



THE DISASTER DISPATCH

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM
THE ANNE ARUNDEL OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Preeti Emrick, JD, CHEC



When other jurisdictions request support in responding to disasters, Anne Arundel is proud to support them through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) and the Maryland Intrastate Emergency Management Assistance Compact (MIEMAC). Requests through these compacts allow us to support those jurisdictions by sending personnel, equipment, and/or resources to areas affected by disasters. These opportunities allow us to obtain valuable information and training by providing our staff experience in different organizational structures, policies/plans/procedures, best practices, and operations that we may not experience on a regular basis. We are able to learn from this involvement, and identify gaps within our County policies/plans/procedures to make improvements before disaster strikes.

Using this information, along with our internal preparedness, planning, exercise, and training cycle, we continuously work to make Anne Arundel County the safest jurisdiction-for all.

HERE TO HELP



In September and October our Department of Public Works deployed nearly 30 employees to assist Jackson, Mississippi to stabilize a water treatment plant that was destroyed during a severe flooding event.

In September we deployed our Senior UASI Planner and Public Information Officer, Kasey Thomas, to Baltimore City to assist with water distribution after an E.coli outbreak left 50,000 residents without clean water.

In October we deployed Kasey to Florida after Hurricane Ian to inform affected residents and businesses of recovery resources and information at the state, local, and municipal levels.

Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford recognized both agencies and their deployed personnel during the Board of Public Works meeting, presenting them with Governor Citations and thanking them for their assistance.

2022 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXPO

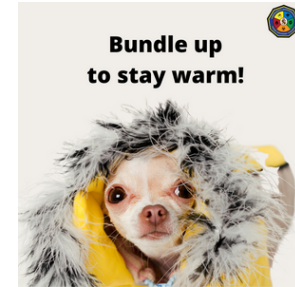


After cancelling our annual Emergency Preparedness Expo for two years due to Covid-19, we were so glad to bring it back this past September for National Preparedness Month. Our Emergency Preparedness Expo is a free, family-friendly event with hands-on displays, games, and activities to provide a fun-filled way to learn about preparing for emergencies! This helps increase both individual and community preparedness in our County.

This year we had a great turnout of vendors, visitors, County employees, and of course Pepper the Preparedness Pup! It was amazing to see how many people came out to support the event and learn more about emergency preparedness through games, demonstrations, and informational booths.

If you missed the event this year, don't worry! We are already starting to plan for Expo 2023 next September! Follow us on [social media](#) for event info.

WARMING RELIEF



Anne Arundel County will make several facilities available for warming relief this winter. If you need temporary relief from the cold weather, stop in and use the designated facilities during their normal business hours. Anyone who needs sheltering should contact the Crisis Warmline at 410-768-5522. Visit www.aacounty.org/warm for more info.

When temperatures drop we encourage residents and visitors to do the following:

- Dress in layers to stay warmer for longer. This also gives you more flexibility to remove layers while still staying warm.
- Prepare for the unexpected. Most hypothermia cases occur due to an unexpected change in the weather or temperature, so keep extra gloves, hats, and a coat in your car.
- Wear a warm hat when going outside. Up to 50 percent of body heat is lost through the head.
- Avoid getting wet when the temperatures drop.
- Wear waterproof boots or shoes to keep your feet dry.
- Drink plenty of water and avoid nicotine, caffeine, and alcohol which can cause dehydration.

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

In Anne Arundel County, bivalent Covid-19 booster shots are available for those who are 5 years or older. Visit www.aahealth.org/bivalent-faq/ for more info. Make an appointment at www.aacounty.org/covidvax or call 410-222-7256 for assistance.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



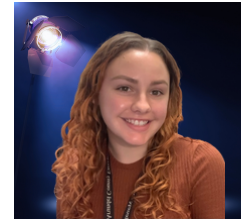
This quarter has been filled with tons of awesome events including the Emergency Preparedness Expo, 44th Korean Festival, African Diaspora Heritage Festival, Hispanic Health Fest, and more. We've conducted presentations to local community groups including Girl Scout troops, the Community Alliance of South County, and The Arc of the Chesapeake. Our staff also participated in trunk or treats around the County, the Day of the Dead Festival in Annapolis, and other festive community events. We are looking forward to offering more presentations to schools and community groups over the next few months. To request a preparedness presentation visit our [website](#) or email oemoutreach@aacounty.org.

TRAINING AND EXERCISE



Our staff have been busy with exercises recently. We conducted a phone line drill with Crisis Response staff to ensure that a joint phone line can be quickly activated in an emergency. We also conducted an operations-based exercise with our partners in the Emergency Operations Center to increase coordination with our agency representatives. In addition to hosting our exercises, we also participated in the Fort Meade full-scale exercise and the BWI full-scale exercise with local, state, and regional partners to improve our overall communication and coordination.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: KASEY THOMAS PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER



Kasey Thomas joined our office in January 2020 as a planner. During our COVID-19 response, she gained the title of Public Information Officer (PIO) in addition to her planning role when she stepped up to manage the Joint Information Center response. Kasey is now our PIO and Unit Lead for the Communications and Outreach Unit. She works with our outreach specialists to ensure that timely and accurate information is shared with the public and County agencies before, during, and after emergencies. Kasey is also responsible for managing media relations, social media, language access, and multimedia projects.

CERTIFIED EMERGENCY MANAGER (CEM)



Our Training and Exercise Coordinator, Briana Kracke, and Senior Planner, Joe Seborowski, were awarded their CEM designation while attending the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) conference. Earning the CEM acknowledges that they have both demonstrated an advanced understanding of core emergency management principles and have contributed to improving the emergency management field.

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

**COVID-19 HEALTH LINE
410-222-7256**

**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**



**Anne Arundel County
Office of Emergency
Management**

**7480 BALTIMORE ANNAPOLIS BLVD
GLEN BURNIE, MD 21061**

**PHONE: 410-222-0600
EMAIL: OEM@AACOUNTY.ORG
VISIT THE [OEM WEBSITE](#)**



**Sign up for emergency notifications at:
<https://alertannearundel.civically.com/>**



Facebook: [Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management](#)



Twitter: [aaco_oem](#)



Instagram: [annearundel_oem](#)



Nextdoor: [Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management](#)



YouTube: [Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management](#)



TikTok: [PepperThePreparednessPup](#)