

# DISASTER DISPATCH



Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management (OEM)  
Quarterly Newsletter - Summer 2020

## PLANNING FOR DISASTERS DURING THE PANDEMIC



The 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season began on June 1 and will run through November 30. In planning for hurricanes, you will be getting prepared for almost any natural disaster. Page three of this newsletter discusses the four steps of hurricane preparedness planning. But understand that your planning may be different this year because of the need to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

Disasters can cause sudden challenges like losing power, blocking roads, disrupting the response of emergency services, and causing stores and pharmacies to close for an extended period. COVID-19 adds to this complexity.

Give yourself more time than usual to prepare your emergency food, water, and other supplies. Include face coverings (two per person), disinfectant wipes, soap/hand sanitizer, and personal hygiene items to protect against COVID-19. Some supplies may be hard to get, and availability will worsen in a disaster, so start gathering supplies now.

If possible, keep a 1-month supply of prescription medication, as well as over-the-counter medications like cough suppressants and fever reducing drugs and medical supplies or equipment.

If you are over age 65, disabled, have a chronic illness, or are immuno-compromised take extra time to plan carefully with your family or a caregiver. Consider supplemental medical equipment/oxygen, critical medical appointments, and electric powered medical devices. Think about potential early voluntary evacuation with a family member or friend.

Pay attention to local guidance about updated plans for evacuations and public shelters, that will likely be modified for the pandemic. Planning should include supplies and potential sheltering for your pets.

Be a good neighbor but play it safe. When you check on neighbors and friends, be sure to follow social distancing (staying at least 6 feet - about 2 arms' lengths - from others) and wear a face mask.

After the storm, continue to use preventive actions like washing your hands and wearing a face covering during clean up or when returning home.

It may take longer than usual to restore power and water if they are out. Take steps to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning if you use a generator. And be careful with potentially spoiled refrigerated and frozen food. Avoid foodborne illness: if in doubt, throw it out.

Remember, accessing medical care after a storm may be even more difficult than usual during the pandemic. Learn lifesaving skills such as First Aid and CPR. If you are injured or ill, call 9-1-1 or contact your medical provider for treatment recommendations.

Request a virtual COVID-19/Hurricane Preparedness presentation by emailing [OEM@aacounty.org](mailto:OEM@aacounty.org)

**COVID-19 Health Line:**

**410-222-7256**

Mon-Fri 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Sat 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM Sunday CLOSED

Email: [COVID19Info@aacounty.org](mailto:COVID19Info@aacounty.org)

## 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**

**Emergency Management**

**410-222-0600**

**Food Access Warm Line**

**410-222-FOOD (3663)**

**Health Department**

**410-222-7095**

**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**

## FROM THE DIRECTOR: NEW LEADERSHIP AND NEW CHALLENGES

I am excited to assume the duties of the Anne Arundel County Director of Emergency Management during this very challenging period for our nation, state, and county. I will apply my experience as an attorney and career Emergency Manager in leading the County's emergency coordination efforts to help all citizens of Anne Arundel County.



**Preeti Emrick  
JD, CHEC  
Director**

Our County Executive looks to the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to coordinate a host of interagency activities during this unprecedented public health emergency. We are working to support our County Health Department as the lead agency during the pandemic. The OEM is providing coordination, communications, public information, resource management, and volunteer support. Our Emergency Operations Center has been operational since March of 2020 fielding calls from the public, managing resources, and maintaining a common operating picture for County leadership.

As with most large scale emergencies, the pandemic has had "cascading" effects, such as the economic decline and resulting layoffs pushing many families into poverty. This, in turn, has led to a community-wide effort to address food insecurity in an equitable manner - with a 300% increase in food giveaways since the start of the pandemic. Much of the resulting response has highlighted the generosity and volunteer teamwork of our County's residents.

Hurricane and summer storm season in the midst of a pandemic presents a real emergency planning challenge. Like all emergency management activities, we rely on interagency coordination and mutual support in planning for worst case scenarios. The pandemic has brought out the best in all of us - with government, nonprofits, business, houses of worship, and volunteers working together in a "whole community" team approach to response and recovery. The novel ideas, new partnerships, and coalitions emerging from the COVID-19 response will endure through the pandemic and serve our County well in any major emergency, including hurricanes.

