



Anne Arundel County's Official Guide to Emergency Preparedness

SURVIVING THE STORM

Your Roadmap to Personal Preparedness

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A Message from County Executive Steven Schuh



Dear Neighbors,

Thank you for taking the time to read this guide. Learning what to do before and after an emergency can save your life and property. This guide offers a wide variety of information and resources to help you successfully plan for most emergencies and keep you as safe as possible.

The experiences of Hurricane Sandy and the recent "derecho" show that emergencies can occur when least expected and can be more devastating than predicted. Being prepared for emergencies is the responsibility of everyone in the community. This includes government, businesses, neighborhoods and individuals. When everyone takes preparedness seriously, the entire community is stronger and better able to respond and recover from a disaster more quickly.

After you have read this guide, please take action and make an emergency plan. Encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same—don't assume that they have a plan or know how to get started. You can help us let people know how important emergency preparedness is. Don't wait until it is too late. Plan now!

Important Phone Numbers

For emergency situations 911
(Fire, Police, Emergency Medical Services)

AACO Police Department (non-emergency)
410-222-8050
www.aacounty.org/Police

AACO Fire Department (non-emergency)
410-222-8200
www.aacounty.org/Fire

AACO Office of Emergency Management
410-222-0600
www.aacounty.org/OEM

City of Annapolis Emergency Management
410-216-9167
www.ci.annapolis.md.us

AACO Animal Control 410-222-8900
www.aacounty.org/AnimalControl

AACO Public Works 410-222-4040
Emergency Dispatch 410-222-8400
www.aacounty.org/DPW

AACO Inspections & Permits 410-222-7790
www.aacounty.org/IP

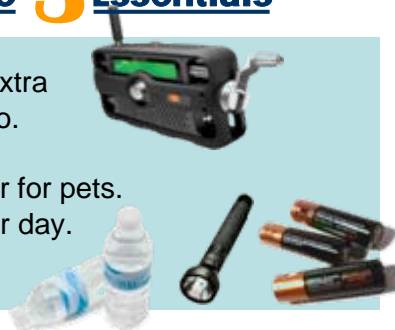
AACO Department of Aging 410-222-4464
TTY 410-222-4355
www.aacounty.org/Aging

Department of Health
Information Line 410-222-7095
Communicable Disease 410-222-7256
Emergency Preparedness 410-222-4115
Environmental Health 410-222-7180
www.ahealth.org

Department of Social Services 410-269-4500
AACO Public Schools 410-222-5000
American Red Cross 410-764-7000
Verizon 410-954-6260
Poison Center 1-800-222-1222
AACO Crisis Warm Line 410-768-5522

Emergency Preparedness Kit: The 3 Essentials

- Battery-powered or hand-cranked radio, extra batteries and a NOAA Weather Alert Radio.
- Flashlights with extra batteries.
- Water to last at least three days plus water for pets. Plan for one gallon of water per person per day.



*See page 2 for more ideas for your kit.

POWER OUTAGES:

1-877-778-2222

Power out or downed wires?
Don't assume BGE knows. Call to report it.
Go to www.BGE.com to learn more.

Information is Critical to Good Planning

Are you Ready?

It is important to know how to prepare and it is critically important to know what actions to take in an emergency. During an emergency or disaster, it can be difficult to get information and to know what to do. Planning ahead can be the difference between keeping your family safe and struggling to survive.

Emergency Preparedness Kit

- Water, flashlight, radio and batteries.
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food. Examples include ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables; canned or boxed juices and soup; peanut butter, crackers, granola bars and trail mix. Include baby foods and pet foods if needed.
- First aid kit. Items should include sterile adhesive bandages, gauze pads, scissors, tweezers, needle, moistened towelettes, antiseptic, thermometer, petroleum jelly, safety pins, soap, surgical gloves and sunscreen. Include aspirin and non-aspirin pain medications, cough syrup, anti-diarrhea medication and laxatives.
- Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place.
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation.
- Hand held can opener for food (if kit contains canned food).
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities.
- Whistle to signal for help.
- Local maps.



