

FAIRFAX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY (DEMS)

MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR



I am pleased to present the Fairfax County Department of Emergency Management and Security's (DEMS) 2023 Annual Report. I would like to thank the Board of Supervisors and county leadership for their support of our emergency management and security programs. This report reflects only some of the highlights of the dedicated and exceptional service our departmental staff provide county agencies, community partners, and the residents of Fairfax County and demonstrates why DEMS is a leader and innovator in this rapidly evolving field.

Each day we strive to build a safer, stronger, and more resilient community by fostering a culture of protection, prevention, mitigation, response, and recovery. A strong 2022 provided significant momentum for the agency to jumpstart our efforts in 2023 and we were able to carry this momentum throughout the entire year.

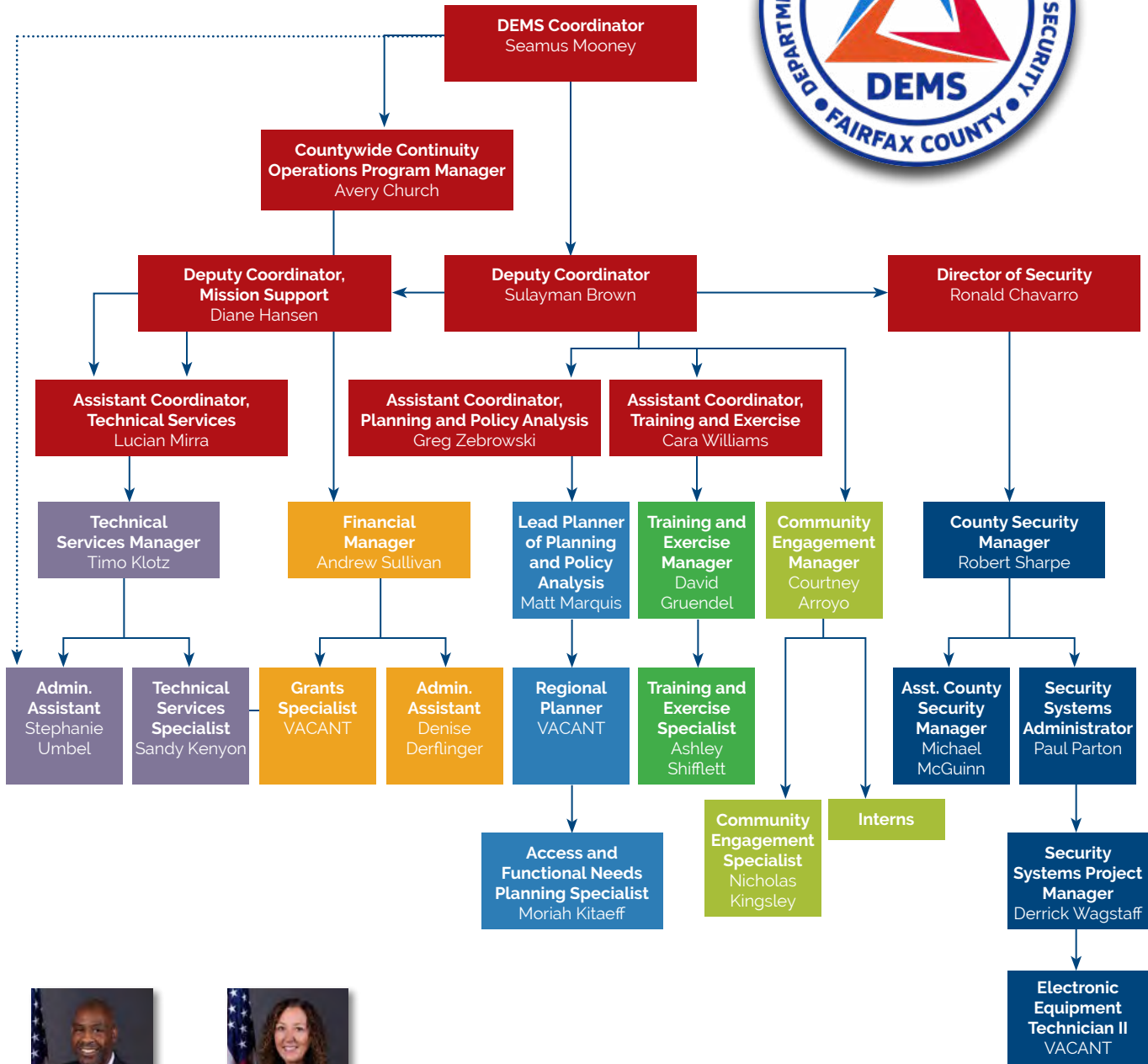
Some highlights for 2023 include:

- Updated and the Board adopted the County's Emergency Operations Plan.
- Led the county's 2023 annual functional EOC Exercise.
- Continued to coordinate the county's COVID-19 Public Assistance submissions to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) totaling over \$104 million.
- Transitioned the leadership for 3 EOC sections to new DEMS staff.
- Streamlined the county security training request process and trained over 1000 county employees.
- DEMS Duty Officer (DO) averaged over 8 weeks on call for each staff member and sent 97 alerts to residents and the public.
- Launched a new eLearning platform for both residents and employees.
- Added two new positions in the security division and experienced 6 vacancies, which is a 24% turnover rate of agency staff.

As we move into 2024, DEMS will continue to expand and improve the County's emergency management and security capabilities, invest in our technology infrastructure, promote preparedness and resiliency within county staff and residents, and engage our partners to meet the ever-increasing challenges facing Fairfax County.