I ask all our Anne Arundel County citizens to stay healthy by following universal COVID-19 precautions, continue working to help one another, and get better prepared for any emergency as described in this Newsletter and on the Office of Emergency Management's [website](#). I look forward to serving the citizens of Anne Arundel County to better prepare for, respond to, and rapidly recover from any major emergency or disaster.

Sincerely,

Preeti Emrick

# PLAN FOR THE 2020 HURRICANE SEASON



- Atlantic Hurricane Season: June 1 - November 30, 2020
- Predicted to be more severe than normal
- The COVID-19 Pandemic will effect how we plan for hurricane season
- Become self-sufficient for at least three days following these steps:

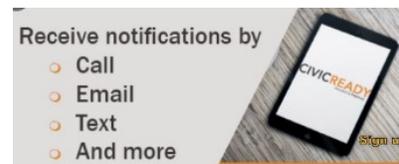
## STEP 1: MAKE A PLAN

- ☑ KNOW THE RISKS [hurricane](#) impacts, [flooding](#), [COVID-19](#)
- ☑ PREPARE YOUR [HOME](#): repairs, insurance, etc.
- ☑ [SHELTER-IN-PLACE](#) for at least three days
- ☑ SAFETY IN NUMBERS do not face the storm alone
- ☑ SPECIAL [NEEDS](#) for household members
- ☑ COMMUNICATIONS [PLAN](#) for your family
- ☑ ARE YOU IN AN [EVACUATION ZONE](#)?
- ☑ [EVACUATION](#) ROUTES and DESTINATIONS
- ☑ EMERGENCY NETWORK family, neighbors, etc.
- ☑ [PETS](#)



## STEP 2: STAY INFORMED

- ☑ Monitor radio and television
- ☑ Monitor [NOAA Weather Radio](#)
- ☑ Subscribe to alerts at [alertannearundel.civically.com](http://alertannearundel.civically.com)



## STEP 3: BUILD AN EMERGENCY KIT

- ☑ Water: 1 gal per person per day for at least 3 days (including pets)
- ☑ Food: 3+ days non-perishable food (w pets)
- ☑ Baby/infant supplies and food, if applicable
- ☑ Battery-powered or hand-crank radio, extra batteries
- ☑ Flashlight or headlamp, extra batteries
- ☑ Family first aid kit
- ☑ Washable cloth face masks
- ☑ Personal hygiene/sanitation items
- ☑ Prescription medicine, glasses, hearing aids, etc
- ☑ Photo ID; Important documents in waterproof bag
- ☑ Cell phone with charger
- ☑ Whistle to signal for help
- ☑ Manual can opener for canned food

## STEP 4: GET INVOLVED

- ☑ Take a First Aid, CPR/AED, and Stop the Bleed class
- ☑ Request a virtual preparedness presentation at [oem@aacounty.org](mailto:oem@aacounty.org) or call 410-222-0600
- ☑ Keep a watchful eye on older adults, individuals with disabilities, or chronically ill neighbors

**LEARN MORE:** [www.aacounty.org/OEM](http://www.aacounty.org/OEM)

# FREE COVID-19 TESTING

MON - FRI 9 AM - 12 Noon

TUES 6 PM - 8 PM

SAT 10 - 11:30 AM

AACO Department of Health Annex

1 Truman Parkway, Annapolis

Appointment Required: 410-222-7256

No doctor referral required

Anne Arundel County residents with ID

WED and FRI 8 AM - 12 Noon

Maryland Department of Health

VIPE Drive-thru Testing Station

721 Ordnance Rd, Glen Burnie

No appointment or referral required

Maryland residents with ID

Monday Walk-up Testing Sites

(Locations vary by week)

For latest testing sites and information

click on

AACO Department of Health

## CONTACT US

Please give us a call or send an email if you have questions or need more information.

Anne Arundel County Office  
of Emergency Management

7480 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd  
Glen Burnie, MD 21061



Phone: 410-222-0600

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

Visit the [OEM Website](#)

Facebook: [Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management](#)

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Instagram: [annearundel\\_oem](#)

Nextdoor: [Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management](#)



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- o Multiple options and languages for cell phone or landline
- o **AlertMe - Regroup Mobile App** - registration code **6a2377784f**

## OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT STAFF

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