MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR
Preeti Emrick, JD, CHEC

This month marks two years since we first started combatting COVID-19 in Anne Arundel County. Along with COVID-19, we have experienced tropical storms, tornadoes, coastal flooding, and snow storms that have greatly impacted our residents. During this time we have worked to expand existing programs and partnerships to support residents that have been affected by the increase of food, housing, and job insecurity. This has allowed us to link residents with more resources than ever before. Anne Arundel County continues to create new partnerships and programs to close the gap to help our community with the recovery process.

The road to recovery will be long, but our community has proven to be resilient time and time again. Neighbors have come together when they needed each other most, and we have received dozens of new volunteer requests from residents offering to help. We acknowledge that many residents are still seeking support, and we urge them to utilize the resources in this newsletter and those provided by our County partners and agencies as we continue to recover together.

SEVERE STORM AND FLOOD SAFETY TIPS
Severe thunderstorms and flooding are common during the Spring. Make sure you understand the different hazards of flooding so you can prepare for them! Here are some other tips to help you stay prepared throughout the season:

1. 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.

2. 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 prevents you from getting home.

3. Stay Informed: Sign up for Alert Anne Arundel to receive notifications when there are watches, warnings, or other emergency alerts issued for your area. Some warnings come with very little time to prepare, so it is important to pay attention and take action when they are received.

4. 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.
**PEPPER THE PREPAREDNESS PUP**

Pepper has continued to spread awareness about emergency preparedness by creating more hazard-specific videos, reminding everyone to stock their go-kits for the winter, and even demonstrating how to shelter-in-place! Pepper has also attended some events to help encourage students to learn more about emergency management and the importance of always being prepared! Be sure to follow us on social media to keep up with Pepper and her helpful tips! You can also check out her TikTok account for more videos.

**MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES**

Disasters can put additional stress on individuals, families, and communities. Anne Arundel County has a ton of great resources for stress management, mental health, substance misuse, and grief counseling. Visit aamentalhealth.org/ for more info.

24/7 Crisis Warmline: 410-768-5522

Substance Misuse Resource Line: 410-222-0117

**WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH**

March is Women’s History Month and we are celebrating by highlighting the women in our office through a series of interviews. Check our social media throughout the month to hear our staff discuss their roles, interests, and challenges in the emergency management field.

**COVID-19 UPDATE**

Anne Arundel County has been targeting specific areas with high positivity rates and low vaccination rates to provide community COVID vaccination sites. These types of sites help provide residents with a trusted and convenient place to receive their vaccine or booster. Due to the success of this grassroots approach, we are planning on introducing more small local vaccination sites in the near future. Be sure to follow us on social media to stay informed on upcoming clinics to schedule a vaccination appointment at one of the County offered locations, visit aacounty.org/covidvax/

Check to see if you are eligible for your booster shot and schedule an appointment today!
Outreach Initiatives

Our Outreach team has been getting busier as the weather warms up. Last quarter, we hosted "It's a Snow Day" where students learned about the County's response to winter storms and simulated managing a natural disaster. We hosted two emergency preparedness and security seminars in our Protecting our Houses of Worship series which helps better prepare faith-based organizations for disasters. We also partnered with Annapolis Pride to present more emergency preparedness information to the LGBTQIA+ community.

For information about future events, or to schedule a presentation for your community, email oemoutreach@aacounty.org and our team will be happy to work with you.

Training and Exercise

In 2021 we offered 59 training opportunities to Emergency Operations Center Representatives and conducted 1 tabletop, 1 facilitated discussion, and 2 workshops to ensure departments are comfortable completing the assigned roles and responsibilities for different types of incidents. This year we will implement the 2022-2024 Integrated Preparedness Plan which provides even more training opportunities and exercises for our partners.

Staff Spotlight: Taylor Bonsall-Winn

Taylor joined the OEM team in December 2021 as our EM Planner. Her experience in emergency management for the Air Force has added to our team's diverse background. She has already started working on a variety of plans and projects including setting up new COVID-19 vaccination and testing sites for vulnerable populations. She is also supporting the development of the County's Cyber Security Plan, Continuity of Operations Plans, and the Afghan Relief project.

Afghan Relief

In response to nearly 200 Afghan Refugees living in Anne Arundel County who were in need of assistance, we coordinated the opening of a welcome center at a local hotel and began partnering with Luminus to connect refugees with local resources including food, coats, toys, school supplies, and masks for COVID-19 precautions. We have also coordinated with linguists at Fort Meade, ESOL teachers at Anne Arundel County Public Schools, and Anne Arundel County Public Libraries staff to provide English learning classes, enrichment for children, school registration, staff meetings, and Friday prayer services. This effort has had great success, and we are continuing to assist families in need.
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

7480 BALTIMORE ANnapolis BLVD
Glen burnie, MD 21061

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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

TikTok: PepperThePreparednessPup