Seamus Mooney, Coordinator
Department of Emergency Management & Security

DEMS ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Sulayman Brown
Deputy Coordinator



Diane Hansen
Deputy Coordinator,
Mission Support

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY OVERVIEW

Established in 2004 as a stand-alone agency, the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) coordinates county planning, response, and recovery efforts before, during and after large-scale events and emergencies. In 2021, OEM was reorganized into the Department of Emergency Management and Security (DEMS), adding the function of coordinating countywide security services to include access and entry, private building security, and building surveillance.

The department is responsible for developing and implementing countywide programs and projects that promote disaster planning, training, mitigation, prevention, response, and recovery from all identified hazards. The department manages an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Alternate Emergency Operations Center (AEOC), as well as coordinates multiple local and regional projects.

DEMS falls under the direction of the Deputy County Executive (DCEX) for Public Safety, Tom Arnold. The County Executive serves as the Emergency Management Director. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) appoints the Emergency Management Coordinator to manage the day-to-day activities of DEMS. This position carries full authority to execute all assigned aspects of the emergency management process.

WHAT WE DO?

- Provide Local, Regional, State, and National Emergency Management Leadership
- Facilitate Emergency Partnerships
- Enhance Emergency Response Coordination
- Provide Emergency Planning
- Conduct Emergency Training & Exercises
- Facilitate Public Education and Community Engagement Programs
- Manage Homeland Security Grants
- Manage Recovery Coordination
- Manage Countywide Continuity of Operations
- Manage Countywide Security Operations



2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Fairfax County Functional EOC Exercise

On September 27, 2023, the Fairfax County Department of Emergency Management and Security conducted its first functional exercise since pre COVID. This six-hour exercise was intended to test an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activation by simulating an active shooter scenario in a Fairfax County Government building. The scenario triggered the activation of the county EOC and Joint Information Center (JIC). Throughout the exercise 80 participants and observers worked together to identify and operationalize plans to respond to the simulated active shooter scenario to ensure the well-being and continuity of county services for county employees, residents, and visitors.



2023 Emergency Operations Plan

In 2023, Fairfax County continued work to review and update the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The Emergency Operations Plan fulfills the Commonwealth of Virginia's requirement for each city and county to prepare and keep a current emergency operations plan to respond to disasters or large-scale emergencies. In addition, the plan establishes overall roles and responsibilities of county agencies and external partners for emergency operations. The Planning and Policy Analysis Division worked with Fairfax County Public Libraries and the Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination and included them as new partner agencies. Other significant updates included updating the equity language in the EOP to be consistent with the One Fairfax Policy and updating the access and functional needs language.

2023 National Capital Region Threat and Hazards Identification and Risk Assessment

On an annual basis, the National Capital Region (NCR) is required by FEMA to prepare a Threat and Hazards Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) which identifies gaps in the region's ability to prevent, protect, mitigate, response, and recover from disasters. In 2023, Fairfax County chaired the committee comprised of planners across the NCR. The Regional Preparedness Specialists (RPS) who were assigned with completing this assessment were able to revitalize and reengage partners from around the NCR to better understand capabilities to prevent, protect, mitigate, respond, and recover from natural, technological, and human-caused hazards.

Security Classes in Employee U

In 2023, the Training and Exercise Division collaborated with our Security Division to enhance and simplify the structure of all security training classes. A Microsoft Form was created and uploaded to our ShareDrive, facilitating the solicitation of agency-specific training requests. Subsequently, all security training classes were integrated into the county's EmployeeU system for streamlined metric tracking.

To bolster participation and foster an optimal learning environment, various channels for promoting these classes were established. This included the development of promotional postcards and flyers distributed during outreach initiatives, ensuring a minimum attendance of 10 participants for each class. Additionally, promotions were strategically featured in the county's NewsLink to reach a broader audience and keep employees informed about upcoming training opportunities.

2023 EOC OPERATIONS

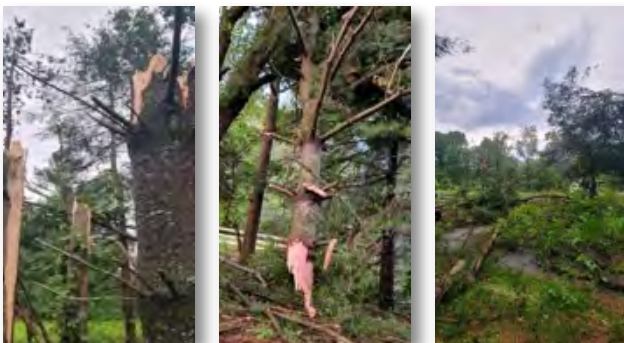
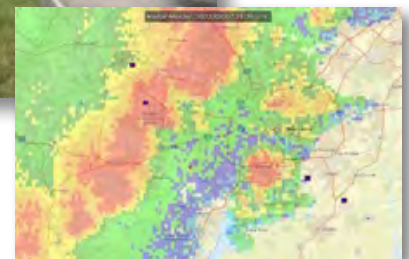
The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) serves as the direction and coordination facility for the Fairfax County Government during emergencies and disasters. Responsibilities include the assignment of resources, establishing policies, and the coordination and approval of all requests for assistance outside the county. The EOC serves as a multi-agency coordination center with jurisdictional responsibility for Fairfax County and as appropriate, the Towns of Clifton, Herndon, and Vienna.

