

Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management



Winter Weather Preparedness



Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management (OEM)



Mission: Assure that County Government and the general public are prepared for emergencies
Manage the County's response to major emergencies
Coordinate with County, State, and Federal entities and maintain partnerships with other jurisdictions

OEM Units:

- Planning and Operations
- Training, Exercise, and Evaluation
- Communications and Outreach
- Special Projects

We work with the whole community:

- Business and Industry
- Community and Civic Associations
- Faith Based Organizations
- Nonprofit Organizations
- Schools
- Volunteer Organizations



Preeti Emrick
Director





Be Informed



Make a Plan



Build a Kit



Get Involved

Four Steps to Being Prepared for Any Emergency



Be Informed: Know the Hazards



POTENTIAL HAZARDS TO YOUR COMMUNITY

Fire	Severe Weather	Medical Incidents	Epidemic	Accidents	Criminal Activity	Active Assailant	Cyber Attack	Utility Failure	Hazardous Materials
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“ALL-HAZARDS PREPAREDNESS”

If you prepare well for a likely worst case ...like a major hurricane... you are prepared for almost any emergency

POTENTIAL HAZARDS TO OUR COUNTY

NATURAL HAZARDS	MAN-MADE HAZARDS	
	INTENTIONAL	TECHNOLOGICAL
Earthquake Epidemic/Pandemic Flood Hurricane/Tropical Storm Severe Thunderstorm Severe Winter Storm Tornado/Wind Storm Wildfires	Active Assailant/Terrorist Biological or Chemical Attack Civil Unrest Cyberattack Explosion, Bombing Infrastructure Sabotage Nuclear Explosion Radiological Attack	Hazardous Materials Infrastructure Failure Major Structural Fire Nuclear Facilities Accident Transportation Hazards Utility Disruption





Be Informed: Severe Winter Weather Hazards

- Nor' Easterns
- Extreme Cold
- Snow Storms
- Blizzards
- Ice Storms



More info [here](#)

WMAR TV2





Be Informed: **Alert Anne Arundel**

Sign up to receive alerts from the County about emergency situations such as:

- Hazardous weather
- Security alerts
- Hazardous chemical spill or release
- Missing persons
- Evacuations
- Shelter-In-Place instructions
- Water system issues

Receive alerts to landline phones, cellphones (voice and text), and/or email in English, Spanish, or other languages.

Visit alertannearundel.civicready.com

call 410-222-0600

or scan the QR code below!





Be Informed: OEM Social Media



“Pepper the Preparedness Pup”
Children’s Emergency Preparedness





Make a Plan: Avoid Winter Health Hazards

- ❑ Limit exposure to extreme cold/wind – avoid hypothermia
- ❑ Avoid getting wet when the temperatures drop, especially if windy
- ❑ Dress in layers. Wear a warm hat and gloves.
- ❑ Wear waterproof boots or shoes
- ❑ Drink plenty of water. Avoid alcohol, nicotine, caffeine
- ❑ Avoid icy steps and sidewalks
- ❑ Be especially careful exiting vehicles
- ❑ Practice fire safety at home
- ❑ Get a flu shot and Covid booster



Learn more [here](#)





Make a Family Plan

- ❑ Plan together as a family or neighborhood
- ❑ Understand your family, work, school emergency plans
- ❑ Identify special considerations for your family:
 - Infants, older adults, access & functional needs, chronic illness
 - Prescription medications and special medical equipment
 - Home healthcare services may be interrupted
 - Supplemental oxygen
 - Urgent medical appointments
 - Transportation
- ❑ Talk about what you would do if directed to SHELTER-IN-PLACE or EVACUATE
- ❑ Share and practice your emergency plan with your family and update it as needed

