

Emergency Preparedness: A Community Responsibility



*Brought to you by Worcester County Department
of Emergency Services*



Worcester County Department of Emergency Services

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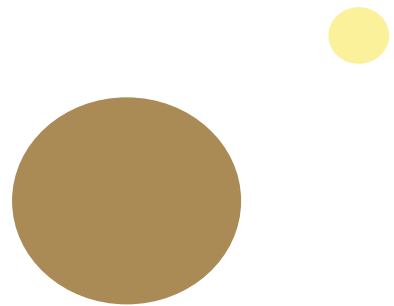




Preface

“All disasters begin and end at the local level. The federal government alone can’t always save the day. Ordinary citizens need to be prepared to be first responders; they need to have personal emergency plans. They need to be able to feed themselves for several days and they need to be ready to save neighbors in harm’s way. People need to be the help, before the help arrives”.

-Brock Long, Emergency Manager, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator 2017-2019



Introduction

You might be wondering what Emergency Preparedness is all about—why should we, as individuals, families, and a community, take these steps?

The Worcester County Department of Emergency Services has created this guide to address those questions, help you start preparing your home, and support our community in becoming more resilient in the face of disaster.

Please read this guide and implement the steps outlined to make your home and family more resilient. Your participation in our emergency preparedness efforts is crucial; planning now can save lives and property in the future. For further information on evacuation zones, emergency checklists, and more, please visit our website (<https://www.co.worcester.md.us/departments/emergency-services>).

As always, follow the instructions of your local public officials and stay tuned to local media for our emergency press releases and call-to-action messages.



We are available to provide additional emergency preparedness information and welcome invitations to make presentations to local groups or civic organizations. We can also display and distribute information at your events or activities. Please contact the Emergency Preparedness Manager at 410-632-3080 to schedule a display or presentation.

What is Emergency Preparedness?

Emergency Preparedness refers to the actions and plans that individuals, families, communities, and organizations undertake to effectively respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters.

It is a proactive approach that involves:

- Identifying Risks
- Planning
- Gathering Supplies
- Training and Education
- Communication
- Community Involvement
- Regular Updates



Why Prepare?

- Increase Safety: help to protect your family and yourself from harm during emergencies.
- For your peace of mind: Reduce anxiety by having a plan in place for unforeseen events.
- To Help Reduce Risk: minimize potential damage to your home and property.
- Quick Action: preparing in advance ensures quick and efficient action during crises.
- Build Community Resilience: help your community recover faster and stronger from disasters.
- Life and Property Preservation: preparing today can help to save lives and property in the future.
- Enable Effective Family Actions: creating clear and reliable plans with your loved ones now, helps establish actionable plans for when crises arise.
- Build Self-Reliance: by reducing dependency on external aid during the initial stages of a disaster. *Consider the impact of Hurricane Helene in western NC, it took more than a week for additional aid to reach some locations.*

By being prepared, you can significantly reduce the impact of emergencies on your life and help ensure the safety and well-being of your family and community.

“Because you never know when the day before ... is the day before. Prepare for tomorrow.”- Bobby Akart

*“We cannot stop natural disasters, but we can arm ourselves with knowledge: so many lives wouldn't have to be lost if there was enough disaster preparedness.”
-Petra Nemcova*

Identifying Risks

Understand your individual and community risks

When contemplating the potential hazards that could impact your area, consider events like natural disasters, technological accidents, and man-made threats.

- Worcester County is a low-lying coastal area. Our region includes developed areas with commerce, infrastructure, and high population density, as well as smaller communities, coastal and riverine waterways, open farmland, and natural forests.
- We have observed effects from hurricanes, tropical storms, flooding, nor'easters, tornadoes, blizzards, and extreme temperatures.
- Chemical production labs, storage facilities, and major transportation corridors also run through our community, transporting a variety of goods and materials.
- Our response agencies serve our year-round population of 52,460. That population easily swells to 400,000+ each summer.

Consider the resources that may (or may not be) available to your community.

- There are ten (10) volunteer fire companies spread throughout the county to include Pocomoke, Stockton, Girdletree, Snow Hill, Newark, Berlin, Showell, Bishopville, Ocean Pines, and West Ocean City. There is one career fire company within the county, and it is in the Town of Ocean City.
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Stations are in Pocomoke, Snow Hill, Newark, Berlin, Showell, Bishopville, Ocean Pines, West Ocean City and Ocean City proper. Medic Assist stations in Stockton and Girdletree are staffed with medical responders to assist in those areas.
- Several police agencies exist within our County to include the Pocomoke City Police Department, Snow Hill Police Department, Worcester County Sheriff's Office, Berlin Police Department, Ocean Pines Police Department, Ocean City Police Department, and Barrack "V" of the Maryland State Police.
- When disaster strikes, 911 services including Fire and Ambulance can quickly become inundated with calls for service. With most of the Fire Service in Worcester County being volunteers, not only will they be responding to your emergency, but may very well be dealing with their own emergency. Resources can be spread thin quickly. Through long-standing mutual aid agreements, resources from other areas can be brought in to help offset a rapid fluctuation in calls for service.
- It is strongly encouraged for homeowners and families to be prepared for a disaster, to help not only themselves, but neighbors until Emergency Responders can get to them.