Many county departments and agencies represented at the EOC have off-site, Department Operations Centers (DOCs). A DOC is an agency-level organization that can be a physical space or can operate virtually or in a hybrid capacity. DOC personnel typically communicate directly with their agency representative in the county EOC who most often sit in the Operations Coordination Section. The DOCs serve as liaisons, coordinating their agency’s emergency response activities from the EOC. The EOC organizational structure is built on the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

An Alternate EOC (AEOC) is also administered by DEMS and is located inside the Fairfax County Government Center. This facility has similar capabilities and is fully integrated with the primary EOC.

Notable EOC Activations:

Severe Weather – August 7, 2023 - On Monday, August 7, 2023, a line of “Destructive” severe thunderstorms came through Fairfax County. The National Weather Service (NWS) placed the county in a “Moderate Risk” for severe weather to occur during the rush hour window. The NWS was forecasting the potential for large diameter hail, tornadoes, damaging straight line winds, and flash flooding. At 4:00 PM the Fairfax County EOC opened to monitor the storm.



As the storm began to track across the county, multiple calls for service for the Fire Department and Police Department began coming into the Department of Public Safety Communications. From 4:45 PM until 7:30 PM, DPSC received 636 calls for service.



The National Weather Service reported this to be an extensive microburst storm, with winds in excess of 80 mph blowing through the area at approximately 6 PM. No significant property damage was observed, and restoration and recovery initiatives were well underway.

DUTY OFFICER (DO) PROGRAM

The on call Duty Officer (DO) for DEMS supports response efforts in times of emergencies. The primary role of the DO is to be the conduit for coordination in the event of an emergency. This coordination is achieved through sending emergency alerts to the public and county partners. Additionally, the Duty Officer's provide situational awareness leading up to an event, convening internal and external partners for conference calls for impending weather or an ongoing incident, and identifying key players who can help respond and recover from an emergency. DO's respond to incidents such as structure fires, hazardous materials spills, planned events, and severe weather. There are eight duty officers from DEMS and the role rotates on a weekly basis. The program is managed and administered by the Technical Services Division under Mission Support.

In 2023, there were three Duty Officer deployments to support on scene events and over 76 hours of support provided to support other incidents.

2023 DUTY OFFICER YEAR IN REVIEW

Little River Square Condos Fire – February 5, 2023

At approximately 3:20 AM, the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Uniformed Fire Officer (UFO) called the DEMS Duty Officer to report a 3-alarm garden apartment fire at 7439 Little River Turnpike in Annandale. 32 units were affected by the incident. Two (2) units were directly affected by the fire and twelve (12) other apartments were deemed unoccupiable. The remaining units were left without utilities, including gas, electricity, and water.

After the building was placarded as uninhabitable, DEMS and the Red Cross met to discuss the next steps. Units in this complex are owned and subsequently rented out. The property management distributed letters with information to all units, advising them to contact their homeowner's insurance if they were owners and renters to reach out to their landlords or obtain renter's insurance. After discussion, the Red Cross agreed to provide assistance to the initial twelve (12) units that were deemed uninhabitable or unoccupiable. The units without gas or electricity would have the opportunity to get assistance from the Red Cross if they needed it, once the initial twelve (12) units were processed. In total, fourteen (14) units were provided financial assistance.



Code Red Air Quality

During the summer, Fairfax County was under a Code Red Air Quality Alert several times due to burning wildfires in Canada. The DEMS Duty Officer worked with the Office of Public Affairs and the Health Department to update the messaging for the air quality alert to ensure preparedness messaging for the air quality was centered around the smoke from the wildfires, versus the ozone.

DATE SENT	MESSAGE	# SENT TO
6/7/23	Code Red Air Quality Alert Due to the wildfires in Canada, a Code Red Air Quality alert has been issued for Wednesday, June 7, which means air quality is unhealthy for everyone in Fairfax County and the region. View real-time data: https://www.airnow.gov/?city=Fairfax&state=VA&country=USA	94,669
6/7/23	Code Red Air Quality Alert for Thursday, June 8 Due to the wildfires in Canada, a Code Red Air Quality alert has been issued for THURSDAY, JUNE 8, which means air quality is unhealthy for everyone in Fairfax County and the region. People with heart or lung disease, older adults, children and teens should take extra precautions. View real-time data: https://www.airnow.gov/?city=Fairfax&state=VA&country=USA	94,707
6/28/23	Code Red Air Quality Alert 6/29/23 Due to the wildfires in Canada, a Code Red Air Quality alert has been issued for Thursday, June 29, which means air quality is unhealthy for everyone in Fairfax County and the region. People with heart or lung disease, older adults, children and teens should take extra precautions. View real time data: www.airnow.gov	94,983

Burke Beaver Dam – August 17, 2023

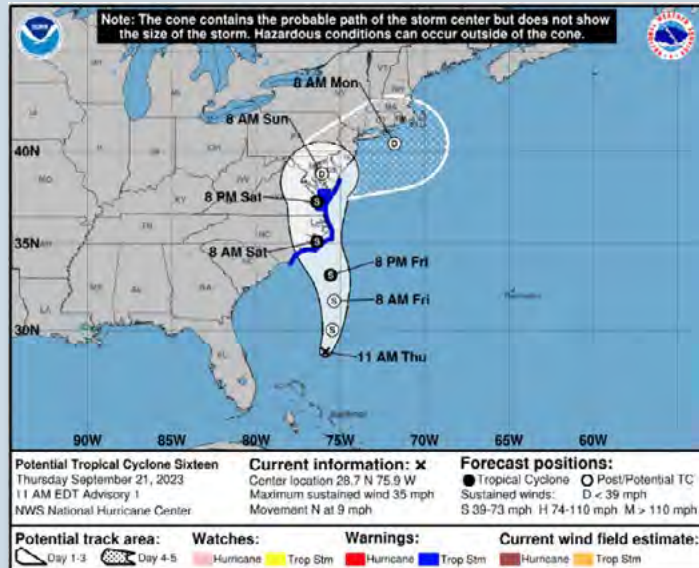
On Thursday, August 17, 2023, DEMS was notified by the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department (FCFRD) of a potential dam failure on a private pond in Burke. The pond is owned by the Home Owners Association (HOA) for the Pohick Crest neighborhood, which consisted of 6 homes. Pohick Crest HOA is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the pond and the Control Structure that was not functioning.