Weather Alert Radios Save Lives

Severe weather can often strike quickly, especially during the very early morning hours. An alarm from a weather alert radio can mean the difference between life and death because every minute counts in an emergency.

The Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management strongly urges residents to buy a weather alert radio. Just like a smoke alarm, this radio can save your life. Weather alert radios can be found at many retailers, in catalogs and online.

Go to: <http://www.weather.gov/nwr/> to learn more.

Hazards that May Affect Anne Arundel County

Natural Hazards

- Severe winter storms
- Hurricanes and tropical storms
- Severe thunderstorms and lightning
- Heavy rains
- Flashfloods and flooding
- High heat emergencies and drought
- Tornadoes
- Brush fires
- Pandemic

Man-made Hazards

- Transportation accidents (plane, train, highway, marine)
- Hazardous materials spills or releases
- Failure of utility systems (electric, natural gas, water, sewer, telephone)
- Interruptions in service or shortages in gasoline, heating oil, natural gas supplies
- Terrorist attacks (conventional weapons, nuclear, chemical or biological)



Your Plans Should Include:

Remember your family may not be together when an emergency happens, so it is important to plan in advance how you will contact one another and how you will get back together.

Family Communications Plan:

How will you get in touch with loved ones? Complete a family communications plan that includes contact numbers for every member of your family. Pick family or friends outside of the area you can contact if local communications are down.

Meeting Place:

Where will you meet? Identify one meeting place close to home and one outside of the neighborhood. Be sure everyone in the family knows the plan.

Important Personal Information:

Include phone numbers for doctors, veterinarian and insurance, as well as social security numbers and important medical information.

Find more information about creating a plan and a supply kit at www.ready.gov

Preparing for an Evacuation

Will you Need to Evacuate?

Evacuation of a neighborhood or area of the county may be recommended when there is advance warning of a hazard, the possibility of explosion, or the danger of long-term exposure. Residents who reside in low-lying areas of the county, manufactured homes or on boats should be prepared to evacuate for hurricane or tropical storm conditions. Additionally, there may be circumstances under which you and your family feel threatened or endangered and you need to leave your home, school, or workplace to avoid these situations.



Where will you get Information on an Evacuation?

When evacuation is recommended or ordered, local officials provide information to the public through the media, loudspeakers, door to door warnings and/or telephone calls through the county's automated reverse 9-1-1 system.

Activation of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and NOAA All Hazard Alert Radio alerts will also be used to notify citizens. This information will include areas to be evacuated, the location of shelters and the best routes to reach shelter locations.

