

OEM

CITY OF FAIRFAX

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SPRING NEWSLETTER

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CITY OF FAIRFAX OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

[#ReadyCityofFairfax](#)

Emergency management protects the community by coordinating and integrating all activities necessary to build, sustain, and improve the capability to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from threatened or actual natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other man-made disaster.

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OEM
SPRING EDITION
NEWSLETTER

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FLOOD AWARENESS

Be Prepared!

Flooding is the most common and costly natural disaster, but only 3% of Virginians have flood insurance. It is estimated that one inch of water in a home can cause upwards of \$25,000 in damages.

Floods don't just hit coastal Virginia. In 2021, the remnants of Hurricane Ida caused devastating floods and mudslides in Buchanan County. In 2018, Hurricanes Florence and Michael tore through central and western areas of the state. During Hurricane Michael, the Dan River region alone suffered roughly \$12.9 million in damages. Floods aren't limited to mapped flood risk areas, either. In fact, many of the 2,000 homes that were flooded in 2016 during Hurricane Matthew were outside the mapped floodplain.

Flooding doesn't only occur during hurricanes or named storms. In recent years, western Virginia communities had severe flooding after experiencing heavy rain, requiring some residents to be rescued from their homes and resulting in damaged buildings and road closures.

Virginia Flood Awareness Week encourages Virginians to learn about their flood risk and protect the life they've built with flood insurance.

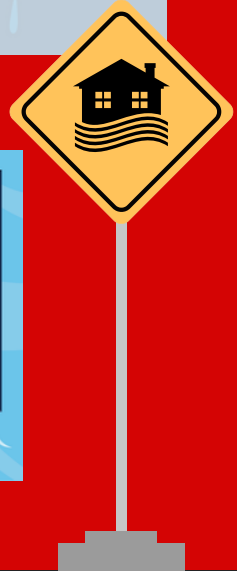
BE PREPARED FOR A FLOOD

- » Know the types of flood risk in your area. Visit FEMA's Flood Map Service Center for information.
- » Sign up for your community's warning system or set National Weather Service alerts on the FEMA app.
- » Take photos of important documents and keep them in a waterproof container. Create password-protected digital copies as well.
- » If flash flooding is a risk in your location, monitor potential signs such as heavy rain.
- » Learn and practice evacuation routes, shelter plans, and flash flood response.
- » Protect your property. Move valuables to higher levels, declutter drains and gutters, and install check valves. Consider a sump pump with a battery.

DID YOU KNOW?

There is at least a **26 percent chance** you'll experience a base flood during the lifetime of your mortgage.

Visit www.floodsmart.gov for more information.



TORNADO AWARENESS

#TornadoAwareness

March 11, 2025, was the Statewide Tornado drill! Did you participate?

Here are some tips on preparing for a tornado:

- **Know your area's tornado risk.** In the U.S., the Midwest and the Southeast have a greater risk for tornadoes.
- **Know the signs of a tornado**, including a rotating, funnel-shaped cloud, an approaching cloud of debris, or a loud roar like a freight train.
- **Sign up for your community's warning system.** The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and NOAA Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts. If your community has sirens, become familiar with the warning tone.
- **Pay attention to weather reports.** Meteorologists can predict when conditions might be right for a tornado.
- **Identify and practice going to a safe shelter** such as a safe room built using FEMA criteria or a storm shelter built to ICC 500 standards. The next best protection is a small, interior, windowless room or basement on the lowest level of a sturdy building.
- **Plan for your pet.** They are an important member of your family, so they need to be included in your family's emergency plan.
- **Prepare for long-term stay at home or sheltering in place** by gathering emergency supplies, cleaning supplies, non-perishable foods, water, medical supplies and medication.



A tornado WATCH means tornadoes are possible in and near your area. Be ready to act fast!



A tornado WARNING means **Take Action!** A tornado is near. There is danger. Move to safe location right away.

BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLANNING

Be Prepared!

Is your business prepared for a disaster? Do you have a Business Continuity Plan in place?

Business Continuity Plan (BCP) is a collection of resources, actions, procedures, and information that is developed, tested, and held in readiness for use in the event of a disaster or major disruption of operations.

Having a Business Continuity Plan (BCP) helps prepare departments and businesses to continue essential functions after a major disruption.