Approximately one month prior, the HOA reached out to the Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District for assistance after they noticed that their neighborhood pond was filled to the top of its earthen dam. The engineer inspected the pond and found that a beaver was active in the pond and had blocked the pond riser, preventing drainage from the pond. The pond had filled to the top of the earthen dam and begun to overflow around the sides of the dam. The beaver also has obstructed the overflow around the sides of the dam, further raising the water level.

The engineer inspected the dam again on August 17th, to observe for any damage following the storms earlier in the week and he observed that there was new overflow damage to the earthen dam, leaving him concerned that a significant rainstorm could result in a catastrophic failure of the dam. The engineer made reports to the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) and the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, as well as advised the HOA to hire a geotechnical engineer to develop a plan to safely drain water. After producing inundation maps for the flood area and no rain in the forecast for the next week, DPWES did not consider the current situation an imminent threat, but the issue needed to be addressed quickly. FCFRD had units from Burke Fire Station 414 monitor the area and make notification if conditions changed. The HOA ultimately hired a private engineer and contractor to mitigate the beaver issue and fix the dam. The DEMS Duty Officer coordinated and facilitated meetings among the various departments and the involved HOA. DEMS also set up an alert group for residences that may potentially be impacted if there was rain that might cause the dam to breach.

Tropical Storm Ophelia – September 21 – 23, 2023

Tropical Storm Ophelia was expected to impact Northern Virginia with steady rain, and high winds from Friday evening through Sunday morning. Winds were expected to gust in the 35-45 mph range throughout the daylight hours on Saturday with total rain for the event exceeding 2 inches. Additional storm surge along the Potomac River may cause localized coastal flooding. The DEMS Duty Officer sent out two Riverwatch messages.



Riverwatch is a Fairfax Alerts subscription list designed specifically to provide information to flood prone areas along the Potomac River, such as Huntington, Belle View, & New Alexandria.

RIVER WATCH MESSAGE	DATE	# SENT TO
<p>Riverwatch - Fairfax County</p> <p>The Belle View/New Alexandria areas may experience localized street flooding. Residents are encouraged to move vehicles to higher ground. See email for details.</p>	9/22/24	13,155
<p>Riverwatch - Fairfax County</p> <p>The Belle View/New Alexandria areas may experience localized street flooding. Residents are encouraged to move vehicles to higher ground. See email for details.</p>	9/23/24	12,021

Fairfax Alerts Success – September 26, 2023

At approximately 8:00 PM the Duty Officer was contacted by the Department of Public Safety Communications (DPSC) with a request to send a reverse 9-1-1 for a missing child. The notification was sent at 8:12 PM to a four-mile radius to 66,835 contacts. The notification gave directions to call the non-emergency number if the child was seen. Within 38 minutes, a resident called the non-emergency number to report a sighting of the child and officers were able to safely return the child.

Duty Officer Messages:

- 63 Internal messages sent via the Emergency Alert Network
- 97 alerts to residents and the public throughout the year

2023 CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Virginia Emergency Management Symposium – Harrisonburg, VA

The Virginia Emergency Management Symposium (VEMS) is an annual event that is co-sponsored by the Virginia Emergency Management Association (VEMA) and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM). The Symposium provides a forum to discuss current trends and topics and share information about the latest tools and technology in emergency management and homeland security. Sessions encourage stakeholders at all levels of government, the private sector, public health, and related professions to exchange ideas and collaborate to protect lives, the environment, and property from disaster.

The theme for 2023 was “Change? Challenge Accepted!” This was chosen because emergency managers in all sectors and at every level have shown what it means to be resilient, by applying lessons learned from the response to the pandemic and other incidents and subsequently changing the way emergency management functions across the board. Several DEMS staff members presented at sessions, as well as pre-conference training.

Pre-Conference Family Assistance Center Training

For the first time, VEMS offered several pre-conference trainings that attendees could choose to attend.

Attendees had the option to select from two classes or choose to participate in two caucus group meetings.

Training & Exercise division lead, Cara Williams, was part of a core workgroup that helped organize the Family Assistance Center training course, Outside the Yellow Tape: Family Assistance Planning and Operations. The goal of the course was to provide an understanding of the

family assistance operations model to enable participants to effectively plan for and operationalize humanitarian assistance for those impacted by a mass casualty or mass fatality event. The first day of the two-day course was conducted prior to the symposium and the second day was conducted virtually after the symposium. Twenty-three participants completed the course from various jurisdictions and agencies across the Commonwealth.



