



THE DISASTER DISPATCH

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM
THE ANNE ARUNDEL OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Preeti Emrick, JD, CHEC



September is National Preparedness Month, which raises awareness among individuals, families, communities, and organizations about the importance of being prepared for different emergencies and disasters. This month, we encourage residents and businesses to take proactive steps to protect themselves and their loved ones during emergencies. Being prepared helps us build resilience, which is the ability to recover from disasters and emergencies more quickly. By having plans in place and necessary supplies and resources on hand, everyone can reduce the impact of disasters and recover more effectively. This also helps decrease the strain on emergency responders and relief organizations so they can focus their efforts on those who are most vulnerable or in urgent need. National Preparedness Month plays a vital role in fostering a culture of preparedness, ensuring that individuals and communities are equipped to handle a wide range of emergencies and disasters effectively.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXPO

As part of National Preparedness Month, we are hosting our annual Emergency Preparedness Expo! Expo is a free, family-friendly event that has hands-on displays, games, and activities to provide a fun-filled way to learn about preparing for emergencies. Join us from 10 am to 2 pm at the Anne Arundel Community College Arundel Mills Campus on Saturday, September 16, 2023.



SPECIAL EVENT PERMITS

Anne Arundel County accepts applications for Special Event Permits and will review them based on our capacity to provide public safety personnel and to accommodate applicants with an appropriate location for the event activity. This permit helps streamline the different requirements of holding an event in the County, provides the sponsors with an easier application process, and ensures that the events held in the County are safe for the community and patrons. All applications must be submitted no later than 90 days and no earlier than one year prior to the start date of the event. All applications are required to be reviewed and acknowledged by the County within 30 business days of submission. Please visit the Inspection and Permits [Land Use Navigator \(LUN\) System](#) to apply for the Special Event license. Additional help guides are available at: [Land Use Navigator System Help](#).

OEM INTERNSHIPS



This summer we hosted four more interns! Three high schoolers joined us as part of the Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) Work Based Learning Program which helps connect students to internship opportunities for school credit. Our fourth intern is a college student at Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) who is interested in pursuing a degree in emergency management. All four interns spent the first part of their internship learning about emergency management and life-saving skills such as CPR, First Aid, and Stop the Bleed. Additionally, they helped expand our outreach efforts and worked on developing emergency plans for the County.

HERRICANE



In July, we partnered with the Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) and the Institute for Diversity and Inclusion in Emergency Management (I-DIEM) to host our first-ever HERRricane camp. HERRricane is a free emergency management summer camp that allows young ladies ages 14-22 to explore emergency management-related career paths, learn valuable leadership skills, and get CPR and Stop the Bleed certifications. We had 15 young ladies participate in a week of fun activities and lessons. Emergency Managers from all over the State supported the camp, including representatives from the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM), Prince George's County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Montgomery County OEMHS, Annapolis City OEM, Howard County OEM, and Calvert County OEM.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR HOUSES OF WORSHIP

Natural hazards such as tornadoes or flooding and manmade hazards including fires or cyberattacks can occur with little to no warning. We encourage our County's houses of worship to be prepared for all types of emergencies and disasters to not only protect their facilities but to help protect their congregations as well. Houses of worship can start by following the four steps of emergency preparedness: Be Informed, Make a Plan, Build a Kit, and Get Involved. For more information or to request a presentation, visit [our website](#).

OUTREACH INITIATIVES



Summer activities offered a ton of fantastic outreach opportunities. The highlight of the season was the county-wide National Night Out event, where OEM staff in every Police District helped hundreds of residents prepare for emergencies. This summer we also supported community events such as multicultural picnics and Navy Family Fun Day. We continued to provide preparedness presentations, First Aid, CPR/AED, Stop the Bleed, and Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) training to chambers of commerce, senior communities, schools, and faith-based organizations. To request a presentation, training, or a booth at your event, visit [our website](#).

MASTER EXERCISE PRACTITIONER (MEP)



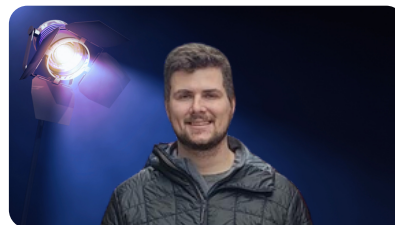
Our Training and Exercise Coordinator, Briana Kracke, was awarded her Master Exercise Practitioner (MEP) designation! She completed the two-year program designed for advanced exercise practitioners in emergency management. As part of the program, Briana designed, developed, conducted, and evaluated an operations-based Emergency Operations Center (EOC) exercise with our partners to prepare for a winter storm event.

TRAINING AND EXERCISE



In an effort to update the County's Emergency Operations Plan, the Training and Exercise Unit is coordinating with stakeholders to host Emergency Support Function Workshops until late Spring of next year. The purpose of these workshops is to review and update the roles and responsibilities our stakeholders have when responding to and recovering from emergencies that may impact the County. The Office of Emergency Management also partnered with Amtrak to bring the Passenger Train Emergency Response (PTER) training to the County which focused on response operations if an Amtrak incident were to occur within our jurisdiction.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: ALEX SPERLING



Alex joined our office in August as our newest UASI Planner. In this role, Alex is responsible for developing and maintaining emergency plans, policies, and procedures. He is currently managing the Migrant Sheltering Plan and the Hazardous Air Quality Plan for the County. Alex brings a unique perspective to our team with his experience as a former legislative aide in the Maryland House of Representatives, team leader for FEMA AmeriCorps, and FEMA Hazard Mitigation Specialist.

**IMPORTANT NUMBERS
ALL EMERGENCIES: CALL 9-1-1**

**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**



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VISIT THE [OEM WEBSITE](#)



Sign up for emergency notifications at:
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Office of Emergency Management](#)



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