

# Disaster Dispatch

Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management Newsletter  
ISSUE 1: JULY 2016



# HURRICANE SEASON

## In this issue:

Hurricane Preparedness P.1

Message from Director P.2

Zika P.3

Sheltering Exercise P.4

Training/Meeting Schedule P.5

## What is a Hurricane?

Hurricanes are large, powerful, swirling storms that produce 74 mph or greater winds. They form over warm ocean waters and produce most damage when they strike land. When a Hurricane reaches land, a storm surge is created by the storm pushing a wall of ocean water ashore. Along with strong winds a hurricane brings heavy rain, causing flooding. There are five types of hurricanes that are categorized by the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale, which include;

Category 1: Winds 74 - 95 mph, can cause damage to roofs, shingles, vinyl siding, and gutters. Large tree branches will snap and lift up shallowly rooted trees. Most likely power outages due to extensive damage to power lines.

Category 2: Winds 96—110 mph, could cause major roof and siding damage. Many rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted causing road closures. Power outages are expected to last several days to weeks.

Category 3: Winds 111—129 mph may cause major damage to roof decking and gable ends. Numerous road closures from uprooted or snapped trees, and several days to weeks without electricity and water.

Category 4: Winds 130—156 mph, can cause severe damage to building structures. Most trees and power poles will be uprooted, snapped, or down. Power outages could take months, and most areas will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

**Alex  
Bonnie  
Colin  
Danielle  
Earl  
Fiona  
Gaston  
Hermine  
Ian  
Julia  
Karl  
Lisa  
Matthew  
Nicole  
Otto  
Paula  
Richard  
Shary  
Tobias  
Virginie  
Walter**

**2016 Hurricane Names**

# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



**J. Kevin Aftung**  
**Director**

## A Message from the Director

With Hurricane Season June 1 to November 30, the Office of Emergency Management urges you to prepare. Therefore, you should know the following terms to protect you and your family;

Tropical Storm Watch—Tropical Storm conditions with sustained winds from 39 to 74 mph are possible for your area within the next 36 hours.

Tropical Storm Warning—Tropical Storm conditions are expected in your area within the next 24 hours.

Hurricane Watch—Hurricane conditions with sustained winds of 74 mph or greater are possible in your area within the next 36 hours.

Hurricane Warning—Hurricane conditions are expected in your area within 24 hours.

Coastal Flood Watch—The possibility exists for the inundation of land areas along the coast within the next 12 to 36 hours.

Coastal Flood Warning—Land areas along the coast are expected to become, or have become, inundated by sea water above the typical tide action.

Take action before storms approach by building a kit, making a plan, and staying informed.

1. **Get a Kit**—Build a basic kit to include; water (one gallon per person per day, including pets), non-perishable food, flashlight (with

extra batteries), battery-powered or hand-crank radio, first aid kit, medications, multi-purpose tool, copies of vital documents (medication list, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance information, etc), cell phone with chargers, and extra cash.

2. **Make a Plan**—Discuss with your family or household on meeting places in case you can not return to home or work, choose an out-of-area emergency contact if local phone lines are overloaded, decide on a location if you need to evacuate (friends, family, hotel).
3. **Stay Informed**—Know what local sources are available to receive information during an emergency or disaster.

Sincerely,  
J. Kevin Aftung

### Local Media Sources

#### Television Stations

WBAL, WMAR, WJZ, WBFF, Anne Arundel County's Community TV station (Channel 98)

#### Radio Stations

WNAV 1430 AM, WYRE 810 AM, WYPR 88.1 FM, EI Zol 99.1 FM, WFSI 107.9 FM, WBAL 1090 AM

#### Social Media

Facebook—[Anne Arundel County OEM](#)

Twitter—[AACO OEM](#)

## Volunteer Opportunity

The Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management's (OEMs) primary function is to coordinate resources and facilitate the response and recovery efforts of local, state, federal, and private agencies during emergencies and planned events. As a result, OEM has developed a Volunteer Program to assist in fulfilling these missions.

The OEM Volunteer Program is designed to build a partnerships with individuals who strongly support the mission to enhance disaster preparedness, response, and recovery efforts lead by County Departments.

For more information on a volunteer opportunity please contact Chrissy Calp at [emcalp00@aacounty.org](mailto:emcalp00@aacounty.org) or 410-222-0605.