<https://www.ready.gov/plan>



Make a Communications Plan

Write down critical contact information

Have an extra cell charger and a power bank

Identify who you would you notify that you are safe after an emergency

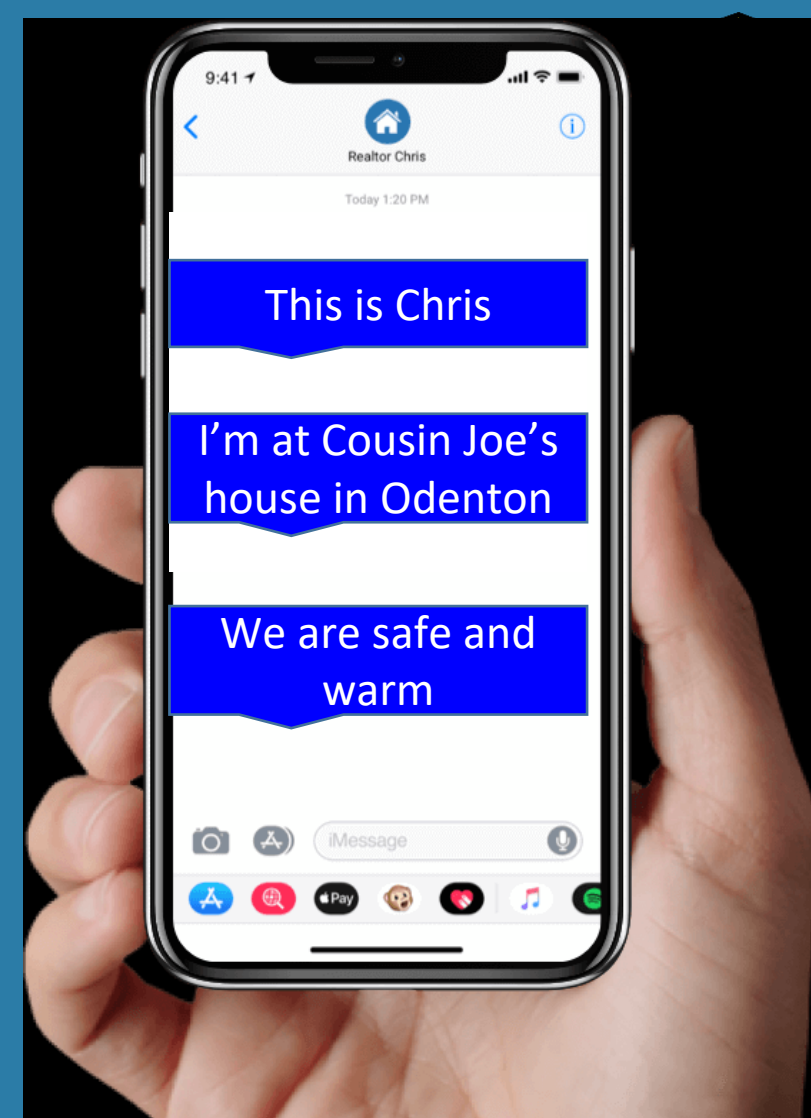
Designate an out of area “Family Switchboard Operator” that can relay information about your safety to others

Text messages (SMS) often get through when voice calls fail

Determine how you will communicate if you lose cell service or internet

Select an emergency meeting place

Learn more [here](#)





Make a Plan: Evacuation Considerations

In a winter storm warning, consider **voluntary evacuation** if you

- Live alone and have a disability or chronic illness
- Have insufficient heating
- Use electrically-powered lifesaving equipment and have no generator

<https://www.ready.gov/evacuation>

Considerations for residents with special needs:

- Specialized medications, treatments, oxygen
- Medical, mobility, or assistive devices
- Caregiver assistance
- Service animals
- Timing
- Packing
- Transportation and driver
- Destination and route
- Will pets be accepted





County Warming Centers



SENIOR
ACTIVITY CENTERS

www.aacounty.org/warm



PUBLIC LIBRARIES

**Need Shelter?
Crisis Warmline 410-768-5522**



DISTRICT
POLICE STATIONS





Build a Shelter-in-Place Kit

- ✓ Water: One gallon of water per person per day for at least three days
- ✓ Food: At least a three-day supply of non-perishable food (include pets)
- ✓ Baby formula and diapers, if applicable
- ✓ Battery-powered or hand-crank radio with extra batteries
- ✓ Cell phone with charger, power bank
- ✓ Flashlight or headlamp with extra batteries per person
- ✓ Family First Aid Kit
- ✓ Prescription Medicine and medical devices (glasses, hearing aids, etc)
- ✓ Personal hygiene items, moist towelettes, garbage bags
- ✓ Photo identification; Important family documents in waterproof bag
- ✓ Whistle to signal for help
- ✓ Manual can opener for canned food
- ✓ Extra blankets
- ✓ Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities, if required
- ✓ Cash or Travelers Checks

<https://www.ready.gov/kit>

GOAL:
BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT
FOR AT LEAST THREE DAYS



Build a little at a time
Share expenses with a friend or neighbor





Personal “Go Bag”

ISOLATED FOR 24 HOURS IN OFFICE, SCHOOL, CAR
OR EMERGENCY EVACUATION



Learn more [here](#)

- ✓ Cell Phone, charger, power bank
- ✓ Emergency Contact List
- ✓ Bottled Water
- ✓ Energy/Protein bars
- ✓ Individual First Aid Kit / RX Medications
- ✓ Exam gloves and facemask
- ✓ Reflective Foil Blanket
- ✓ Hand Warmers
- ✓ Flashlight, Headlamp or Glow Sticks
- ✓ Whistle
- ✓ Pocket knife or Multi-tool
- ✓ Poncho/Rain Jacket
- ✓ Extra Clothes (layering) in winter
- ✓ Comfortable walking shoes
- ✓ Cash
- ✓ Road Map





Vehicle Emergency Kit

- Winterize your vehicle before the first snow storm
- Keep your gas tank at least half full
- Every vehicle should have an emergency supply kit
 - Check kits every six months, replace expired items



