



Together, working to improve outcomes.

### Message From the Director:

Preeti Emrick, JD, CHEC

Dear Residents of  
Anne Arundel County,

As we recognize National Preparedness Month this September, I want to thank YOU for being an essential part of our county's emergency preparedness efforts and to share with you our September edition of the Disaster Dispatch, which includes some exciting updates about how the Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is getting involved and working to build a more resilient and ready community.

This year, OEM has continued to strengthen its capabilities and partnerships to protect residents. From enhancing storm and flood readiness and coordinating multi-agency disaster response policies to advancing public outreach and education, our clear goal remains: To ensure every resident, family, and neighborhood is informed, prepared, and empowered.

One of the highlights has been our HERoes on the HERizon program, an emergency preparedness initiative designed to empower young women and future leaders through hands-on experience, leadership development, and disaster preparedness training. Programs like this underscore our commitment to inclusive and community-centered emergency management.



National Preparedness Month is a time to reflect on how we can all take simple steps to protect ourselves and our loved ones. Whether it's assembling a go-bag, developing a family communication plan, or signing up for emergency alerts, every action counts and reminds us that preparedness is personal and that readiness starts with you.

If you have not already, we encourage you to join us and be an advocate for preparedness by connecting with our emergency notification system. Text **AAAlert** to #38276 to receive text alerts.

Want more information? Follow us on social media, and participate in local preparedness events throughout September. Get involved. Ask questions. Share what you learn. By working together, we can create a stronger, safer Anne Arundel County.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to preparedness.

Stay safe and be ready,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Preeti Emrick".



Photo Credit: Jessica Koscielniak



## OEM SUMMER CAMP INSPIRES FUTURE PUBLIC SAFETY LEADERS

By Cassandra Laningham, OEM Training and Exercise Planner

Nearly 30 young women from local high schools and colleges across Maryland spent a week in July immersed in emergency management, cybersecurity, and public safety at the third annual HERoes on the HERizon summer camp, hosted by the Anne Arundel County OEM.

The free, week-long camp, held July 14–18 at the OEM office in Glen Burnie, aimed to introduce participants to careers in public safety through hands-on experiences and mentorship from professionals across multiple agencies.

“This program is about more than education, it’s about empowerment,” stated Preeti Emrick, Director of Anne Arundel County OEM. “We want these young women to see themselves as leaders in the future of emergency management. Our goal is to equip them with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to not only respond to emergencies but also to proactively build resilient communities. By fostering their interest and talent in this critical field, we are investing in a safer, more secure future for Anne Arundel County and beyond.”

Throughout the week, participants engaged in CPR and trauma care training, observed members of Civil Air Patrol Maryland Wing’s Emergency Services team lead a demonstration on ground and drone-based Search and Rescue tactics, and participated in a tour of the mini-city training facility, where public safety officials practice in realistic environments to best prepare for real-world emergencies.

Photo Source: Anne Arundel County OEM



After touring the mini-city, campers got to see the Prince George’s County SWAT vehicle and be introduced to some of their K-9 officers.

**“THIS PROGRAM IS ABOUT MORE THAN EDUCATION, IT’S ABOUT EMPOWERMENT.”**

This year’s camp also featured an expanded focus on cybersecurity.

Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency regional advisors led an engaging Jeopardy game that both informed and roused playful competition.

Among the numerous field trips included a visit to the Laurel Racetrack hosted by The Maryland Jockey Club, where campers learned about emergency planning and security efforts, with a hands-on tour of the track.

“This program is a cornerstone of our commitment to nurturing the next generation of leaders,” stated Emrick. “Fostering an environment that enhances academic aspirations and provides avenues for career exploration.”

The camp is scheduled to continue in 2026, with hopes of expanding its reach and offerings. To apply or learn more about the program, email [oem-camp@aaacounty.org](mailto:oem-camp@aaacounty.org).



Photo Source: Anne Arundel County OEM



Photo Source: Anne Arundel County OEM



Photo Source: Anne Arundel County OEM



# Urban & Suburban Flooding:

## A GROWING THREAT IN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

As climate patterns shift and severe weather becomes more frequent, communities across the country including right here in Anne Arundel County are facing a rising threat that's both fast-moving and often underestimated: urban and suburban flooding.

While images of major rivers and lakes overcoming their banks and shores often dominate national headlines, flooding in densely developed areas is increasingly common, and dangerous.