Learn the location of the shelters in your area.

- Pocomoke High School (Pet Friendly)
- Snow Hill High School
- Stephen Decatur High School
- Stephen Decatur Middle School (Pet Friendly)

Planning

Develop an emergency plan tailored to meet the specific needs of your family. You should review and update this plan annually.

Include:

- Evacuation Routes
- Communication Strategies
- Procedures for various scenarios
- Emergency medical & contact info
- Emergency out of town contacts
- Contact information for everyone involved in your plan
- List medical providers, medications, and adaptive equipment used by you or your family



Gathering Supplies

Assemble an emergency kit for your home and a “go-bag” with essential items for when you need to leave.

Home Emergency Kit

- Water (1 gal/person/day)
- Food (at least 3-day supply of non-perishable foods/person)
- Manual can opener
- Battery powered flashlight
- First aid kit
- Whistle
- Dust masks
- Moist towelettes
- Wrench or pliers
- Plastic sheeting/tarps.
- Garbage bags
- Infant/baby formula, diapers etc.
- Pet supplies
- Clothing & bedding for each family member
- Personal hygiene items
- Matches
- Important documents



“Go Bag”

- Backpack/ bag
- Flashlight
- Bottled water
- Snacks
- Rain gear
- Blanket
- Phone cords/power banks
- Cash
- Prescription Medication
- Hygiene kits for each person
- Diapers/formula
- Pet supplies
- Pen & paper
- Whistle
- Radio
- Important paperwork





Stay Safe at Home

- Ensure your address is visible from the road in both directions, day and night, using 4-inch reflective numbers.
- Install at least one smoke detector and one CO detector on each level of your home and outside of all sleeping areas.
 - CO detectors should be installed on a wall & about 5 feet above the floor.
- Find the location of utility cut off valves and switches
- Identify as many exits as possible but at least two, from each room and from the building you are in
- Make a floor plan of your home
- Practice using different ways out
- Set a meeting spot with your family (e.g. your neighbors' driveway)
- Decide what type of assistance equipment you may need during evacuation
- Become familiar with the emergency or disaster evacuation plan for your office/school, or any other location you spend a lot of time
- Choose an alternate place to stay
- Have a care plan for your pet(s).



Put smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of your home, including the basement.





Training and Education

Learn important skills such as CPR and first aid.

- These courses are often offered locally through churches, recreation centers, and other civic organizations.

Educate yourself and others about what to do before, during, and after an emergency.

- Ready.gov is a great resource
- Request presentations or information sessions for your community groups from Worcester County Emergency Management Division by calling 410-632-3080.

Sign up for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training

- Currently being hosted by our emergency management partners with Ocean City Emergency Services.
- For more information, please visit <https://oceancitymd.gov/oc/departments/emergency-services/cert/>
Or call 410-723-6616



Emergency Communications

Reliable methods to stay informed

Emergency Alert System (EAS)

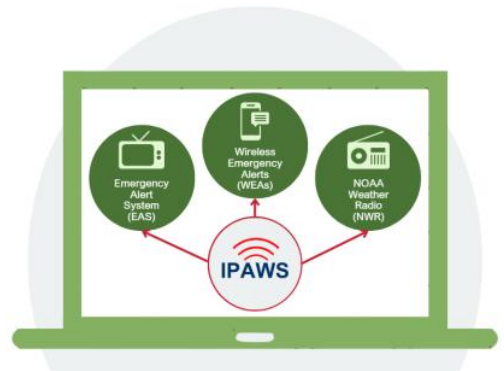
- Radio Stations and Television Stations broadcast the emergency message, you are probably familiar with the sound, it is tested weekly. Make sure to keep a battery powered radio to be able to receive these alerts in times of power failure.

Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)

- WEAs look like text messages but are designed to grab your attention with a unique vibration and sound that is repeated twice.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio

- The National Weather Service (NWS) activates these radios to warn of impending weather emergencies. They can also be activated at the request of local Emergency Services agencies for other severe emergencies.



Emergency Communications continued

Alert Sirens

- If the possibility of danger exists, your local fire siren could sound a steady two-minute blast. This alert means tune your radio or television to your local channel for information. These sirens are tested the first Saturday of every month, and the test last for approximately one minute.



CodeRED

- CodeRED is a cloud-based software solution that has been used by government agencies since 1998 to provide real-time, location based, targeted alerts that helps save lives in the community.