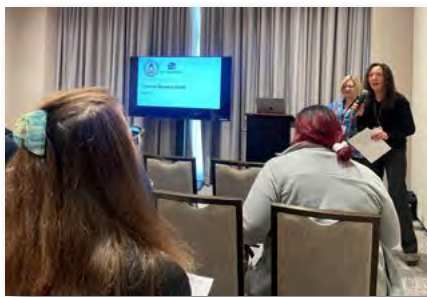
WebEOC, GIS, and Case Management for Sheltering

Community Engagement division lead, Courtney Arroyo, and Technical Specialist, Sandy Kenyon, presented on the tools that DEMS has developed to aid the sheltering process from the beginning of the incident, through shelter demobilization, and case management. Courtney and Sandy explained how Duty Officers utilize WebEOC and GIS tools to identify shelter

locations. Sandy reviewed how Fairfax County utilizes dashboards to display easy to see shelter status and statistics. Courtney reviewed the importance of registration and how to utilize WebEOC as a solution to track shelter residents from intake through case management process.

Northern Virginia EOC Exchange

DEMS Assistant Coordinator for Training and Exercise, Cara Williams, and Sydney McKenna, Emergency Preparedness Manager, from Arlington County Public Safety Communications and Emergency Management presented on the Northern Virginia Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Exchange Program. This program was established to prepare EOC staff who are knowledgeable of the management structures, operational levels, and decision-points precipitating the activation and demobilization of each EOC in the region. Through the program, participating Northern Virginia jurisdictions can share personnel to fill acute short-term EOC staffing needs and gain experience by engaging in operations in neighboring jurisdictions. The presentation discussed the process to set up the Northern Virginia EOC Exchange Program and described how jurisdictions small and large across the Commonwealth may establish similar regional programs. EOC Exchange Programs could help other jurisdictions fill staffing gaps before major planned events or after no-notice emergencies, as well as increase regional information sharing, build relationships, and increase the overall preparedness across the Commonwealth.



Disaster Financial Recovery Guide

Deputy Coordinator of Mission Support, Diane Hansen, presented the Fairfax County Financial Recovery Guide that was updated during COVID-19. Regardless of the organization, creating a financial roadmap for the organization and relevant stakeholders to follow in the aftermath of an event is important. Establishing clear processes and workflow prior to an event will help an organization more efficiently process documentation and maximize funding opportunities.

International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) Conference

The IAEM Conference is a multi-day training and educational event that provides many benefits to emergency management professionals in all levels of government, the private sector, and non-government agencies alike. The goal of the IAEM Annual Conference is to enhance your knowledge, competency level and collaborative skills.

Poster Showcase - COVID-19 Vaccination Engagement

Access and Functional Needs Planning Specialist, Moriah Kitaeff, presented a research study on the effectiveness of the community engagement tactics used to encourage COVID-19 vaccinations within the Hispanic communities of Texas and California. This new insight facilitates a deeper understanding of necessary adaptations for future global health crises where vaccination is a recommended intervention.

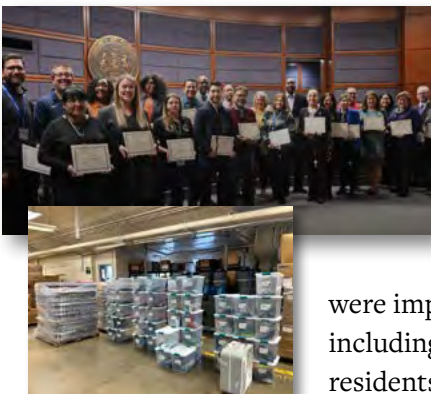


2023 AWARDS

Preparedness Program of the Year at VEMS

DEMS was awarded Emergency Preparedness Program of the Year at VEMS. The nomination included highlights of the 2022 year to include:

- Webinar series that reached 2,134 residents.
- Specific outreach efforts to apartment and condo HOA's to educate the property management about what happens when there is a fire and what they can do to make the recovery process go smoothly.
- Launched the Business Disaster Resilience Guide.
- Released the Youth Community Emergency Response Guide that targets 6th – 12th graders to help them learn about different emergencies and disasters.
- Launched an annual preparedness survey where 1,800 residents responded.



County Extreme Heat Taskforce Award

In August 2022, a stakeholder workgroup was established to enhance the county's response to extreme heat for vulnerable community members, particularly residents who are experiencing homelessness. The workgroup developed recommendations in four areas: communications and outreach, transportation, county infrastructure and response, and supplies and distribution. These recommendations

were implemented this summer and resulted in significant enhancements, including designating 47 facilities as cooling centers, distributing supplies to residents, providing free transportation to cooling centers, and conducting a robust outreach in 8 languages about the resources available in extreme heat. This work required substantial coordination, collaboration, and creativity across 11 agencies.

Corrective Action Program Award

The new Corrective Action Program (CAP) application was developed and built by an internal working group within the Department of Emergency Management and Security (DEMS). This new application moved the corrective actions from our current crisis management software, WebEOC to Teams through a Power Platform application. The new application was built in response to a corrective action from COVID-19 to modernize and integrate within the county's use of Teams. The application is now live on the DEMS Training and Exercise SharePoint page. This new application is used to view, edit, and track all corrective actions that have been documented in after-action reports from real world events as well as countywide emergency exercises. All prior corrective actions in WebEOC have been transferred into the new system and assigned to departments. The application sends notifications to agency representatives assigned to corrective actions to periodically go into the system and update their status. To date, there are 207 corrective actions in the system, including 50 from the countywide COVID-19 AAR that was driven by the Board of Supervisors. Utilizing the CAP application, helps facilitate a culture of continuous improvement in emergency management and allows agencies to refine their emergency plans, policies, and protocols based on lessons learned.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Overview

The Community Engagement Division is designed to educate and empower community members through the Ready Fairfax program to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies, including natural and human-caused disasters. The goal of the program is to promote preparedness through public engagement, using our Community Emergency Response Guide (CERG) suite of material, community workshops, webinars, and social media. Ready Fairfax encourages all residents to prepare for the unexpected by making a plan, making a kit, staying informed, and getting involved.