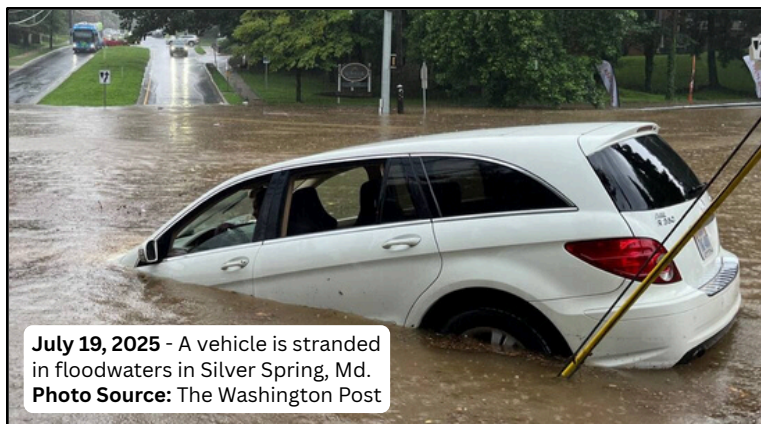
During heavy rain or a hurricane, our roads, parking lots, and storm drains can quickly become overwhelmed, turning everyday streets into fast-moving waterways. We can improve our communities' ability to handle these events by balancing the pace of development with a strategic investment in natural green spaces.

### HURRICANE SEASON HEIGHTENS THE RISK

Anne Arundel County can be significantly impacted during Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June through November. Tropical storms and hurricanes bring intense rainfall in short periods of time, making flash flooding a major hazard even for areas far from the coastline.



Flash floods can occur within minutes or hours of excessive rainfall. They're particularly dangerous because of their speed and unpredictability. In suburban and urban areas, where stormwater systems can be quickly overwhelmed, flash floods can trap people in vehicles, flood homes and basements, and destroy infrastructure.

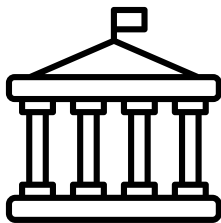




## A CHALLENGING FUTURE FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

As these environmental threats intensify, local OEM faces another major challenge: a shrinking pool of federal funding and uncertainty surrounding the future of FEMA.

For years, local preparedness efforts have relied on federal grants through FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security. These funds have supported everything from mitigation projects and emergency response equipment to staff training and community outreach. But recent cuts and delays in grant cycles, along with broader discussions about the restructuring or reduction of FEMA's role, are placing increased uncertainty on counties and municipalities.



In this ever-changing world, building resilient infrastructure, establishing long-term planning capacity, and creating critical programs to protect our neighbors are essential investments.

OEM now has a broader role; we are not only on the front lines responding but also working to secure the resources and support that empower our communities to weather any challenge, both immediate and future.



# BE INFORMED. BE PREPARED. BE SAFE.

Preparedness is the best defense against flooding. Whether you live in a flood-prone zone or not, it's important to take proactive steps to protect your home, your family, and your community.

## Here's how to be flood-ready:



### Sign Up for Alerts

Enroll in Alert Anne Arundel. Text **AAAlert** to #38276 to receive real-time emergency notifications, including flash flood warnings, evacuation orders, and shelter locations.

**WWW.**



### Know Your Risk

Visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) or <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search> to check if your home is in or near a flood zone.



### Create an Emergency Plan

Know your evacuation routes, keep important documents in a waterproof container, and prepare a go-bag with essentials (medications, batteries, food, water, flashlights, etc.).



### Safeguard Your Property

Consider installing sump pumps, clearing gutters and drains, and elevating utilities if you live in a flood-prone area. Flood insurance is also strongly recommended, it's not typically included in standard homeowners' insurance.



### Never Drive Through Floodwaters

Just six inches of moving water can knock a person down, and one foot of water can carry away a vehicle. "Turn Around, Don't Drown" is more than a slogan – it can save your life.

## YOUR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TEAM IS HERE TO HELP

The Anne Arundel County OEM team works year-round to plan for, respond to, and recover from disasters, including flooding and severe weather events. We also collaborate with state and federal agencies, local municipalities, and community partners to ensure residents have the tools they need to stay safe.

Stay connected with us on social media, attend community preparedness events, or reach out directly to learn more about how we can help you prepare your home or neighborhood.



