

# DISASTER DISPATCH

Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management Quarterly Newsletter  
Summer 2018



## Hurricane Season is Here!



Hurricanes and tropical storms can produce high winds, heavy rainfall, storm surge, coastal and inland flooding, rip currents, and tornadoes. Hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30 each year, with September being the most active month for Atlantic hurricanes. Do not delay preparing for these storms! Monitor weather forecasts through reliable news and weather sources. Check the [www.KnowYourZoneMD.com](http://www.KnowYourZoneMD.com) website to see if you are in a potential evacuation zone (see page 3). Review your family communication and evacuation plans. Build or refresh your family emergency kit in advance, to become self-sustaining for at least three days.

If you are in a building during a hurricane:

- ◆ Shelter-in-place unless an evacuation is ordered
- ◆ Close storm shutters if you have them and stay away from windows
- ◆ Go to an interior room, seeking shelter above ground level (in case of flooding)
- ◆ Stay indoors as much as possible
- ◆ Prior to power loss, turn your freezer and refrigerator to the coldest setting
- ◆ Have favorite toys or games for your child to make them feel comforted
- ◆ Bring pets indoors or take them with you if you evacuate
- ◆ Use a battery powered radio to stay tuned for updates on the storm

If you are outside or in your vehicle:

- ◆ Seek shelter
- ◆ Stock your vehicle with an emergency kit and spare clothes
- ◆ Keep the gas tank at least half-full
- ◆ Evacuate when officials say to do so, following directions
- ◆ Avoid low-lying areas that regularly flood
- ◆ Do not drive through flooded roadways
- ◆ Do not cross flooded bridges or roadways
- ◆ Watch out for debris and downed power lines



For more information visit [www.aacounty.org/OEM](http://www.aacounty.org/OEM)

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### ALL EMERGENCIES: CALL 9-1-1

Police (non-emergency)

410-222-8610

Fire (non-emergency)

410-222-8271

Gas Odor/Leak

CALL 9-1-1

BGE Power Outages

877-778-2222

Aging & Disabilities

410-222-4257

Animal Control

410-222-8900

Constituent Services

410-222-1785

Emergency Management

410-222-0600

Health Department

410-222-7095

Inspections & Permits

410-222-7790

Office of Transportation

410-222-0022

Public Schools

410-222-5000

Student Safety Hotline

877-676-9854

Public Works (dispatch)

410-222-8400

Public Works (general)

410-222-7500

Public Works (roads/snow)

410-222-4040

Sheriff's Office

410-222-1571

Social Services

410-269-4500



**J. Kevin Aftung**  
**Director**  
Office of Emergency  
Management

The National Hurricane Center is predicting a slightly above average hurricane season for 2018. However, tropical storms do not always follow predictions, as we saw with “Alberto” impacting the Gulf Coast before the start of hurricane season.

The key to getting ahead of a tropical storm is to stay informed. Anne Arundel County citizens are fortunate to have ready access a great deal of current weather information from local radio, television, and cable outlets. The *Citizen’s Guide to Emergencies* is available on the web at [www.aacounty.org/OEM](http://www.aacounty.org/OEM). It offers a simple means to prepare and respond to 16 different types of emergencies, including tropical storms and hurricanes. The guide is now available in both English and Spanish. The National Weather Service offers 24-hour weather broadcasts through NOAA Weather Radio via inexpensive commercially available radios. Citizens can visit the OEM website and subscribe to the free CodeRED mass notification system to get immediate alerts of emerging incidents by voice, text, or email.

The State of Maryland has just released a new web-based mapping application at [www.KnowYourZoneMD.com](http://www.KnowYourZoneMD.com). Citizens can instantly look up their street address to see if they are in a potential storm evacuation zone. If so, they can prepare for a potential evacuation, if it is required based on expected storm conditions. Evacuation zones are primarily for coastal properties. We encourage everyone to take the time to get prepared today so they are fully ready when any emergency happens.

To learn firsthand from the experts about how to be better prepared for any emergency, visit the 2018 Emergency Preparedness Expo at Marley Station Mall in Glen Burnie from 10 AM—2 PM on Saturday, September 22. Over 45 County, State, Federal and volunteer public safety/public service organizations will share their expertise and equipment in this free, exciting, family-oriented event.

