management and Security is conducting the **2025 Emergency Preparedness Survey** to better understand how residents prepare for emergencies, what influences those decisions, and where support is most needed.

The survey asks about things like:

- Whether you have an emergency plan or kit
- If you're signed up for Fairfax Alerts
- What types of emergencies concern you most
- How you prefer to receive emergency information

This information will help the County improve outreach, shape future programs, and ensure that preparedness efforts meet the needs of all residents. Your input plays a direct role in strengthening community resilience.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and help build a safer, more prepared Fairfax County.

Visit: <https://bit.ly/FFXPrepSurvey>

For more information, contact the Department of Emergency Management and Security at 571-350-1000 or DEMSmailPublicFolder@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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.).



See Something, Say Something

This National Preparedness Month, take a moment to remember a simple but effective public safety tip: “If you see something, say something.” This easy concept is just as important today as ever. If you notice something suspicious or out of the ordinary, report it right away to local police, fire, or other safety officials. While people often think of unattended bags, vehicles, or individuals, this also applies to other emergencies—like smelling gas in your home or witnessing a medical emergency.



It doesn't take training or special skills to speak up. Sharing this preparedness tip with family, friends, coworkers, and your community can help keep everyone safe.

Volunteering During National Preparedness Month – And Beyond!

National Preparedness Month is an excellent time to dedicate some of your time to volunteering for preparedness efforts. Both in Fairfax County and across Virginia, there are countless organizations, volunteer days, and other opportunities to help spread the message of preparedness throughout the community.

Whether you have a few hours a month or are looking to deploy during emergencies, there's a role for everyone. Local and regional organizations such as the American Red Cross, Team Rubicon, Virginia Community Response Network (VCRN), and Islamic Relief USA offer opportunities ranging from shelter support and feeding survivors to providing IT connectivity, mental health services, and debris removal. Other groups like Mercy Chefs, Operation BBQ Relief, and the Federation of Virginia Food Banks focus on nourishing communities during disaster recovery.

Volunteering not only supports others but also strengthens community resilience and expands your own preparedness knowledge. As we recognize National Preparedness Month, consider exploring how you can be part of the solution by joining a volunteer organization and helping spread the message of preparedness throughout your community.

The Department of Emergency Management and Security's (DEMS) Volunteer Corps 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 \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency-preparedness/volunteering)



Hurricane Season Isn't Over – There's Still Time to Prepare

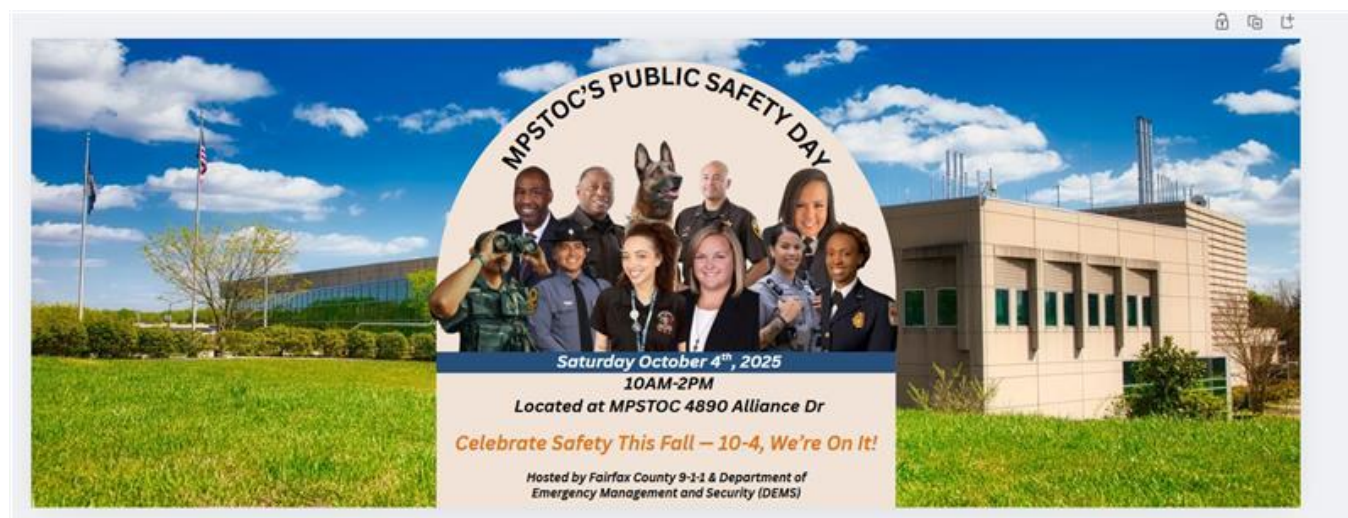
Hurricane season is far from over, and it's still shaping up to be an active one with the Atlantic Ocean water temperatures being one of the warmest on record! Yes – the ocean temperatures affect us in Fairfax County because they fuel stronger tropical systems, which can extend the impacts of coastal storms far inland. Communities like Fairfax County can still face serious risks, including:

- **Heavy rainfall and flooding:** Hurricanes and tropical storms can cause flash flooding and river flooding, especially in areas with poor drainage or saturated ground.
- **High winds:** Even if a storm stays offshore, strong winds can reach well inland, damaging trees, power lines, and structures.
- **Tornadoes:** Outer rain bands of hurricanes can generate tornadoes, creating additional hazards for inland communities.

But don't worry as there is time to check your emergency plans, build or restock your emergency kit, and stay connected to reliable weather alerts. Preparedness isn't just for the start of hurricane season - staying ready all season long is key to keeping yourself and your loved ones safe!

Public Safety Day – Saturday, October 4, 2025

It is never too early to add McConnel Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center Public Safety Day to your calendars! Join us for a day of celebrating, learning, and practicing public safety and emergency preparedness! The event is hosted by Fairfax County Department of Public Safety Communications (9-1-1) and the Department of Emergency Management and Security and will take place October 4, 2025, at MPSTOC 4890 Alliance Drive from 10 AM – 2 PM.



SBA Offers Disaster Relief to Virginia Small Businesses and Private Nonprofits Affected by March Drought - Low Interest Disaster Loans Now Available

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced the availability of low interest federal disaster loans to small businesses and private nonprofit (PNP) organizations in Virginia to offset economic losses caused by drought beginning March 15, 2025.

Under this declaration, the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program is available to eligible small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, nurseries, and PNPs with financial losses directly related to this disaster. The SBA is unable to provide disaster loans to agricultural producers, farmers, or ranchers, except for aquaculture enterprises.

The deadline to apply is February 2, 2026.

ATTENTION SMALL BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS OF FAIRFAX COUNTY
WERE YOU AFFECTED BY THE DROUGHTS BEGINNING MARCH 2025?
APPLY NOW FOR LOW-INTEREST ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOANS (EIDLs) THROUGH THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



SBA DISASTER LOAN DEADLINE - APPLY BY FEBRUARY 2, 2026

Loan Details

- Maximum amount: \$2,000,000
- Interest rate: Maximum 4% and 3.625% for PNP's
- Term length: Up to 30 years
- Purpose: Working capital needs caused by the disaster and are available even if the small business or PNP did not suffer any physical damage.

These loans can help pay for:

- Fixed debts
- Payroll
- Accounts payable
- Other bills that can't be paid due to the disaster

How to Apply

Applications can be submitted online through the MySBA Loan Portal at <https://lending.sba.gov>.

For help with applications:

- Email: disastercustomerservice@sba.gov
- Phone: 1-800-659-2955
- For deaf, hard of hearing, or speech disabled: Dial 7-1-1 for telecommunications relay services

Remember: The deadline to apply is February 2, 2026.

Areas Covered by the Declaration

Virginia Counties:

- Arlington
- Clarke
- Fairfax
- Fauquier
- Loudoun
- Prince William

Independent Cities:

- Alexandria
- Fairfax
- Falls Church

Neighboring Areas:

- District of Columbia
- West Virginia
- Jefferson

Maryland counties:

- Charles
- Frederick
- Montgomery
- Prince George's
- Washington

Resources and Documents

- MySBA Loan Portal at <https://lending.sba.gov>.
- Disaster Declaration: <https://lending.sba.gov/api/disasters/v1/declarations/ef7b8e1d-beaa-443c-9d97-ee5c66cd8e4f/documents/031159ff-7d01-4965-a20a-30a54a0d062f/download>
- Fact Sheet: <https://lending.sba.gov/api/disasters/v1/declarations/ef7b8e1d-beaa-443c-9d97-ee5c66cd8e4f/documents/87615fbf-a63c-4406-9f6a-d6930472c670/download>
- Disaster Declaration Search: [MySBA Loan Portal](#)

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