## Zika Virus: What You Need to Know

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the viral disease, Zika, is spread to people primarily through infected Aedes species mosquito bites. The Zika virus was first discovered in 1947 and is named after the Zika Forest in Uganda. The first human case was detected in 1952 and since then outbreaks have been reported in tropical Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Islands. In May 2015, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) issued an alert regarding the first confirmed Zika virus infection in Brazil. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared Zika virus a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), on February 1, 2016.

The most common symptoms are:

- Fever
- Rash

- Joint Pain
- Conjunctivitis (red eyes)

The illness is usually mild with symptoms lasting for several days to a week after being bitten by an infected mosquito. People usually don't get sick enough to go to the hospital, and they very rarely die of Zika. For this reason, many people might not realize they have been infected. However, Zika virus infection during pregnancy can cause a serious birth defect called microcephaly as well as other severe fetal brain defects. Once a person has been infected, they are likely to be protected from future infections. For more information visit the Anne Arundel County Department of Health's website at <http://www.aahealth.org/programs/comm-diseases/diseases/zika-virus-disease>.

## Remember the 5 "D's" for Mosquito Control

### Dusk & Dawn

Avoid outdoor activity when mosquitoes are most actively feeding

### DEET

Use personal repellents containing this effect ingredient

### Dress

Cover exposed skin and avoid dressing in dark tight clothing

### Drain

Dump standing water in the yard weekly or after a rain event

## Mosquito Control

### Community Spraying

Within its resource limits, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) provides spraying and community mosquito control services. For more information about mosquito control and newly scheduled spraying activities, visit MDA's website at [http://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/pages/mosquito\\_control.aspx](http://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/pages/mosquito_control.aspx). County residents interested in mosquito control services in their communities should call MDA at 410-841-5870.

### Reporting Standing Water in My Neighborhood

To report complaints about standing water, call the Anne Arundel County Department of Health at 410-222-7364 or <http://aahealth.org/housing-complaint-form>. Standing water complaints related to residential swimming pools and ponds are usually handled from May 1 through October 31.

# Sheltering Exercise

On June 24, 2016 Anne Arundel County conducted a full-scale exercise at the Annapolis High School to determine if the County's Mass Care Shelter Plan is effective at providing for the needs of county residents and visitors during an emergency event. Mass care shelters are intended to be a safe-haven for people during emergencies that make their homes, businesses, or neighborhoods unsafe. These events can be natural disasters, such as a hurricane or tornado, or they can be man-made, or intentional acts of terror such as a hazardous material release or a terrorist attack.

This full-scale exercise, meaning the players acted and performed their duties as if a real event occurred, tested the County's ability to perform several important tasks, such as:

- ◆ Providing a safe location for people seeking shelter

- ◆ Providing basic medical care
- ◆ Providing mass feeding
- ◆ Assisting individuals with access and functional needs
- ◆ Sheltering companion animals with their owners; separate from owners, but housed in same facility
- ◆ Communicating between the shelter, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and other critical partners.



## Primary Emergency Shelters

### **Annapolis High School**

2700 Riva Road  
Annapolis, MD 21401

### **Northeast High School**

1121 Duvall Highway  
Pasadena, MD 21122

### **Southern High School**

4400 Solomons Island Rd  
Harwood, MD 20776

### **Meade Senior High School**

1100 Clark Road,  
Ft Meade, MD 20755



## **Training/Meeting Schedule**

### **Vulnerable Populations Committee**

August 4, 2016      1:00 PM—4:00 PM

Contact Chrissy Calp at [emcalp00@aacounty.org](mailto:emcalp00@aacounty.org) or 410-222-0605 to register

### **Local Emergency Planning Committee**

September 15, 2016      9:00 AM—10:00 AM

Contact Chrissy Calp at [emcalp00@aacounty.org](mailto:emcalp00@aacounty.org) or 410-222-0605 to register

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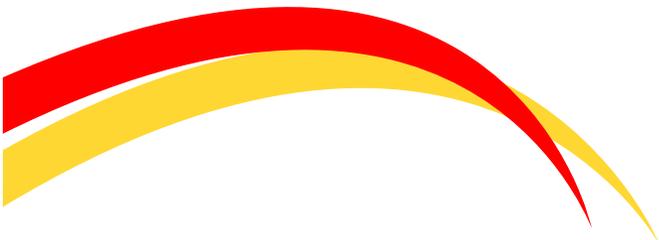
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Facebook— [Anne Arundel County OEM](https://www.facebook.com/AnneArundelCountyOEM)

Twitter— [@AACO\\_Emergency\\_Mgt. @aaco\\_OEM](https://twitter.com/AACO_Emergency_Mgt)

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