Sincerely,

J. Kevin Aftung

# HOW TO STAY INFORMED

**Television:** WBAL, WMAR, WJZ, WBFF, Anne Arundel County Community TV

**Radio:** WYRE 810 AM, WBAL 1090 AM, WNAV 1430 AM, WYPR 88.1 FM, El Zol 99.1 FM, WTOP 103.5 FM, WFSI 107.9 FM

**NOAA Weather Radio:** 162.400 MHz (SAME Code 024003)

Get a battery-powered radio with extra batteries or hand-cranked radio



**Emergency Alert System (EAS):** Federal and State authorities inform the public of emergencies by television and radio

**Wireless Emergency Alerts:** State authorities send emergency broadcasts to cell phones



**CodeRED:** Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis utilize an emergency notification system, CodeRED, capable of contacting citizens and businesses quickly in case of an emergency or disaster. Citizens can sign up to receive alerts via phone call, text message, and/or email. To register, visit the Office of Emergency Management website or call 410-222-0600.

## KNOW YOUR ZONE

### Know Your Zone



It's as easy as **A-B-C**

[www.KnowYourZoneMD.com](http://www.KnowYourZoneMD.com)

#### What Is It?

A color-coded interactive map you can use to determine which potential storm evacuation zone your home or business may be in based on your street address.

#### How Will It Help You?

Knowing your zone will help you avoid unnecessary evacuation travel, thereby reducing highway congestion, easing overcrowding at local storm shelters, and boosting public safety.

#### How Do You Use It?

Simply enter your address and view a color-coded map showing the evacuation zone (**A** or **B** for Anne Arundel County).

OEM will notify residents of impacted zones what they should do to stay safe, depending on expected storm conditions.

#### What if you aren't in a Zone?

If your address is not in a potential evacuation zone, you are not expected to be evacuated during tropical storms. Stay informed by radio, TV, and social media.

# OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY RESOURCES

## Emergency Preparedness Presentations

- Family and Community Emergency Preparedness
- Emergency Preparedness for Business
- Emergency Preparedness for Houses of Worship
- Storm/Hurricane Preparedness
- Winter Weather Preparedness

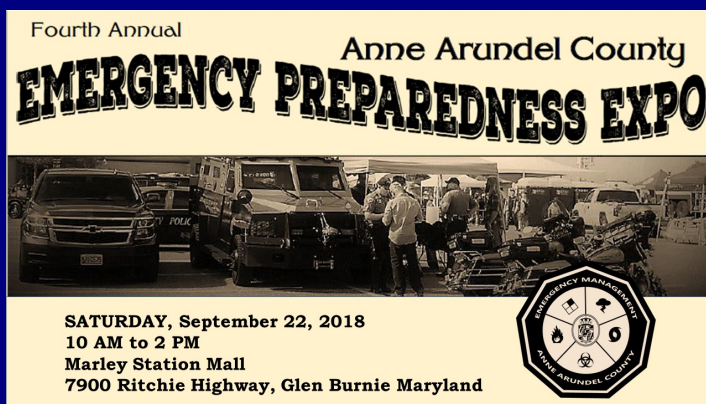
## Emergency Planning Advice & Assistance

## Preparedness Seminars

## Community Fairs/National Night Out (August 7)

## Public Information/Social Media

## County Emergency Preparedness Expo Free, fun, family-friendly way to BE PREPARED!



## CONTACT US

Please give us a call or send an email if you have questions or your organization/ community would like an emergency preparedness presentation.

### Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management

7480 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd  
Glen Burnie, MD 21061

(410) 222-0600

**Email:** [oem@aacounty.org](mailto:oem@aacounty.org)

**On the web:** [www.aacounty.org/OEM](http://www.aacounty.org/OEM)

### Social Media accounts:

**Facebook:** Anne Arundel County Office of  
Emergency Management

**Twitter:** [aaco\\_oem](https://twitter.com/aaco_oem)

**Instagram:** [annearundel\\_oem](https://www.instagram.com/annearundel_oem)

**Nextdoor:** Anne Arundel County Office of  
Emergency Management



## OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT STAFF

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