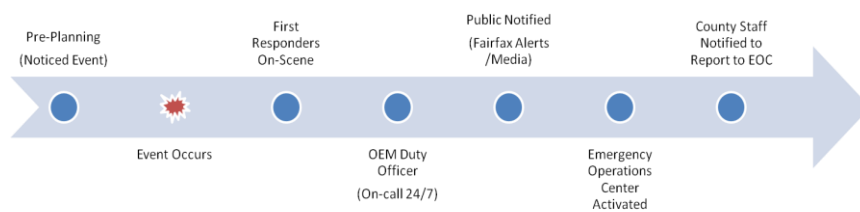


# Preparing our Community for the Unexpected— Building a Resilient Community

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Credits to Fairfax County Emergency Management and Patrick Smaldore

Emergency Management requires Coordination, Collaboration, and Communications. Fairfax County has an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) that monitors all incidents in Fairfax County. The center is responsible for planning, training & exercise, outreach, grants & finance. Typically there are two types of emergency events, planned and unplanned. Planned events are usually predictive in nature (hurricane, snow storm) and Unplanned events are less predictive in nature (earthquakes, man-made events). Both planned and unplanned events require preparedness and mitigation. The next few paragraphs summarize the preparedness and information from emergency responders. As per the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), the “Anatomy of an Emergency” is shown below:



**Family preparedness**—OEM recommends *Make a kit*, *Make a Plan* and *Stay Informed* using Fairfax alerts (sign up information is mentioned below). Make a Kit includes gather basic supplies for your family and pets for three days; prepare an emergency kit for your home, workplace, and vehicle; find a Shelter-in-Place (UP:heavier than air/DOWN:lighter than air); prepare Evacuation/First Aid kit; and Check kit expiration dates and update them every six months.

*Up (Chemical/Biological: heavier than air): being above ground for Chemical/Biological agents where you would go to an interior room without windows that's above ground level. In the case of a chemical threat, an above-ground location is preferable because some chemicals are heavier than air, and may seep into basements even if the windows are closed.*

*Down (lighter than air: tornado – away from windows): being below ground for tornadoes, or laying down in an interior room away from windows during a tornado*

Make a Plan includes developing an emergency plan for you and your family. It should include Out-of-Town Contact, Meeting Places, Communications Plan, Shelter-in-Place, Evacuation steps. If you happen to have a generator, test it twice a year or every quarter.

**Medical Needs Registry** – Senior citizens and people with special needs need to sign up for the Medical Needs Registry (MNR). The MNR contains the names and addresses of County residents with ongoing medical needs. The medical needs registry is an emergency preparedness tool and will be used by Fairfax County emergency officials for identifying the location of residents needing assistance in the event their residence or neighborhood is to be evacuated. There is no guarantee that services will be provided, nor does registration guarantee that services will be received on a preferential basis. Like everyone else, MNR residents need a plan. For MNR sign up at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts) , also keep the phone number handy of local 24 hour pharmacies, pharmacies that deliver, and emergency care hospitals/locations.

In an emergency, **McLean Police Department (MPD)** recommends and encourages a strong neighborhood watch. During large scale incidents the calls will be prioritized for service and may lag in response times. In an emergency vehicular travel should be minimized, signs, cones/flares should be obeyed. For uncontrolled intersections law states( § 46.2-820 ): Yield to driver on right. Flashing red lights: Vehicles to stop, yield, proceed, Flashing yellow lights: Slowly proceed with caution. Also it is important to secure valuables and take inventory of valuables. Our MPD is located at 1437 Balls Hill Road, (Corner of Route 123 & Lewinsville Road) and is open 24/7/365. It accommodates walk-in visitors during mass communication outages.

**Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department — Safety in Our Community (SOIC)**  
**“Preventing the 911 Call”** Primary Goals of SOIC are to assure that homes in Fairfax County have at least one working smoke alarm and offer a home safety survey to residents; to assure that outside/portable cooking appliances are positioned a safe distance from the home; and to deliver timely educational information on fire safety and injury prevention. Fire Prevention and Wellness education includes General Fire Safety, Kitchen Safety, Electrical Safety, Candle Safety, Smoking & Fireplace Safety, Fire Escape Plans, and File of Life. It is also recommended to have a Carbon Monoxide (CO) detector. Both the Smoke Alarm and CO need to be tested at a minimum every quarter.



Sign up at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts)  
Choose up to 5 locations such as home, work and school; Choose up to 10 delivery methods like home phone, cellphone, email, text messaging and more; Create "Quiet Times" when you don't want to receive weather alerts; Mobile app available for iPhone and Android

**Fairfax County Emergency Information Blog** [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog)  
**American Red Cross** – [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)  
**Animal Control** -- 703-691-2131  
**Capital Region Updates** [www.capitalregionupdates.gov](http://www.capitalregionupdates.gov)  
**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** – [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)  
**Dominion Power** [www.dom.com](http://www.dom.com) 1-866-366-4357, TTY 711  
**Dranesville Supervisor** - John Foust [dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov) 703-356-0551, TTY 711  
**Fairfax County Citizen Corps** – [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/citizencorps](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/citizencorps)  
**Fairfax County OEM** - [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency)  
**Fairfax Water** -- [www.fairfaxwater.org](http://www.fairfaxwater.org) 703-698-5800, TTY 703-698-7025  
**FEMA** – [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)  
**McLean District Police Station** -- Phone number: 703-556-7750 or 911  
**National Terrorism Advisory System** [www.DHS.gov/alerts](http://www.DHS.gov/alerts)  
**Ready NOVA Preparedness Planners** – [www.ReadyNOVA.org](http://www.ReadyNOVA.org)  
**VDOT Snow Plowing Status** [www.novasnowplowing.virginia.gov](http://www.novasnowplowing.virginia.gov) 1-800-FOR-ROAD, TTY 711  
**Washington Gas** – [www.washgas.com](http://www.washgas.com) 1-800-752-7520 or 703-750-1400  
**For more information, contact the Office of Emergency Management:** 571-350-1000, TTY 711 [oem@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:oem@fairfaxcounty.gov)