For a closer look at the map below, visit:
<http://www.aacounty.org/OEM>

Evacuation Guidelines

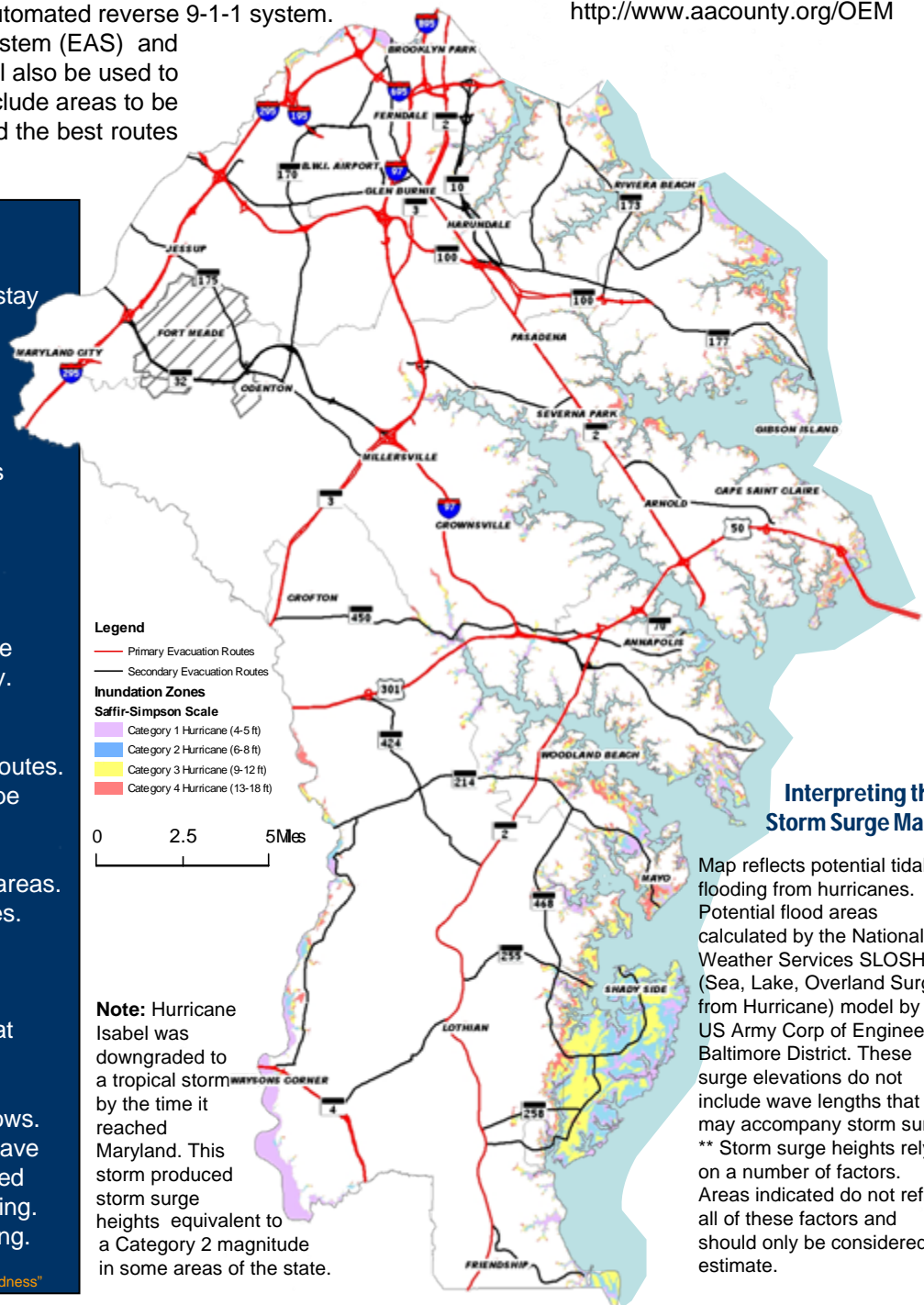
Always:

- Plan ahead. Know where you can stay if you must leave your home.
- Keep a full tank of gas in your car if an evacuation seems likely. Gas stations may be closed during emergencies.
- Make transportation arrangements with family or friends if you do not own a car.
- Listen to a battery-powered radio and follow local evacuation instructions.
- Gather your family and go if you are instructed to evacuate immediately.
- Leave early enough to avoid being trapped by severe weather.
- Follow recommended evacuation routes. Do not take short cuts; they may be blocked.
- Be alert for washed-out roads and bridges. Do not drive into flooded areas.
- Stay away from downed power lines.

If time permits:

- Gather your disaster supplies kit.
- Wear sturdy shoes and clothing that provides some protection.
- Secure your home:
 - Close and lock doors and windows.
 - Unplug electrical equipment. Leave freezers and refrigerators plugged in unless there is a risk of flooding.
- Let others know where you are going.

Adapted from "Are You Ready? A Guide to Citizen Preparedness"



Interpreting the Storm Surge Map:

Map reflects potential tidal flooding from hurricanes. Potential flood areas calculated by the National Weather Services SLOSH (Sea, Lake, Overland Surge from Hurricane) model by the US Army Corp of Engineers, Baltimore District. These surge elevations do not include wave lengths that may accompany storm surge. ** Storm surge heights rely on a number of factors. Areas indicated do not reflect all of these factors and should only be considered an estimate.