Car Winter Survival Kit Checklist



- | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|--------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> |  | Flashlight
& Extra Batteries | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | Blankets/Sleeping Bag | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | Extra Clothing
Hats, Mittens, Parkas, Boots |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |  | First Aid Kit | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | Non-Perishable Food
Granola Bars, Dried nuts, etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | Sand/Kitty Litter
Used for Traction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |  | Snow Shovel | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | Bottled Water | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | Cell Phone
& Charger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |  | Ice Scraper
with Brush | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | Booster Cables | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | Flares/Triangles
& other Bright Objects |



Winter Driving Tips

- Check the forecast before traveling. In a winter weather warning, avoid any travel.
- Clear your vehicle windows and roof before leaving.
- Stay alert. Keep a close eye on road conditions, which can change rapidly.
- Drive slower than normal and leave more room between you and surrounding vehicles.
- Do not use cruise control, brake quickly, or make sharp turns.
- Don't crowd the plow. The road behind an active plow is safer to drive on.
- Always wear your seatbelt and ensure everyone in your vehicle does the same. Make sure young children are in car seats.
- Winter driving is already dangerous. Don't text or make phone calls, speed, or drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- In an accident, pull your vehicle off the road and use hazard flashers, flares, or reflectors to warn other drivers. Dial 911, and wait for the police to arrive.

Learn more [here](#)





Winter Pet Preparedness



- Bring your pets inside in winter storms or temps below 32F
- Per County Code, during Severe Weather Emergencies and Alerts, the County will issue a Severe Weather Animal Alert when temperatures reach 32 degrees. Any dog left unattended outside must have:
 - A dog house, with no interior metal surfaces, that protects the animal against wind, snow, and cold that is raised at least 2 inches off the ground;
 - Dry bedding or resting board inside the dog house; and
 - Fresh, clean, and drinkable non-frozen water at all times in a non-tip bowl
- Salt and chemicals used to melt ice/snow can irritate a pet's paws and mouth
- Antifreeze is a deadly poison

Learn more [here](#)





DPW Winter Storm Information

- **EMERGENCIES: 9-1-1**
- **Department of Public Works Highways Bureau**
 - Snow Information: <https://www.aacounty.org/public-works/highways/snow-removal>
 - Snow Plow Tracker: <https://citizeninsights.geotab.com/#/aacosnowremovalstatus>
- **Snowfall up to 4" or general road issues**
 - Northern District Roads: 410-222-6120
 - Central District Roads: 410-222-7940
 - Southern District Roads: 410-222-1933
- **Snowfall over 4" or major ice storms**
 - County Emergency Operations Center: 410-222-0600
(shelter, transportation, non-emergency assistance)
 - DPW Storm Center: 410-222-4040
- **Maryland Highway Administration** (Numbered Highways/Interstates): 410-841-1002 / 410-582-5650





When the Power Goes Out

Notify BGE of neighborhood outages: 877-888-2222

www.bge.com/OUTAGE

Use flashlights (or battery powered lanterns) with extra batteries

Charge cell phones and a radio with rechargeable batteries

Refrigerators/freezers at maximum cold; keep doors closed

Plan ahead for electrically-powered medical equipment

Never burn charcoal, use gasoline machinery, or propane-powered stoves your home

Home Generator: properly installed, fueled, located in an area safe to operate



[BGE](#)
[Power Outages](#)





After the Storm

- ❄️ Confirm that you and family members are safe
- ❄️ Don't travel unless absolutely necessary
- ❄️ Use extreme caution on icy sidewalks/driveways
- ❄️ Check on neighbors, especially older adults
- ❄️ Check for downed trees, treat downed power lines as energized
- ❄️ Assess property damage. Take photos for insurance claim
- ❄️ If you suspect structural damage, find shelter elsewhere
- ❄️ If power has been down, check refrigerated food for spoilage – if in doubt, throw it out!
- ❄️ Do not shovel snow if you have a chronic illness. Take frequent breaks.
- ❄️ Know how to safely use chain saws for downed trees
- ❄️ Park in your driveway, keep the curb clear for snow plows
- ❄️ Expect to be self-sufficient for up to 3 days



Learn more [here](#)





Get Involved

Here are some ways to get involved in community preparedness:

- Participate in community meetings
- Include family, friends, or neighbors in your emergency plans and practice together
- Check on vulnerable neighbors
- Take a First Aid, CPR/AED, or Stop the Bleed Class
- Request a Community (or House of Worship) Emergency Planning discussion from OEM
- Train with the Anne Arundel County & Annapolis Community Emergency Response Team ([AAA CERT](#))
- Volunteer
- Stay situationally aware. If you SEE SOMETHING...SAY SOMETHING! Call 9-1-1
- Get a Covid Booster and a Flu Shot
- Set the example!





Create Your Own Family Emergency Plan

- English
- Spanish
- Korean

"In Case of Emergency" My Guide to Emergency Preparedness



Create a personalized emergency preparedness plan for you and your family based on your specific needs.

Courtesy of the Anne Arundel County
Office of Emergency Management

Click [here](#)





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QUESTIONS?

Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management

www.aacounty.org/OEM

oemoutreach@aacounty.org 410-222-0600