**WEBSITE:** [HTTPS://WWW.AACOUNTY.ORG/EMERGENCY-MANAGEMENT](https://www.aacounty.org/emergency-management)

**FACEBOOK:** [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AACOOEM](https://www.facebook.com/AACOOEM)

**TWITTER/X:** [HTTPS://X.COM/AACO\\_OEM](https://x.com/AACO_OEM)

**EMAIL:** [OEMOUTREACH@AACOUNTY.ORG](mailto:OEMOUTREACH@AACOUNTY.ORG)

# Community EVENTS

## PROTECTING OUR HOUSES OF WORSHIP

Anne Arundel OEM concluded the fifth year of the Protecting Our Houses of Worship Seminar series in May with a Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) in-person training and a tabletop exercise.

The four-month seminar series is open to all faiths and offers an in-depth look at emergency preparedness and both physical and cyber security. The seminar is supported by OEM, the County Police, US Department of Justice, US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the non-profit Faith Based Information Sharing and Analysis Organization, and the Bay Area Community Church in Annapolis.

As nationally recognized by the DHS Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, the seminar series has effectively increased our county's faith-based organizations' awareness of available resources, hazard mitigation, resilience, and opportunities to collaborate.

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 including Be Informed, Make a Plan, Build a Kit, and Getting Involved.

- **Be Informed:** Be aware of the potential hazards, both natural and manmade, that may occur in your community. Learn what protective measures to take before, during, and after an emergency.
- **Make a Plan:** We encourage houses of worship to assess the needs of their facilities and congregation to create a tailored plan for emergencies.
- **Build a Kit:** Building an emergency kit ensures you have the necessary items on hand before disaster strikes to be self-sufficient for at least 3 days.
- **Getting Involved:** Receive a first aid class by OEM, or join Anne Arundel County and City of Annapolis Community Emergency Response Team and get trained on basic disaster response skills. <https://www.aaacert.org/> for more information.
- **Additional Resources:** Sign up to receive free emergency alerts via text. Text **AAAlert** to #38276 to receive text alerts.

## WHOLE COMMUNITY INTEGRATION IN ACTION

The Whole Community approach to OEM engages business, government and nonprofit sectors to integrate the needs, capabilities and resources of the community.

As an example of this concept in action, Anne Arundel OEM enthusiastically supports the County Gun Violence Intervention Team (GVIT), an interagency initiative led by the Department of Health as a public health issue. OEM Outreach Unit members Jim Krempel and Jorge Paucar support GVIT outreach and policy initiatives across the county, including providing free gun locks at community events to raise awareness of firearm safety.



Photo Source: Anne Arundel County OEM

As part of the broader whole community preparedness effort, OEM offers free CRASE Training to community associations, businesses, houses of worship, and even standalone medical clinics. Jorge has also created the state's first Spanish-language version of CRASE Training. In the spring of 2025, Jim and Jorge provided CRASE instruction at the Maryland OEM Association Symposium.

Extending these efforts, OEM is also a member of the statewide Maryland Active Assailant Interdisciplinary Working Group, where Krempel served as a panelist discussing whole community integration at their 2025 Summit.

To request CRASE Training or any emergency preparedness presentation, go to:  
<https://www.aacounty.org/emergency-management/disaster-preparedness/individuals/request-presentation>

# Community EVENTS



Photo Source: Anne Arundel County OEM



Photo Source: Anne Arundel County OEM

Anne Arundel County River Days + National Night Out



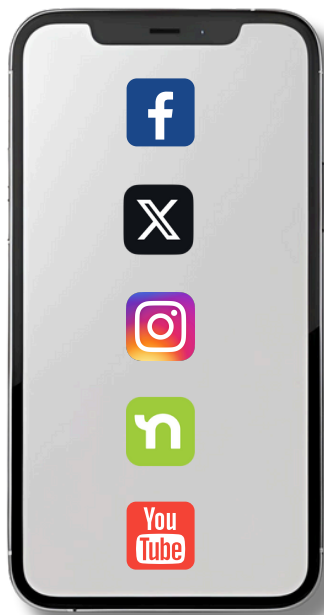
Photo Source: Anne Arundel County OEM



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Anne Arundel County Office of  
Emergency Management

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[annearundel\\_oem](#)

Anne Arundel County Office of  
Emergency Management

Anne Arundel County Office of  
Emergency Management

7480 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd  
Glen Burnie, MD 21061

Phone: 410-222-0600

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

[https://www.aacounty.org/  
emergency-management](https://www.aacounty.org/emergency-management)

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

## 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

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

Sign up for emergency  
notifications by texting  
**AAAlert** to #38276  
receive text alerts.



**ANNE  
ARUNDEL  
COUNTY**

**OFFICE OF  
EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT**