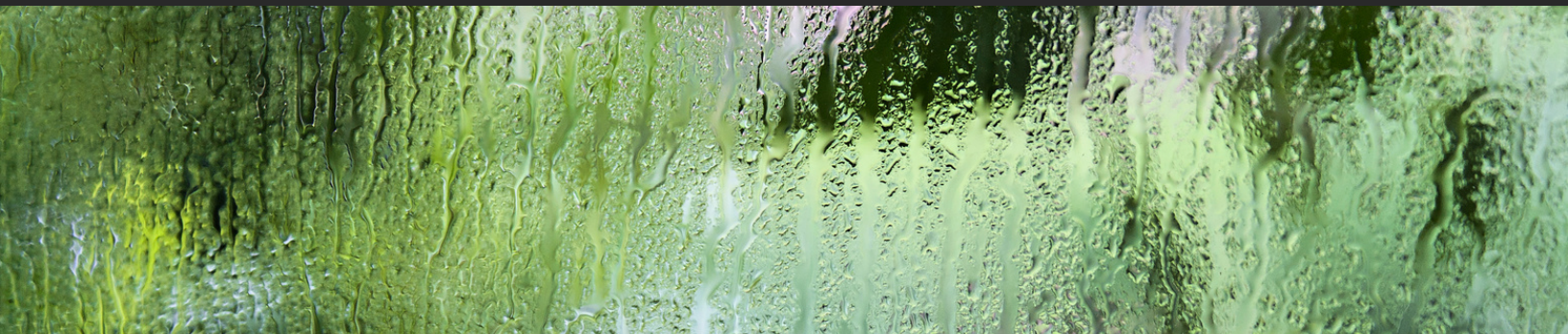




THE DISASTER DISPATCH

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM
THE ANNE ARUNDEL OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Preeti Emrick, JD, CHEC



In today's digital world, the security and resilience of infrastructure are critical. Hardening infrastructure means adding strong security measures and practices to protect against cyber attacks, data breaches, malware, unauthorized access, and natural disasters. By hardening infrastructure, businesses can enhance their security, avoid expensive breaches, and keep critical operations running smoothly. It may require some money upfront, but hardening your infrastructure can save money in the long run by reducing the likelihood of security breaches and the associated costs, such as remediation, legal fees, and reputation damage. It's a proactive approach to cybersecurity that helps organizations mitigate risks, protect assets, and ensure business continuity. For more [cybersecurity tips](#) or [business preparedness tips](#), visit our website at www.aacounty.org/oem.

FLOOD PREPAREDNESS

Flooding can be common during the Spring. Here are some tips to help you stay prepared throughout the season:

- **Be Informed:** Sign up for [Alert Anne Arundel](#) to receive notifications when there are watches, warnings, or other emergency alerts issued for your area.
- **Make a Plan:** Talk to your family about what you would do if there is a flood; consider specific needs for older adults, children, or pets; and identify a family member or friend that you can stay with in case you have to evacuate.
- **Build a Kit:** Assemble an [emergency go kit](#) and add flashlights and extra batteries in case you lose power. Don't forget to pack a kit for your vehicle in case poor weather or traffic prevent you from getting home.
- **Get Involved:** If you live in a flood-prone area, encourage your neighbors to be prepared. After flooding occurs and you are safe, check on your neighbors to make sure they are okay.
- **Turn Around, Don't Drown!** If you come across a flooded road, just remember this saying. Water can be deeper and faster than it appears.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM

In response to the growing need for crisis services, Anne Arundel County has developed a nationally recognized Crisis Response System (CRS). A vital component of the CRS has been the partnership with the County Police to implement Crisis Intervention Teams (CITs). CITs consist of personnel trained in at least 40 hours of mental health and de-escalation training paired with a licensed mental health clinician. The teams ensure responses to individuals with mental illness or mental health crisis calls for service are made appropriately. For more information about the CRS and resources, visit aamentalhealth.org/. For emergencies, call 9-1-1. If you need mental or substance abuse assistance, call the Crisis Warmline at 410-768-5522.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FELLOWSHIP



This semester, we're thrilled to welcome Matthew O'Rourke to our team as an Emergency Management Fellow! Matthew will be assisting us with communications, planning, and legislative projects. This hands-on experience will give him a broad understanding of the field and help him develop valuable skills. Our goal is to inspire more young adults like Matthew to explore careers in emergency management. Join us in welcoming Matthew and wishing him success in his fellowship!

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)

Join us quarterly for our virtual Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Meeting. It is open to the public and provides an opportunity for you to learn more about County emergency operations, programs, and services. For a list of dates, times, and zoom information, visit our [County website](#) to join.

SEE SOMETHING SAY SOMETHING

With warmer weather headed our way, there will be more community events and public gatherings. We all play a role in keeping our communities safe, so stay cautious this Spring. It's easy to be distracted during concerts and other events, but if you see something that doesn't seem quite right, say something. If you have information about any criminal activity or threat to public safety, please call the Anne Arundel County Police TipLine at 410-222-4700. If it is a time-sensitive issue, call 410-222-8610. You can report other suspicious activity on the [Police Department Website](#).

STORM READY

Anne Arundel is proud to be recertified as a [StormReady](#) community. StormReady is a nationwide program that helps jurisdictions better protect their residents during severe weather by improving communications and preparedness. The program encourages a proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations by using public alert systems, ensuring continuous monitoring through 911 dispatch and the Emergency Operations Center, and providing education through training on public readiness.

OUTREACH INITIATIVES



This winter, we had fun playing Preparedness Bingo with our seniors and we supported Resource Fairs at several Senior Activity Centers. We were thrilled to give Winter Weather Preparedness presentations to many different organizations such as the Severn Center/Kingdom Kare Inc, Glen Burnie Rotary Club, and Northrop Grumman Oceanic Systems. We also offered caregiver emergency preparedness training for the Department of Aging and Disabilities and the National Security Agency. Additionally, our outreach team hosted a multiagency webinar offering guidance on applying for the 2024 FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant Program. To learn more or to request a presentation, training, or a booth at your event, visit our [website](#).

PROTECTING HOUSES OF WORSHIP SEMINAR SERIES

We are hosting the 2024 Protecting Our Houses of Worship Seminar series. The four-month series began on February 22nd and will continue monthly through May. Open to all faiths, the free seminar provides practical information on emergency preparedness and security best practices for faith-based organizations. Experts from our office, County Police, US Department of Homeland Security, US Department of Justice, FBI Baltimore, and the Faith-Based Information Sharing and Analysis Organization will offer their expertise in making your congregation safer in these troubled times. For more information on all seminar sessions and preregistration, please email oemoutreach@aacounty.org.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: JAMES KREMPEL



James (Jim) Krempel started with our office in 2017 as the Outreach Coordinator and over the last 8 years, he has helped significantly expand our outreach efforts. Jim works to connect new community groups, schools, and businesses to our resources through presentations, community events, and other special programs. Jim coordinates the Annual Protecting Houses of Worship Seminar Series to help better prepare our religious institutions and uses his connection to the Boy Scouts of America to give tours of our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to troops across the county.

TRAINING AND EXERCISE

This quarter, we helped increase the number of fully trained Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Representatives by providing more training opportunities. We now have 62% of our EOC Reps fully trained, and more are close to completion. We also began updating our Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP), a three-year strategic plan that tests and validates our plans through a series of exercises. The 2024-2026 schedule will focus on core capabilities supporting specific hazards identified by stakeholders. After each plan completes the exercise cycle, it undergoes a review based on after-action reports and improvement plans to determine necessary changes. This iterative process ensures that the county's plans remain relevant and applicable to the changing needs of the community.

**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**



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

A graphic for CivicReady notifications. It features a smartphone displaying "CIVICREADY" on a wooden surface. Text on the left says "Receive notifications by" followed by a list: "Call", "Email", "Text", and "And more". A "SIGN UP NOW" button is at the bottom left. On the right, it says "For one-step notifications SIGN UP TODAY. Get local news and alerts instantly." and the "CIVICREADY" logo.



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](#)