Remember to *plan* for how you will communicate with your loved ones during an emergency or disaster situation. Encourage loved ones to listen for information from reliable sources such as those listed here, their local public officials, and local news sources.



Community Involvement

• There are many ways to get involved in your community. Some of those include :

- Volunteering for local organizations such as churches, schools, food banks and other local non-profits.
- Participating in community events such as local fairs, clean-up days, and neighborhood meetings.
- Supporting the local economy by shopping local stores, dining at nearby restaurants, and using services from local providers.
- Joining a community group such as neighborhood watch programs, book clubs, advocacy groups. Community groups can provide an excellent platform for collaborative action.
- Attending Town/City Hall & Commissioner Meetings- your presence allows you to stay informed about local decisions and policies taking place.
- Meeting your neighbors. Everyone has something to offer whether it is a skill or an idea. By getting to know our neighbors, we can collaborate before emergencies or disasters occur, creating neighborhood preparedness plans, identifying vulnerable individuals, and planning for shared resources/tasks

• By getting involved in your community, you contribute to a more resilient, and socially connected place to live. Every action makes a difference. Go out, get involved, and be the change you want to see in your community!



Looking for an organization to volunteer with? Visit the Worcester County Volunteer Connection webpage at <https://worcestervolunteer.org/> Or scan the QR code to the left



Regular Updates

- It is important to review and update your emergency plan annually to ensure all the information is relevant and up to date.
- Practice your emergency plan with your family, neighbors, and anyone who may play a role in the plan to ensure it works as you had hoped.
- After you practice make changes as needed. Preparedness is an ongoing process; it is okay and encouraged to adjust your plan when you find areas that need improvement




Other Helpful Information

- Weather Emergencies.
- What's the difference between a watch and a warning?
- Wildfire.
- Man Made Disasters.
- Shelter in Place / Evacuate.
- Shelter information.
- Local phone numbers.

Watch Vs. Warning

When it comes to severe weather, it is important to know the difference between watches and warnings.

- **WATCH** – A weather event is possible. Watches are issued 12 to 36 hours in advance of an event.
- **WARNING** – A serious weather event is occurring or will occur soon. It is advised to take protective actions now.



What does it mean?

Warning	Watch	Advisory	Outlook
Weather hazard is occurring, imminent or likely	Risk of weather hazard in the near future	Weather hazard is occurring, imminent or likely	Risk of weather hazard in the next 7 days
Poses a threat to life/property	Could pose a threat to life/property	Could cause significant inconvenience	Could pose a threat to life/property
Take Protective Action	Have a Plan of Action	Use Caution	Prepare a Plan of Action

Watch Vs. Warning

...a Maryland Analogy

Watch Vs. Warning



Crab cake **WATCH**



Crab cake **WARNING**

Image Credit: Emily Allen, Maryland Emergency Management Association

- **WATCH:** "Ingredients" for severe weather are present but have not yet come together.
- **WARNING:** Threat for severe weather is imminent!

Flooding



- Residents in many areas of Worcester County are prone to flooding.
 - Flood waters can be deceptive because they hide road conditions.
 - Over half of flood related drownings, more than 50 per year, occur when someone drives into hazardous water.
 - It takes just 12 inches of rushing water to carry away most cars and just 2 feet of rushing water can carry away SUVs and trucks.
 - It is NEVER safe to drive into, walk into, or play in flood waters.
- *Flood waters are often contaminated with chemicals, bacteria, and even sewage.***

Hurricanes

Worcester County has not sustained a direct hit from a hurricane however we have sustained significant damage as these storms pass near toward our coast and westward toward the Chesapeake Bay.

Storm Surge poses the greatest threat to life.

Hurricane season is defined as being from June 1st-November 30th.

Preparations should be made in advance to secure your home, outside objects, and for the possibility of evacuation.

Visit the Emergency Services link on the county website to find your evacuation zone.

Know Your Zone



Find your zone



It's as easy as A-B-C

Nor'easters

A Nor'easter is a storm along the East Coast of North America, named because the winds over the coastal area are typically from the northeast. In Worcester County we experience Nor'easters annually, and often more than one a year, making these our most experienced type of coastal storm.

- These storms may occur at any time of year but are most frequent and most violent between September and April.
- In the US Nor'easters have been responsible for billions of dollars in damage, severe economic, transportation and human disruption, and some disastrous coastal flooding.
- They nearly always bring precipitation in the form of heavy rain or snow, as well as winds of gale force, rough seas, and, occasionally, coastal flooding
- Unlike hurricanes which typically span 300 miles, nor'easters often have diameters 3-4 times that size. The increased size means more coastline more and properties are at risk as the storm intensifies.
- **Nor'easters Aren't Taken Seriously Enough**
 - Nor'easters have the potential to cause massive amounts of damage but are often viewed as low-risk events. Combined with a lack of universal rating scales (such as the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale), data from nor'easters is rarely compiled.
- The infamous "Ash Wednesday" storm of March 1962 was a Nor'easter that caused widespread damage.



