

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS NEWSLETTER

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY



## Are You Prepared if the Power Goes Out?

Power outages can be frustrating and troublesome when they last a short while, but they can be dangerous if they last days or longer - especially in very cold or hot weather, or for individuals with specialized medical needs. Want to know more? Join us for our monthly webinar on Wednesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM.

Link: [DEMS Monthly Webinar - Feb | Emergency Management \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dems/monthly-webinar-feb-emergency-management)

### Power Outage Tips:

- ALWAYS report your outage.
- Keep freezers and refrigerators closed.
- Use a generator, but ONLY outdoors and away from windows.
- Do not use a gas stove or oven to heat your home.
- Disconnect appliances and electronics to avoid damage from electrical surges.
- Have alternate plans for refrigerating medicines or using power-dependent medical devices.
- "When in doubt, throw it out!" throw away any food that has been exposed to temperatures 40 degrees or higher for two hours or more, or that has an unusual odor, color, or texture.



Do you know how to report a power outage? Below are the main power companies that service Fairfax County.

- **Dominion Energy:** 1-866-DOM-HELP (1-866-366-4357), TTY 711
- **Dominion Outage Map:** [outagemap.dominionenergy.com/external/default.html](https://outagemap.dominionenergy.com/external/default.html)
- **Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative (NOVEC):** 1-888-335-0500 or 703-335-0500, TTY 711
- **NOVEC Outage Map:** [www.novec.com/stormcenter/index.cfm](https://www.novec.com/stormcenter/index.cfm)

## Stay Informed Through the Functional Needs Registry

Are you signed up for the Functional Needs Registry? If so, you will be asked to verify the information you have entered in the Fairfax Alerts system in February 2022. This audit will help us ensure your contact information is up to date.

What is the Functional Needs Registry? The Functional Needs Registry is a tool for Fairfax County in pre-event emergency planning, resource management and communicating with families and individuals who have identified a disability or access and functional need. The Functional Needs Registry has 12 functional need categories to select into, as well as a "care provider" category for those who care for someone with a disability or access and functional need.



The registry is part of the Department of Emergency Management and Security's (DEMS) efforts to assist residents in preparing and planning for emergencies. For example, prior to or during a crisis emergency, Fairfax County staff uses this notification system to inform residents of potential dangers or emergencies that could affect our residents and provide timely updates to residents.

*There is no guarantee that services will be provided, nor does registration guarantee that services will be received on a preferential basis. Residents should continue to follow emergency protocol by calling 9-1-1 in the event of a life-threatening emergency even though they have subscribed to this registry.*

## Fairfax County Completes Alert and Warning Plan

Over the past year, the Planning and Policy Division has been working with county agencies and departments on a brand-new annex to the county's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The Alert and Warning Annex outlines how to establish and disseminate emergency notifications to our residents.

Fairfax County is susceptible to many different hazards, both natural and manmade. When disaster strikes, you may have only a short time to make what might be a life-or-death decision. For this reason, it is imperative that you have multiple ways to receive warning information.

Below is a list of methods you can use to stay informed:

- **Fairfax Alerts:** The county's emergency notification system that allows you to customize your alerts for free! Register, [Alerts | Topics \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#).
- **Emergency Alert System (EAS):** National warning system that uses radio, television, and satellite channels to broadcast important public safety information.
- **Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA):** Part of the EAS program which enables cellphones to receive alerts for severe weather emergencies, imminent threats to life or property, AMBER alerts, and Presidential alerts. **NOTE:** Check your phone settings to make sure these alerts are enabled!
- **Weather Radio:** an automated 24-hour network of weather radio stations in the United States that broadcast weather information directly from a nearby National Weather Service office.
- **Social Media:** Some important Twitter and Facebook accounts to follow are @FairfaxCounty and @ReadyFairfax
- **Fairfax County's Emergency Blog:** [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog)
- **Radio Station:** [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicaffairs/radio](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicaffairs/radio)
- **Channel 16:** [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cableconsumer/channel-16/stream](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cableconsumer/channel-16/stream)



Receiving timely emergency notifications for severe weather, emergency incidents, and information during a disaster is critical to staying safe. Every family should have multiple ways to receive emergency alerts, including one with an audible alert to wake you in the middle of the night.

## Citizen Corps Council Event Calendar

Are you interested in learning more about emergency preparedness? Citizen Corps Council has created an event calendar where several organizations will be posting events (in person and virtual) for you to attend. DEMS has put all our monthly webinars on the calendar.

Calendar: [Citizen Corps Council | Emergency Management \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)

## 2022 Emergency Preparedness Calendar

To go along with the DEMS monthly webinars, we now have a calendar that you can download!

Calendar: [Copy of Copy of 2022 Emergency Preparedness Calendar \(Photo Book \(11 × 8.5 in\)\) \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)



## Resilient Fairfax February 1, 2022 - Virtual Public Meeting

Resilient Fairfax is all about preparing for future climate threats like flooding, extreme heat, strong storms, and more. How is your neighborhood impacted by these risks? Where are we vulnerable as a county? How should we address future threats? Come join a discussion on February 1 at 6:30 PM with county planners and experts and help us protect county residents, businesses, and infrastructure. More info: <https://bit.ly/34ki3vN>