

National Preparedness Month

Week One September 1-4: Make A Plan

Your family may not be together if a disaster strikes, so it is important to know which types of disasters could affect your area. Know how you'll contact one another and reconnect if separated.

1. Put a plan together by discussing how your family will receive emergency alerts and warnings. Following @ReadyFairfax on social media is a great way to get alerts on what is happening around your local area.
2. Consider specific needs for your household. As people age, their needs can change, such as including medication and medical equipment.
3. Fill out a *Family Emergency Communication Plan*. Communication networks, such as mobile phones and computers, could be unreliable during a disaster. Plan how to reach each other and where to meet up in an emergency. The Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Guide has printable plans for you and your family to fill out together.
4. Practice your emergency plan with your family before you need it! Try to make it fun for the younger children in your family by turning practice into a game, such as racing to the emergency meetup spot.



The Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Guide (CERG) will provide you with the tools you need to help you become more prepared. It will help you create:

- A family emergency plan
- A business preparedness plan
- A neighborhood preparedness plan
- An emergency supply kit.

When you are prepared, that helps you and your community. Prepared families and businesses result in resilient communities. Resilient, self-sufficient residents can stay safe and secure while first responders care for those with the greatest need.

Northern Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan Survey

Is your home or office building susceptible to damage from flooding, earthquakes, or tornadoes? Do you want to recover more quickly from disasters and prevent future damage from these and other hazards?

Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is partnering with other Northern Virginia jurisdictions to update the 2017 Northern Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan. You might be asking yourself, what is hazard mitigation? Hazard mitigation is defined as the sustained actions taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from hazards and their effects. This plan identifies those natural and non-natural hazards throughout the region. It also presents an assessment of critical facilities vulnerable to these hazards. The updated plan will list potential actions needed to reduce risk and future damage.

Although the plan enables the county to be eligible for various assistance grants, the plan's value really lies in the identification of hazards and helps Fairfax County, and its residents better prepare for disasters.

Your participation can make our community more resilient to a disaster. We know you are busy and respectfully request a few moments of your time to respond to this brief survey. This survey will remain open until September 20, 2021.

The survey can be accessed here, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NorthernVirginiaHazardMitigationSurvey>

We truly appreciate your help in completing this vital project to help sustain our collective resilience in the face of disaster.