



THE DISASTER DISPATCH

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM
THE ANNE ARUNDEL OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Preeti Emrick, JD, CHEC



The holiday season is a wonderful time for celebrating with friends and family. Unfortunately, it's also the time when we start to experience colder weather and a variety of potential winter hazards such as snow and icy roads. Like any disaster, preparing for the winter involves understanding the potential hazards, carefully planning ahead, building an emergency kit, and staying informed of the forecasted weather conditions, especially if traveling.

We encourage all of our residents to take extra precautions when planning for the holiday and winter season as we are still facing challenges with COVID-19. Get vaccinated for both COVID-19 and the flu to help prevent the spread of germs when celebrating this year. If you are eligible, get a "booster" vaccine to continue protecting yourself and those around you. Wear a mask and avoid gatherings if you are experiencing symptoms to avoid getting anyone else sick during the holidays.

Stay safe and have a happy holiday season!

WINTER WEATHER SAFETY TIPS

Winter Weather can be dangerous especially when driving. Slow down, and use extra caution when turning and merging on wet or icy roads. Make sure you understand the different winter weather hazards so you can prepare for them! Here are some other tips to help you prepare for winter weather:

1. **Make a Plan:** Talk to your family about what you would do if there is a winter storm. Don't forget to plan for winter driving too.
2. **Build a Kit:** Assemble an emergency go kit and add extra clothes and blankets in case you lose power.
3. **Stay Informed:** Sign up for our County's emergency alerts to receive notifications when there are watches, warnings, or other emergency alerts issued for your area.
4. **Get Involved:** If you have elderly neighbors, check in on them before and after winter storms to make sure they're prepared too. Check out this video for emergency preparedness tips for older adults.

PEPPER THE PREPAREDNESS PUP

Pepper joined our team in September to help us encourage children and young adults to always be prepared for disasters. Since then, she has attended preparedness events, launched a series of animated videos, and shared preparedness tips for the whole family on our social media platforms. New videos about holiday safety and winter safety are coming soon!

To learn more about Pepper and her adventures as our mascot, follow us on [social media](#), and check out Pepper's new [TikTok](#)!



COMMUNITY RECOVERY RESOURCES

TROPICAL DEPRESSION IDA

On September 1, 2021, the remnants of Tropical Depression Ida produced a tornado that touched down in Edgewater and traveled through Annapolis causing severe damage to residential and retail properties. A Local State of Emergency was declared, a damage assessment portal was opened, and we worked with the Civil Air Patrol to conduct an aerial survey of the affected area.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) issued a disaster declaration for the County to provide residents and businesses with low-interest disaster loans. The SBA is still accepting applications for physical damage until December 17, 2021, and economic injury applications until July 18, 2022. For more information, visit the [SBA website](#).

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development has also made several programs available to assist residents and businesses that were impacted. For more information, visit the [Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development website](#).

COASTAL FLOODING EVENT

From October 29 through October 31, 2021, many of the County's coastal communities and those in low-lying areas experienced coastal flooding which caused damage to residential and retail properties. Governor Hogan declared a State of Emergency for Anne Arundel County and other affected jurisdictions to help provide recovery resources.

The VOLT Disaster Recovery Program is available which provides grants of up to \$50,000 to help businesses recover from the damage and pause in operations sustained as a result of the coastal flooding. For more information, visit the [Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation's website](#).

Anne Arundel County also provides permit assistance for damaged piers and shoreline structures through the [County's Department of Inspections and Permits on their website](#).

OUTREACH INITIATIVES



We strive to better prepare the whole community for disasters. We can provide preparedness tips and tailored presentations to those of all ages, races, and ethnicities. Here is a snapshot of what we did this quarter!

- **Senior Centers:** We gave presentations and hosted preparedness bingo.
- **Schools:** We gave presentations, participated in career days, and gave tours of our emergency operations center to public school and homeschool students.
- **Community Events:** We attended a number of community events including community picnics, and farmers market events.
- **Bilingual Presentations:** Our Outreach Specialist is a native Spanish speaker who has conducted several bilingual presentations at community events and schools.
- **Inclusive Planning Efforts:** We met with Annapolis Pride to improve outreach to members of the LGBTQIA+ community and make our emergency plans more inclusive.

To request a preparedness presentation visit our [website](https://aacounty.org/covidvax/third-dose/index.html) or email oemoutreach@aacounty.org.

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

In Anne Arundel County, booster shots of the Covid-19 vaccines are available for those who want it. Visit <https://aacounty.org/covidvax/third-dose/index.html> to sign up or call 410-222-7256 for assistance.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: KATIE WEBER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST



Katie Weber joined our office as our Emergency Management (EM) Specialist in September 2021, after serving as the COVID-19 Testing Program Manager for the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services. As our EM Specialist Katie is responsible for maintaining the technology and equipment for the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), utilizing the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System, and organizing/maintaining the County Mass Care Shelter supplies. Katie also assists with planning and training & exercise efforts to support whole community preparedness efforts for the County.

TRAINING AND EXERCISE



We hosted two Emergency Support Function (ESF) Workshops with our partners involved in Transportation and Logistics operations. These workshops help us collaborate with partners and update the ESF in our County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).

**IMPORTANT NUMBERS
ALL EMERGENCIES: CALL 9-1-1**

**COVID-19 HEALTH LINE
410-222-7256**

**POLICE (NON-EMERGENCY)
410-222-8050**

**FIRE (NON-EMERGENCY)
410-222-8300**

**BGE POWER OUTAGES
877-778-2222**

**AGING & DISABILITIES
410-222-4257**

**ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL
410-222-8900**

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
& CONSTITUENT SERVICES
410-222-1785**

**CRISIS WARM LINE
410-768-5522**

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT
410-222-7095**

**HEALTH/FOOD WARM LINE
410-222-FOOD (3663)**

**INSPECTIONS & PERMITS
410-222-7790**

**OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION
410-222-0022**

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS
410-222-5000**

**PUBLIC WORKS (UTILITIES)
410-222-8400**

**PUBLIC WORKS (ROADS)
410-222-6120**

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE
410-222-1571**

**SOCIAL SERVICES
410-269-8400**



**Anne Arundel County
Office of Emergency
Management**

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VISIT THE [OEM WEBSITE](https://alertannearundel.civicready.com/)**

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Facebook: [Anne Arundel County
Office of Emergency Management](https://www.facebook.com/AnneArundelCountyOfficeofEmergencyManagement)



Twitter: [aaco_oem](https://twitter.com/aaco_oem)



Instagram: [annearundel_oem](https://www.instagram.com/annearundel_oem)



Nextdoor: [Anne Arundel County
Office of Emergency Management](https://www.nextdoor.com/AnneArundelCountyOfficeofEmergencyManagement)



YouTube: [Anne Arundel County
Office of Emergency Management](https://www.youtube.com/AnneArundelCountyOfficeofEmergencyManagement)



TikTok: [PepperThePreparednessPup](https://www.tiktok.com/PepperThePreparednessPup)