MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR
Preeti Emrick, JD, CHEC

With the start of the Atlantic Hurricane Season, I cannot stress enough the importance of staying informed. The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center is predicting a near-normal hurricane season; however, we still encourage our residents to help mitigate the impacts of hurricanes and tropical storms. Hurricanes and tropical storms can be catastrophic, causing extensive damage and disruption of lives. To help reduce the impacts, it is essential for residents to stay informed about the weather forecast and any potential watches or warnings. The Office of Emergency Management strives to ensure the safety and well-being of county residents. To help our residents stay informed, we make all of our emergency information and resources available through our website and social media accounts. We also provide updates and notifications through Alert Anne Arundel, our mass notification system. I urge residents to sign up to receive our alerts directly to their phones or email, as that is our primary method of alerting the public about potential threats and hazardous conditions. By being more informed, we can reduce the impact of disasters and form a more resilient community.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS TIPS

1. **Be Informed:** Know Your Zone before a storm strikes to help you avoid unnecessary evacuation travel, reduce traffic, and ease overcrowding at emergency shelters. Sign up to receive emergency alerts directly to your phone or email.

2. **Make a Plan:** Your plan should include any special needs your family may have, including those for young children, older adults, those with access or functional needs, and pets.

3. **Build a Kit:** Assemble an emergency go-kit with extra non-perishable food and water in case you have to evacuate or shelter in place for an extended period of time.

4. **Get Involved:** Get involved in emergency preparedness by helping your community and volunteering! Request a presentation or outreach booth for us to come speak about emergency preparedness at your next event. Check us out on social media and help us spread the word by sharing our posts! For more tips visit our website.
The Training and Exercise Unit is continuing to conduct several exercises to test the capabilities that are identified in our plans, policies, and procedures. This past spring, we hosted a Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attack Workshop, Emergency Support Function and Community Lifelines Workshop, Cyber Incident Plan Seminar, and Family Information Center Tabletop. OEM also had the opportunity to coordinate and participate in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region III’s Rising Phoenix Functional Exercise. The exercise was designed to test multi-level coordination when conducting recovery efforts, such as conducting Disaster Survivor Assistance (DSA) and operating a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC).

**Shadow Day Contest**

We hosted our Shadow Day Contest again this year where students submitted PSA videos informing people about the importance of emergency preparedness. We hosted the winners at the Emergency Operations Center, and they spent the day shadowing our Director to learn more about emergency management, touring our facility, and testing their disaster mitigation skills.

**Emergency Manager of the Year Award**

At the Annual Maryland Emergency Management Association Conference, OEM Director Preeti Emrick was awarded the Emergency Manager of the Year Award. Preeti’s efforts were acknowledged for her work on the State Disaster Relief Fund which provides immediate support to affected local jurisdictions like Anne Arundel County. She also advocated for the addition of three County-funded positions in our office to enhance our capacity to respond to emergencies. Additionally, Preeti’s efforts to secure funding for the County’s consolidated 911 Center/EOC project and advocate for legislative changes will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of emergency management.

**National Association of Counties Achievement Award**

The National Association of Counties (NACo) has recognized our office for our efforts in assisting refugees. In January 2022, the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) received notice of approximately 200 Afghan refugees in need of assistance within Anne Arundel County. OEM collaborated with various non-profits, community groups, and other government agencies to provide language support, medical care, transportation, school system enrollment, and other forms of assistance that these individuals needed to build a life in our county. This collaboration resulted in all 200 Afghan refugees being safely resettled with adequate resources.
Outreach Initiatives

Kicking off the spring, we attended festivals, community fairs, and two Earth Day events. We also attended more Hispanic and Korean community events, wellness fairs, and resource fairs. Our team has worked to reach more children by participating in career days, presenting at private and public schools, setting up a booth at Bowie Baysox Games, and working with the YMCA. OEM supports our Senior Activity Centers year-round with presentations and “Preparedness Bingo.” We partnered with medical facilities and small businesses to offer preparedness presentations and emergency planning assistance. To request a preparedness presentation, training, or booth, visit our website or email oemoutreach@aacounty.org.

Annual Emergency Preparedness Expo

Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management

2023 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXPO

SAVE THE DATE!
SEPTEMBER 16, 2023
10 AM - 2PM

Protecting our Houses Of Worship

The 2023 Protecting Our Houses of Worship Seminar Series offered presentations from county, state, and federal public safety agencies to better prepare our religious sanctuaries. The free interdenominational seminar covered emergency planning, physical security, cyber security, and other practical preparedness topics. The first session discussed response and continuity planning, forming an emergency team, facility security assessments, and the Nonprofit Security Grant Program. The second session addressed cyber threats and public health for religious facilities and introduced the nonprofit Faith Based Information Sharing and Analysis Organization (FB-ISAO). We finished the series with an Active Shooter Training and Active Attacker Tabletop Exercise to further develop emergency plans. To request a presentation for your house of worship, email oemoutreach@aacounty.org.

COVID-19 Update

The COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Ended

What does that mean?

→ It does not mean COVID is over.
→ We are not in an emergency phase.
→ We will continue to see the virus ebb and flow and mutate.
→ We know how to protect ourselves.
→ We will continue to support our residents.

Get the bivalent booster. Stay up-to-date on your vaccinations. If you’re sick, stay home and test.

aacounty.org/covid19

Some individuals on Medicaid may no longer be able to continue receiving benefits. Call 410-775-7754 or visit aacounty.org/free-health-care-enrollment-assistance
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

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EMAIL: OEM@AACOUNTY.ORG
VISIT THE OEM WEBSITE

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

Facebook: Anne Arundel County
Office of Emergency Management

Twitter: aaco_oem

Instagram: annearundel_oem

Nextdoor: Anne Arundel County
Office of Emergency Management

YouTube: Anne Arundel County Office
of Emergency Management