Public Emergency Shelters

When are Shelters Open?

When conditions warrant, the Anne Arundel County Emergency Management Director or other authorities may establish a public shelter for local residents. Emergency shelters are considered to be a refuge of last resort and are designed for safety and not necessarily comfort. All county residents are encouraged to plan ahead and identify one or more locations where you can stay if you must leave their home in an emergency. Your best options may be to stay with family, friends, or even a hotel.

Where are our Shelters?

Normally public shelters are located in county high schools. The County has identified four high schools, regionally located that serve as primary emergency shelters. Temporary shelters may also be set up in community centers, church halls, fire stations and other locations that provide refuge for residents. Shelter locations will be announced through the media and posted on the county website. Public shelters are operated by the Anne Arundel County Departments of Social Services, Health, Aging and Disabilities, and the Anne Arundel County Public Schools staff with the assistance of the Central Maryland Chapter of the American Red Cross.

What Can or Should I Bring?

Persons planning to use public shelter should bring with them a change of clothing, bathing and sanitary supplies, medicines (in child proof containers), diapers and other items for babies and young children, any special foods that are required for specialized diets and comfort items such as pillows and blankets. Service animals are always allowed in shelters. Pets will be accommodated either at the shelter or at a separate location, as conditions allow. Alcohol, illegal drugs and weapons are not permitted in public shelters.

Shelter-in-Place

Shelter-in-place will be the preferred action in most emergencies. Shelter-in-place allows you to remain in your home and take actions that will protect you and your families.

For a Chemical Emergency:

- Follow instructions from officials.
- Do not evacuate unless instructed to do so.
- Get your emergency preparedness kit.
- Make sure your radio is working.
- Take everyone, including pets, into an interior room with no or few windows and shut the door.
- If you are instructed to seal the room, use plastic and tape to seal any cracks, windows, doors and vents to reduce the airflow into the room.
- Keep home and cellular phone lines clear for emergency use.
- Close vents, windows and doors & turn off HVACs and fans.
- Call your emergency contact and keep your phone handy.
- Listen to local radio or television stations for further instructions or the issuance of an "All Clear."
- When the all clear is sounded, it is safe to open your home or building for ventilation and go outdoors.

Preparing Makes Sense for People with Disabilities and Special Needs.

People with special needs may face additional challenges in emergencies and should consider the following when developing an emergency plan:

Complete a personal assessment. Decide what you will be able to do for yourself and what assistance you may need before, during and after a disaster.

Get an emergency kit. Think first about the basics for survival (see page 2). Next, consider medications and supplies such as wheelchair batteries and oxygen. If you receive routine treatments at a clinic or hospital or from a home health care provider, talk to them about their emergency plans.

Create a personal support network. A network can help you prepare for a disaster by helping you identify and get resources you may need and to assist you after a disaster happens.

Consider your service animal or pets. Plan in advance and keep in mind that what is best for you is typically what is best for your animals. Alternate arrangements for family pets should be considered in advance.



Adapted from Ready.gov

Plan Ahead for your Pet

Emergency planning should include all members of the family, including pets. Consider the following when you develop your plan:



- Take your pet when you evacuate. Do not leave your pets at home!
- Prepare an emergency kit for your pet.
- Keep a pet carrier for each pet—one that allows your pet to stand and turn around. The carrier should be marked with your pet's identification.
- Prepare an alternate home for your pet (family, friends, or local kennel) and get your pet there in advance. Know which local hotels/motels will take pets, or which animal boarding facilities take pets during emergencies.
- Check www.aacounty.org/animalcontrol for a list of Emergency Boarding Facilities and Pet Friendly Hotels/Motels in your area and in the surrounding jurisdiction.
- Make sure all your pet's vaccinations are current and have proof available of its current county-issued rabies vaccination.
- Pets will be accommodated either at the shelter or at a separate location, as conditions allow. Pay attention to news briefs, county updates, and check the county website for up to the minute status of shelters in your area.