Helps minimize the impact on your department, help reduce down-time, and help you return to normal operations as quickly as possible

Here are some helpful tips on how to setup a BCP:

- Identify your essential functions
- Identify resources needed by each function
- Determine the Recovery Time Objective (RTO)
- Conduct a Business Impact Analysis
- Determine your Recovery Strategies (Focus on three main resources: People Places and Things)



Assemble your Pet's Emergency Kit



Food and water (3 days), bowls, manual can opener



Medicines, medical records, & first aid kit



Collar with ID tag, harness, or leash



Crate or pet carrier



A picture of you and your pet together



Important documents: registration & vaccination



Familiar Items: Favorite toys, treats, bedding



Plastic bags/litter for cleaning up after your pet

#PetPreparednessMonth



PARTNERS IN PREPAREDNESS
A program of VDEM



PET PREPAREDNESS

#PetPreparednessMonth

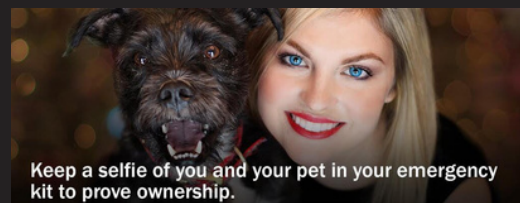
Pet Preparedness month is June! Do you have an emergency kit ready to go for your pets?

In an emergency, your pets will be even more dependent on you for their safety and well-being. Your family's disaster plans must include your furry family members too.

1) If its not safe for you to stay in your home during an emergency, it's not safe for them either!

2) Include supplies for your pet in your emergency kit, or assemble an emergency kit for your pet.

3) Make an evacuation plan for you and your pets. Many hotels and shelters do not accept animal guests, other than service animals.



#BeInformed

Ready ✓

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INTERSHIP

Meet Emma

Hello! My name is Emma De Jong, and I am a graduate student at George Mason University, studying management, with a certificate in Public Management. I graduated with my bachelor's degree in three years in Community Health with a concentration in Global Health. I have also been a student-athlete for the last four years on the swim team at George Mason. I have learned so much from my internship with the Office of Emergency Management, and I hope to pursue a career in emergency management or something adjacent!"



An Emergency Management Internship Program provides hands-on experience for students and professionals looking to develop their skills in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. Interns gain valuable insights by working alongside emergency management professionals, assisting with planning, training exercises, and real-world crisis coordination. This program offers a unique opportunity to contribute to community resilience while building practical knowledge in risk assessment, emergency operations, and public safety strategies.

SPRING MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

Spring into Safety!

Spring cleaning season is here, and while you're dusting, scrubbing, and sprucing, don't forget to tidy up your fire safety habits too!



The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has six sizzling tips to keep your home safe as the temps rise:

- Store gasoline safely (outside only!)
- Dry oily rags outside to prevent spontaneous combustion
- Handle flammable liquids with care—no smoking allowed!
- Give your grill a check-up before the first BBQ
- Clear out yard debris and dead vegetation
- Clean your dryer and keep the vent clear
-

A little caution goes a long way in keeping your home fire-free. Happy (and safe) cleaning!

2025 PREPAREDNESS CALENDAR

**JAN'
25**

RESOLVE TO BE READY

#WINTERREADY

NATIONAL CANNED FOOD MONTH

#WINTERREADY

**FEB
'25**

**MAR
'25**

SEVERE WEATHER MONTH

#FLOODSAFETY

**NATIONAL FINANCIAL
CAPABILITY MONTH**

#SAFEPLACESELFIEDAY

**APR
'25**

**MAY
'25**

**NATIONAL HURRICANE
PREPAREDNESS**

PET PREPAREDNESS MONTH

#SUMMERREADY

**JUNE
'25**

**JULY
'25**

FIREWORKS SAFETY

#SUMMERREADY

**CHILDREN & YOUTH
PREPAREDNESS**

#SUMMERREADY

**AUG
'25**

**SEP
'25**

**NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS
MONTH**

**CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS
MONTH/GREAT SHAKEOUT
EARTHQUAKE DRILLS**

**OCT
'25**

**NOV
'25**

**THANKSGIVING COOKING
SAFETY**

#WINTERREADY

RESOLVE TO BE READY

#WINTERREADY

**DEC
'25**

The City of Fairfax is committed to the letter and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This document will be made available in alternate format upon request. Call 703 385-4856.



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<https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/emergency-management>