MEET THE STAFF



Courtney Arroyo,
*Community
Engagement Manager*



Nicholas Kingsley,
*Community
Engagement Specialist*

2023 Highlights

- Created a story book for kids, One Cat-Five and Super Stormy Night
- Launched Instagram account in December 2023
- Created the Plan, Prepare, and Protect, a House of Worship Resilience Guide
- Hosted the 2nd Annual Interfaith Resiliency Conference for Houses of Worship
- Conducted the Student Tools for Emergency Planning (STEP) program where 27 schools and 2,447 students participated
- Hosted the first open house at McConnell Public Safety Transportation Operations Center (MPSTOC) where we gave a tour of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC)



Community Engagement Metrics

141 events (18 of those trainings and 33 targeted to older adults/individuals with disabilities) with **14,657** attendees, **563** staff hours, **49** volunteers served 142 volunteer hours

+1,996 Emergency Preparedness Newsletter subscriptions

METRIC	TWITTER	FACEBOOK
<i>Tweets/Posts</i>	805	941
<i>Followers/Fans</i>	<i>Added</i> 747	<i>Added</i> 289
<i>Post Engagements</i>	9,369	3,420
<i>Retweets/Shares</i>	799	609

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Overview

Fairfax County DEMS facilitates internship opportunities to host students or individuals interested in pursuing a career in Emergency Management while gaining some real-world experience. In the summer of 2023, DEMS hosted a John Hudson Intern, a partnership with the Department of Family Services, which was established by the Fairfax Area Disability Services Board for college students and recent college graduates with disabilities. The internship program provides participants with on-the-job experience, professional development, and training opportunities.

The internship program was named in honor of the late John Hudson. During his 15 years with Fairfax County Government, John made immeasurable improvements to enhance the lives of people with disabilities in the Fairfax area. John was the special needs planner in Fairfax County's Office of Emergency Management. Previously, he directed Disability Services Planning and Development in the county's Department of Family Services and provided staff support to the Fairfax Area Disability Services Board for over a decade.

2023 Intern Highlights

- Completed the National Incident Management System (NIMS) training and the Professional Development Series through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- Developed an educational tool designed to teach boy scouts and other children about the function of an EOC and how local governments respond to disasters. Learned about the role of local government as it relates to state, regional and federal partners
- Developed hazard specific social media toolkits
- Assisted with warehouse logistics



TRAINING AND EXERCISE

Overview

The Training and Exercise Division maintains and facilitates a comprehensive training program for DEMS and its partnering agencies. The division works with county, local, state, and non-governmental agencies to coordinate regular training and exercises to develop the necessary knowledge, skills, and capabilities to effectively prepare for, respond to, and recover from potential emergencies and disasters that may affect Fairfax County. The county's Multi-Year Integrated Preparedness Plan outlines this training and exercise strategy and is reviewed and updated annually.

2023 Highlights

- Delivered quarterly ICS-300 and 400 courses
- Held quarterly WebEOC Basic User courses and conducted monthly drills
- Hosted the Family Assistance Center (FAC) Pilot Course for the Northern Virginia Region
- Participated in the virtual Fairfax Water Occoquan Reservoir Spill Response Functional Exercise
- Participated in the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services Debris Management Tabletop Exercise
- Conducted the Fairfax County Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop (IPPW) and updated the county's Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP)
- Facilitated the county's annual hurricane seminar and winter weather seminar
- Participated in the Virginia Statewide Tornado Drill and the Great SouthEast ShakeOut Drill
- Conducted a Crisis Communications Workshop with the Office of Public Affairs, Fairfax County Public Schools, and public safety public information officers
- Completed the COVID After-Action Report (AAR)
- Launched the new Corrective Action Program
- Conducted an EOC Activation Active Shooter Functional Exercise and completed an AAR
- Developed a suite of eLearning courses for county employees and residents
- Participated in the City of Alexandria's exercise, Arlington County's Communication Drill, and Prince William County's Full-Scale Exercise

Training and Exercise Metrics

64 trainings, **712** people trained, **4223.5** total hours of trainings

15 exercises (including WebEOC drills), **1047** attendees, **717.25** hours of exercises

MEET THE STAFF



Cara Williams,
*Assistant Coordinator of
Training and Exercise*



David Gruendel,
*Training and Exercise
Manager*



Ashley Shifflett,
*Training and Exercise
Specialist*

PLANNING AND POLICY ANALYSIS

Overview

The Planning and Policy Analysis Division coordinates the development, review, maintenance, approval, and distribution of Fairfax County emergency plans. The division coordinates committees and partnerships involving county agencies to create countywide emergency response, recovery, and mitigation plans. In addition, the division integrates the needs of individuals with access and functional needs, in accordance with Federal laws and regulations. The division participates in the Regional Preparedness Subcommittee through the Metropolitan-Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) to ensure all local, sub-regional, and regional plans are coordinated, consistent, and utilize an all-hazards approach. Planning is essential for maintaining safe and resilient communities. The plans developed are used in disaster response and recovery and help to ensure the safety and welfare of Fairfax County residents.

