



# FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Department of Emergency Preparedness

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### NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Date: August 30, 2017

### SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH "Disasters Don't Plan Ahead, YOU CAN"

**FREDERICK, MD** - The Frederick County Division of Emergency Management, along with its preparedness partners, announces that September 1<sup>st</sup> marks the beginning of National Preparedness Month. Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner will kick-off Preparedness Month with a proclamation at a September 5<sup>th</sup> ceremony.

National Preparedness Month, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's *Ready America* campaign, is a nationwide effort designed to increase awareness as well as encourage individuals, families, and communities to take action to prepare for emergencies and to engage in preparedness at home, work, businesses, school and place of worship. Each week will have its own unique theme:

- Week 1: September 1-9 - Make a plan for yourself, family and friends
- Week 2: September 10-16 - Plan to help you neighbor and community
- Week 3: September 17-23 - Practice and building out your plans
- Week 4: September 24-30 - Get involved! Be a part of something larger

Now is the perfect time for businesses and residents alike to do their part to keep our communities safe by preparing for emergencies and developing practical responses before disasters strike. We can build more resilient communities by working with our families, friends, and coworkers on how to better protect themselves by reviewing their preparedness plans, updating their disaster supply kits and knowing where to find local information.

The main reason to prepare is to help protect yourself and your family in the event of an emergency. Every citizen in this country is part of a national emergency management system that is all about protection—protecting people and property from all types of hazards. It is your responsibility to protect yourself and your family by knowing what to do before, during, and after an event.

#### Before

- Know the risks and danger signs.
- Ensure you have the proper insurance coverage
- Develop an emergency plan
- Assemble a disaster supply kit.
- Stay informed - Signup for the Alert Frederick County system
- Volunteer to help others.

### **During**

- Put your plan into action.
- Help others.
- Follow the advice and guidance of officials in charge of the event.

### **After**

- Evaluate your home for damage
- Repair damaged property.
- Take steps to prevent or reduce future loss.

### **There are benefits to being prepared**

- Being prepared can reduce fear, anxiety, and losses that accompany disasters.
- Communities, families, and individuals should know what roads frequently flood and never drive through standing water.
- People also can reduce the impact of disasters by being prepared and implementing a few simple mitigation measures.
  - Clean out gutters and secure lawn items
  - Ensure that trees are properly trimmed
  - Elevate appliances in basements
  - Secure your hot water and propane tanks
  - Make sure all family members know how to shutoff the utilities

### **The need to prepare is real**

- Disasters disrupt hundreds of thousands of lives every year. Each disaster has lasting effects, both to people and property.
- You should know how to respond to severe weather or any disaster that could occur in your area – hurricanes, earthquakes, winter storms, flooding, or terrorism.
- You should also be ready to be self-sufficient for at least three days. This may mean providing for your own shelter, first aid, food, water, and sanitation.

Be informed of the weather-related hazards – Residents are strongly encouraged to register to receive emergency information from ALERT Frederick County at [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/ALERT](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/ALERT). Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/FCGMDDDEM/> and follow us on Twitter [https://twitter.com/FCG\\_DEM](https://twitter.com/FCG_DEM) Emergency messages are also broadcast on WFMD 930 AM, WFRE 99.9 FM, WAFY 103.1 FM, Frederick County Government cable channel 19, Frederick County Public Schools cable channel 18, municipal government cable channel 99 (where available) and NBC 25 WHAG TV.

For more information on preparing for, responding to and recovering from emergencies and hazards, visit [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/READY](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/READY). The Department of Emergency Preparedness can be contacted at 301-600-1746 or [EM@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:EM@FrederickCountyMD.gov).

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