



# THE DISASTER DISPATCH

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM  
THE ANNE ARUNDEL OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Preeti Emrick, JD, CHEC



Recently, our team conducted a full-scale emergency exercise to test and refine our response capabilities. This exercise brought together first responders, government agencies, and community partners, working collaboratively to ensure we're ready to handle complex situations that may arise. But emergency preparedness isn't just for professionals—it starts at home. Having a practiced plan can make all the difference. Whether it's a severe winter storm, a prolonged power outage, or another unexpected event, being ready means knowing how to stay safe, where to go, and how to communicate with loved ones. Even small steps—like assembling an emergency kit or registering for emergency alerts—can have a big impact during a crisis. We're proud of the partnerships that strengthen our community and of the progress we've made through exercises like this one. Together, we can continue to build a culture of preparedness.

## WARMING RELIEF

Anne Arundel County has made several facilities available for warming relief this winter. If you need temporary relief from the cold weather, stop in and use the designated facilities during their normal business hours. Anyone who needs sheltering should contact the Crisis Warmline at 410-768-5522. Visit [aacounty.org/warm](https://aacounty.org/warm) for more info.

When temperatures drop we encourage residents and visitors to do the following:

- Dress in layers to stay warmer for longer. This also gives you more flexibility to remove layers while still staying warm.
- Prepare for the unexpected. Most hypothermia cases occur due to an unexpected change in the weather or temperature, so keep extra gloves, hats, and a coat in your car.
- Wear a warm hat when going outside.
- Avoid getting wet when the temperatures drop.
- Wear waterproof boots or shoes to keep your feet dry.
- Drink plenty of water and avoid nicotine, caffeine, and alcohol, which can cause dehydration.

# NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH RECAP



We celebrated National Preparedness Month by hosting free CPR, Stop the Bleed, and Civilian Response to Active shooter Events (CRASE) training. Additionally, we held three Extreme Event games for the public, volunteers, and partners to encourage people to think about community resilience and resource management. We also raffled off pre-stocked emergency kits to new Alert Anne Arundel subscribers, which encouraged 175 Anne Arundel County residents to sign up for emergency alerts. If you missed these event and activities in September, don't worry. Simply follow us on [social media](#) so you don't miss out on future opportunities to get involved.

## SENSORY KITS



Our staff assembled sensory kits that were added to all 35 county ambulances, our shelter supplies, and Family Information Center supplies! These grant-funded kits include sunglasses, headphones, fidget toys, a small stuffed animal, and other items designed to stimulate and engage the senses. The items help reduce stress, improve processing skills, and provide alternative forms of communication.

## GIVING BACK



Our staff had the pleasure of volunteering at the [Anne Arundel County Food Bank](#). The Food Bank has been an awesome partner to work with before, during, and after disasters, so this was a great chance to pitch in and help on the sorting line. If you or your group would like to volunteer, sign up now at [aafoodbank.org/volunteer](http://aafoodbank.org/volunteer)

## HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE 2025

The County's Hazard Mitigation Plan is currently being updated for approval in 2025. We encourage residents to get involved by attending virtual public meetings and in-person outreach events, participating in our survey ([English](#) / [Spanish](#)), and [signing up for email updates](#) about upcoming events. For any other questions or concerns, email [hazardmitigationupdate2025@aacounty.org](mailto:hazardmitigationupdate2025@aacounty.org).

## LENDING A HELPING HAND



Our Public Information Officer, Kasey Thomas, deployed to North Carolina's State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) to assist with Hurricane Helene recovery. She worked to help combat misinformation and inform impacted residents of available recovery resources.

## OUTREACH INITIATIVES



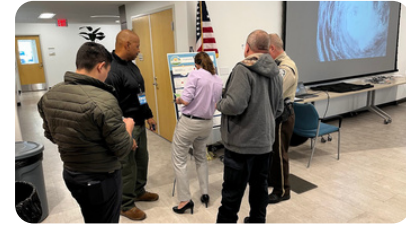
Fall is one of the busiest outreach seasons with tons of different community events. Our staff supported Trunk-or-Treat events, the Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival, Hispanic Health Festival, Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Festival, and so much more. We also provided preparedness presentations, First Aid, CPR/AED, Stop the Bleed, and Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) training in both English and Spanish to Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs, Scout Troops, senior communities, schools, and faith-based organizations. To request a presentation, training, or a booth at your event, visit our [website](#).

## TRAINING AND EXERCISE



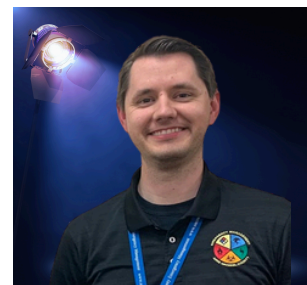
In November, we conducted a full-scale exercise for county agencies and partners. The exercise included an active shooter scenario where first responders had to transport patients, set up a Family Information Center, conduct reunification and death notification operations, and communicate public safety information and updates. Opportunities like this help better prepare our County for disasters and point out areas of improvement.

## LEPC WINTER MEETING



We hosted our quarterly County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting in person to play Extreme Event with participating members. Extreme Event is a community resilience game where small groups must collaborate to save their imaginary city from a specific hazard. The LEPC meetings allow us to network, provide updates, and discuss different emergency operations efforts. If you are interested in joining the committee as an organization or as a member of the public, you can access the details for upcoming virtual meetings on [our website](#).

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT: JOE SEBOROWSKI



Joe Seborowski joined our office in 2019 as a recovery planner. He is now the Senior Emergency Management Planner and oversees the Operations and Planning Unit to ensure plans, policies, and procedures reflect the County's capabilities. Joe is also responsible for managing the Emergency Operation Plan, Damage Assessment Plan, Nuisance Flooding Plan, and coordinating with public safety agencies to plan for upcoming special events.

# Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management



Sign up for emergency notifications at:  
<https://alertannearundel.civicready.com/>

A graphic for CivicReady sign-up. On the left, it says "Receive notifications by" followed by a bulleted list: "Call", "Email", "Text", and "And more". Below this is a "SIGN UP NOW" button. On the right, a smartphone displays "CIVICREADY" on its screen. Below the phone, it says "For one-step notifications SIGN UP TODAY. Get local news and alerts instantly." and the "CIVICREADY" logo.

Receive notifications by

- Call
- Email
- Text
- And more

**SIGN UP NOW**

For one-step notifications  
**SIGN UP TODAY.**  
Get local news and alerts instantly.

**CIVICREADY**

## Social Media Handles



**Facebook:** Anne Arundel County  
Office of Emergency Management



**X:** aaco\_oem



**Instagram:** annearundel\_oem



**Nextdoor:** Anne Arundel  
County Office of Emergency  
Management



**YouTube:** Anne Arundel  
County Office of Emergency  
Management

Visit [aacounty.org/oem](https://aacounty.org/oem) for more info