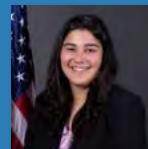
MEET THE STAFF



Gregory Zebrowski,
*Assistant Coordinator
of Planning and Policy
Analysis*



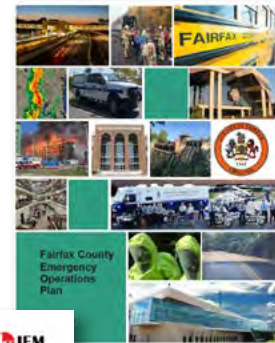
Matthew Marquis,
*Lead Planner of
Planning and Policy
Analysis division*



Moriah Kitaeff,
*Access and
Functional Needs
Planning Specialist*

2023 Highlights

- Emergency Operations Plan update and Northern Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan were both approved by the Board of Supervisors in June 2023.
- Led the workgroup to develop the National Capital Region (NCR) Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR).
- Continued efforts of working with Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC) and the Resilient Fairfax planning team to implement the Climate Adaptation Resiliency Plan and the Resilient Fairfax Plan.
- Ongoing participation in the Heat Emergency Workgroup.
- Began updates on the Extreme Temperature Response Plan based on the lessons learned over the summer.
- Updated the Pre-Disaster Recovery Framework.
- Created an Access and Functional Needs Officer (AFNO) position for mass care situations.
- Updated the Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) Plan.



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Overview

Financial Administration: Manages DEMS' allocation of county funds in accordance with the highest standards of government accounting. The goal is to ensure the appropriate and adequate acquisition of goods and services for DEMS personnel so that we can provide quality emergency management services and training to the residents of Fairfax County. Management and oversight of all fiscal functions ensures that agency requirements are appropriately planned for and addressed through annual budget processes, and that funds are utilized in compliance with government finance, accounting, and purchasing policies.

Human Resources Administration: Responsible for payroll, recruitment, workforce planning, and personnel guidance relating to performance, discipline, benefits, laws, and regulations.

Grants Administration: Manages and administers grants and alternative funding sources received by the agency. The agency coordinates awards, board items and audits for homeland security, domestic preparedness, and emergency management grant programs for all agencies within Fairfax County. Current funding sources include the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), and the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The division processes award documents and obtains acceptance authorization and spending authority in compliance with the required actions by the Board of Supervisors, complies with all financial and program reporting requirements, issues grant adjustment notices, and closes out grants in accordance with established procedures. This funding supports several key programs and positions within the agency, county, and region, including Fairfax Alerts/EAN emergency alerting software, WebEOC Incident Management software, Volunteer and, and Regional Preparedness Specialist positions.

Public Assistance/Event Reimbursements: Coordinates and administers the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) Grant Program for the county. Countywide internal order numbers are issued, and costs are tracked throughout an event to report to senior management and determine county eligibility for funding. This program provides assistance to local governments, state agencies, and eligible non-profit organizations to respond to and recover from the extraordinary cost burden of disaster-related activities. In addition, coordinates all event reimbursements such as Presidential Inaugurations, Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) requests, and Statewide Mutual Aid (SMA).

2023 Highlights

- Ongoing management of over \$108 million in FEMA Public Assistance reimbursements for COVID-19 expenses.
- Presented Countywide Financial Recovery Guide at the Virginia Emergency Management Symposium.
- Led local, state, and regional training efforts through delivery of Finance and Administration Section EOC courses.

MEET THE STAFF



Andrew Sullivan,
Finance Manager



Denise Derflinger,
Administrative Assistant

TECHNICAL SERVICES

Overview

The Technical Services Division consists of an Assistant Coordinator, Program Manager, and Technical Specialist who work to ensure DEMS staff and all associated facilities, tools, and resources are available to support the mission of emergency management within Fairfax County are always ready.

Some of their primary functions include:

- Manages both the Emergency Operations Center and the Alternate Emergency Operations Center facilities, including all computers, audio/visual equipment, phones, printers, and more. The technical services staff work to make sure technology is always up to date and functioning appropriately so it can be utilized at a moment's notice.
- Provides support to the internal and external DEMS websites, coordinates the DEMS fleet of vehicles, individual user computers and phones, and the WebEOC and Everbridge software.
- Manages WebEOC, a crisis information management tool utilized during EOC activations to support information sharing, resource requests, and serves as Fairfax County's official historical record of an event.
- Manages Everbridge, Fairfax County's public alert and warning platform, that hosts alerting systems for both the public and employees, called Fairfax Alerts and the Employee Alert Network (EAN) respectively.
- Manages the inventory of all assets, including capital assets with audits performed annually to ensure asset tracking compliance.
- Coordinates and manages the Duty Officer program.

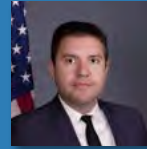
2023 Highlights

- Sent 830 Fairfax Alert notifications to residents of Fairfax County including weather alerts, traffic alerts, missing person, and shelter in place alerts.
- Facilitated 5,591 internal alerts through the EAN across all Fairfax County agencies providing key information to county staff on agency specific needs, system outages, weather, traffic and more.
- Migrated the Fairfax Alerts and EAN systems to incident templates.
- Performed lifecycle replacement of laptop computers in the Joint Operations Center (JOC).

