

DISASTER DISPATCH

Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management Quarterly Newsletter
Winter 2018 - 2019



Winter is Coming!



Preparing for cold weather emergencies brings additional challenges, especially during the busy Holiday Season when everyone is out and about. Cold weather, coupled with strong winds and precipitation is a recipe for hypothermia (dangerously low body temperature), a particular concern for small children, older adults, or people with chronic illnesses. Stay indoors out of the frigid weather as much as possible. Avoid getting wet by layering your clothing and wearing a hat and gloves or mittens. Call 9-1-1 at the first sign of serious cold weather illness. Keep an eye on your pets too.

Be prepared for sheltering in your home during a snow or ice storm by:

- ◆ Storing three or more days worth of non-perishable food, bottled water, and medications
- ◆ Keeping fireplaces and wood-burning stoves clean
- ◆ Testing your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to be sure they are working properly
- ◆ Having a fire extinguisher and first aid kit handy, and knowing how to use them
- ◆ Never leaving space heaters unattended, keeping them three feet away from flammable objects
- ◆ If you have a generator, ensuring it is properly installed and at least 15 feet from the house
- ◆ Having plans ready if a family member depends on dialysis or other electrical medical equipment

Prepare for using your vehicle in winter weather by:

- ◆ Fully winterizing your vehicle prior to extreme cold
- ◆ Stocking an emergency kit, flashlight, and spare clothes
- ◆ Having an ice scraper, snow brush, and jumper cables
- ◆ Including a small shovel for digging out of snow
- ◆ Keeping the gas tank at least half-full
- ◆ Traveling during daylight hours if possible
- ◆ Clearing snow or ice off your car before leaving
- ◆ Slowing down, staying alert, and leaving greater braking distances
- ◆ Being aware of unexpected icy patches not visible on pavement
- ◆ Planning to STAY HOME if travel is restricted by winter weather



For more information visit www.aacounty.org/OEM

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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 (general)

410-222-7500

Public Works (utilities)

410-222-8400

Public Works (roads/snow)

410-222-4040

Sheriff's Office

410-222-1571

Social Services

410-269-4500

www.aacounty.org/snow



BE
WINTER
READY



J. Kevin Aftung
Director
Office of Emergency
Management

Maryland winters often bring low temperatures, high winds, sleet, snow, and ice - or a combination of all of the above. Busy roadways filled with holiday shoppers and travelers present a host of traffic hazards made worse by harsh winter conditions. Drive with caution, slowing down and leaving extra braking space, during the winter.

Stay informed about changing winter weather conditions by keeping tuned to local radio, television, and cable outlets. You can learn more about our County's snow and ice clearing process by visiting www.aacounty.org/snow. The *Citizen's Guide to Emergencies* is available in English and Spanish at www.aacounty.org/OEM. It offers clear instructions on how to prepare and respond to 16 different types of emergencies, including extreme cold and winter storms.

Be prepared for winter weather by keeping emergency supplies at home and in your car. Make plans for how you and your family will deal with hazardous weather. Now is the best time to ensure your house and car are ready for winter. Have a professional check your chimney if you have a fireplace. If you have a generator, be sure it is installed properly and you know how to operate it safely. Decorating for the holidays presents potential fire hazards that can be addressed by using some commonsense tips shown on the next page.

During the upcoming winter, be a good neighbor. Please take time to check on older adults, individuals with chronic illnesses, and those with access and functional needs in your community.

The Office of Emergency Management offers emergency preparedness presentations about Winter Weather to community associations, civic groups, businesses, or houses of worship. To schedule a presentation, please call 410-222-0600, email oem@aacounty.org, or visit our website at www.aacounty.org/OEM.

Sincerely,

J. Kevin Aftung

The 12 DAYS OF SAFETY

Use battery power "twinkle lights" not candles **1**



Keep poisonous plants out of reach of children and pets

2



Keep trees away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources

3



Make sure your tree has a stable platform

4



Choose an artificial tree that is labeled fire resistant

5



If using a natural tree, make sure it is well watered

6



Check holiday lights for fraying, bare spots, gaps in the insulation or excessive kinking in the wire

7



Turn off all tree lights and decorations when not in use

8



When putting up decorations, use a step stool or ladder to reach high places

9



Designate a sober driver

10



When preparing a meal, wash hands, utensils, sink and anything else that touches raw meat

11



Reheat leftovers to at least 165°F

12



Happy Holidays!



Anne Arundel County
Office of Emergency
Management
410-222-0600
www.aacounty.org/OEM

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Emergency Preparedness Presentations

- Family and Community Emergency Preparedness
- Emergency Preparedness for Houses of Worship
- Emergency Preparedness for Small Business
- Emergency Preparedness for Youth
- Hurricane Preparedness
- Winter Weather Preparedness

Emergency Planning Advice & Assistance

Preparedness Seminars

Public Information/Social Media

Community Fairs

How may we help you?



CONTACT US

Please give us a call or send an email if you have questions or your organization or 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

On the web: 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



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