MEET THE STAFF



Lucian Mirra,
*Assistant Coordinator
of Technical Services*



Timo Klotz,
*Technical Services
Manager*



Sandy Kenyon,
*Technical Services
Specialist*



Stephanie Umbel,
Administrative Assistant

SECURITY

Overview

DEMS physical Security Division encompasses numerous countywide security matters to include a focus on the security needs of the county's owned and leased buildings, and the security of those that work and visit county facilities and properties. The Security Division is led by the DEMS Security Director, Security Manager, and Assistant Security Manager. The DEMS technical security operations are led by the Security Systems Administrator who is supported by a Security Systems Project Manager. Additionally, there are 19 contracted security managers and support staff, which support the supervision and operations of 175 security officers throughout the county.

Some of the primary functions of the DEMS Security Division are to:

- Manage and oversee the operation and administration of a large 175 security officer force.
- Investigate and address threats, workplace violence, and other security related concerns.
- Provide security consultations and guidance on all county security related matters and concerns.
- Manage and oversee the Notice Forbidding Trespass (NFT) Program to include the issuance of NFTs and related court proceedings.
- Manage and oversee various security related equipment, systems, and technologies.
- Conduct preliminary threat assessments for persons of concern and other security related concerns.
- Provide security related training to county staff and others on matters such as Active Assailant (Active Shooter), Workplace Violence, De-escalation techniques, Security Awareness, Home Visit Safety, and Duress Alarm Training.
- Provide physical security assessments and reports for county buildings and properties.
- Review architectural engineering design construction plans for security related infrastructure and equipment for new constructions and building modifications.
- Provide a security presence of security officers and county security managers for special events, meetings, protests, rallies, and public celebrations throughout the county.

2023 Highlights

- Provided 60 security related training to over 1,000 county staff members, volunteers, and contract staff, totaling 3,130 hours of training.
- Conducted over 54 Physical Security Assessments of county owned and leased facilities/buildings and properties.
- Processed and completed over 1,898 background checks on county staff, volunteers, and contractors.
- Onboarded over 60 new security officers on to the Fairfax County contract.

MEET THE STAFF



Ronald Chavarro,
Director of Security



Robert Sharpe,
County Security Manager



Michael McGuinn,
Assistant County Security Manager



Paul Parton,
Security Systems Administrator



Derrick Wagstaff,
Security Systems Project Manager

CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS

Overview

The Fairfax County continuity program goes beyond mere plans; it serves as our proactive defense against disruptions that could jeopardize residents' well-being and the smooth operation of county services. This dynamic system consistently identifies potential threats, assesses their impact, and arms us with a swift, effective response.

This program doesn't wait for disasters; it proactively identifies critical vulnerabilities within county operations, covering essential functions like public safety, health, administration, and infrastructure. It crafts tailored plans for each organization, detailing how they will respond if their operations are compromised.

At the program's core is the Countywide Continuity Plan, a roadmap for coordinated action in any crisis, internal or external. It establishes clear decision-making protocols, communication channels, and response strategies. Think of it as a detailed emergency roadmap practiced long before the sirens sound.

However, the program's strength isn't just in its plans, but in its people. Every county organization actively participates in program objectives, developing specific plans, training personnel, and regularly testing procedures. This bottom-up approach ensures readiness across the county, with dedicated individuals ready to act the moment a threat emerges.

The continuity program is more than plans and procedures; it's a commitment to resilience and a promise to residents. It's an investment in our collective future, ensuring Fairfax County Government remains a safe, vibrant, and thriving organization.

2023 Highlights

- Continued a standing series of tabletop exercises for Fairfax County Department of Transportation that are conducted once a quarter.
- Worked with Fairfax County Public Schools to work through the establishment of a continuity capability within the school system.
- Conducted a program survey as part of the annual gap analysis. Below are a few highlights.
 - 95.2% of respondents have had a positive experience with the program.
 - 95.2% of respondents believe the program's goals and objectives are clear.
 - 95.2% of respondents believe the program provides adequate resources and support to the organizations.
 - 95.2% of respondents feel valued and respected by the program.

Note: 4.8% of respondents answered "N/A".
- Received 36 annual memorandums from a possible 42 organizations.

MEET THE STAFF



Avery Church,
*Countywide Continuity
Operations Program
Manager*

ACRONYMS

AEOC	Alternate Emergency Operations Center	IPPW	Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop
BOS	Board of Supervisor	JIC	Joint Information Center
CAP	Corrective Action Program	JOC	Joint Operations Center
CEMG	Community Emergency Response Guide	MPSTOC	McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center
DCEX	Deputy County Executive	MWCOG	Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
DEMS	Department of Emergency Management and Security	NCR	National Capital Region
DHS	Department of Homeland Security	NFT	Notice Forbidding Trespass
DO	Duty Officer	NIMS	National Incident Management System
DOC's	department operations centers	NWS	National Weather Service
DPSC	Department of Public Safety Communications	OEEC	Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination
DPWES	Department of Public Works and Environmental Services	OEM	Office of Emergency Management
EAN	Employee Alert Network	RPS	Regional Preparedness Specialists
EMAC	Emergency Management Assistance Compact	SMA	Statewide Mutual Aid
EOC	Emergency Operations Center	STEP	Student Tools for Emergency Planning
EOP	Emergency Operations Plan	THIRA	Threats and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
FAC	Family Assistance Center	UFO	Uniformed Fire Officer
FCFRD	Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department	VEMA	Virginia Emergency Managers Association
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency	VEMS	Virginia Emergency Management Symposium
HOA	Homeowners Association	VDEM	Virginia Department of Emergency Management
IPP	Integrated Preparedness Plan		



Fairfax County Department of Emergency Management and Security (DEMS)

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