Thurston Jr., Walter C. , and Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury University. "Aerial Views of Ocean City after the Ash Wednesday Nor'easter Storm," Digital Maryland, Mar. 1962, collections.digitalmaryland.org/digital/collection/p17340coll8/id/672. Accessed 10 Mar. 2025.



Investigating a Ruin, Ocean City Storm, May 1962, A. Aubrey Bodine, Baltimore City Life Museum Collection, B498(4)M, MdHS.

Ash Wednesday Nor'easter

"Over the course of five days, the storm claimed more than 30 lives, left more than 1200 others injured, caused hundreds of millions of dollars in damages, and left countless homeless.

For the some 1500 residents of Ocean City, the storm was a nightmare. On the evening of March 5, residents were taking shelter from what they thought was a typical nor'easter, which generally move through an area fairly quickly. But this storm proved unique – it remained parked off the coast for some 36 hours. By the end of Tuesday, the winds had picked up and the protective dunes had been washed away by the first of what would be five high tides over the duration of the storm. At the storm's peak on March 7 – Ash Wednesday – the high tides were nearly nine and a half feet above average low tide." (*Ocean City: The Great March Storm of 1962, n.d.*)

Tornadoes



- Worcester County is not a high-risk area for tornadoes however; there have been seven confirmed tornadoes in Worcester County from 2000-2024.
- Tornadoes occur frequently after hurricanes or tropical storms pass by our area, especially with a track to our west and up the Chesapeake Bay.
- If a tornado WARNING is issued, (tornado has been sighted or radar indicated) protective actions should be immediately taken.
 - Move to a basement, interior room or hallway on the lowest floor.
 - Stay away from windows.
 - If in a vehicle, exit the vehicle immediately and lie flat in a ditch or depression.
 - Mobile homes offer little protection from tornadoes and should be abandoned immediately.

Know Where to Go

When Sheltering from a Tornado



Wildfire

A wildfire is an unplanned fire that burns in a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or prairie. Wildfires can ruin homes and cause injuries or death to people and animals.

Prepare Now

- Sign up for CodeRed
- Know your community's evacuation routes and find several ways to leave the area. Drive the evacuation routes and find the shelter locations.
- Have a plan for your pets and livestock.
- Gather emergency supplies including N95 respirator masks that filter out particles in the air you breathe.
- Keep in mind each person's specific needs including medication. Don't forget the needs of pets.
- Keep important documents in a fireproof safe & create password protected digital copies.
- Use fire-resistant materials to build, renovate, or make repairs.
- Find an outdoor water source with a hose that can reach any area of your property.
- Create a fire-resistant zone free of leaves, debris, or flammable materials.
- Review your insurance coverage.

Survive During

- Evacuate- leave immediately if authorities tell you to do so.
- If trapped, call 9-1-1 and give your location, but be aware that emergency response could be delayed or impossible. Turn on lights to help people find you.
- Listen to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio, or local alerting systems for current emergency information and instructions.
- Use an N95 masks to keep particles out of the air you breathe.

Be Safe After

- Listen to authorities to find out if it is safe to return and whether water is safe to drink.
- Avoid hot ash, charred trees, smoldering debris, and live embers. The ground may contain heat pockets that can burn you or spark another fire. Consider the danger to pets and livestock walking the ground.
- Send text messages or use social media to reach out to family and friends. Phone systems are often busy following a disaster. Make calls only in emergencies.
- Document property damage with photographs. Conduct an inventory and contact your insurance company for assistance.

Scan me for more info on the graphic



Protect Life & Property

- **Address:** Ensure your address is visible from the road in both directions, day and night, using 4-inch reflective numbers.
- **Access:** Clear your driveway to 12 feet wide and 14 feet high for emergency vehicle access
- **Yard:** Maintain a 30-foot-wide green, mowed lawn around your home.
- **Landscaping:** Use fire-resistant plants and mulches; avoid evergreens and ornamental grasses within 30 feet of the home. Space plants to prevent fire spread.
- **Firewood:** Store firewood at least 30 feet from buildings.
- **Maintenance:** Keep your roof, gutters, and yard free of flammable debris.
- **Decks:** Remove flammable debris under and around decks; enclose low decks with lattice and wire screen.
- **Foundation:** Remove flammable materials and keep plants at least 4 feet from the house. Avoid evergreen shrubs or ornamental grasses near the house.
- **House:** Use fire-resistant materials for siding and roofs when replacing them.
- **Outbuildings:** Include sheds and fences in fire safety measures.

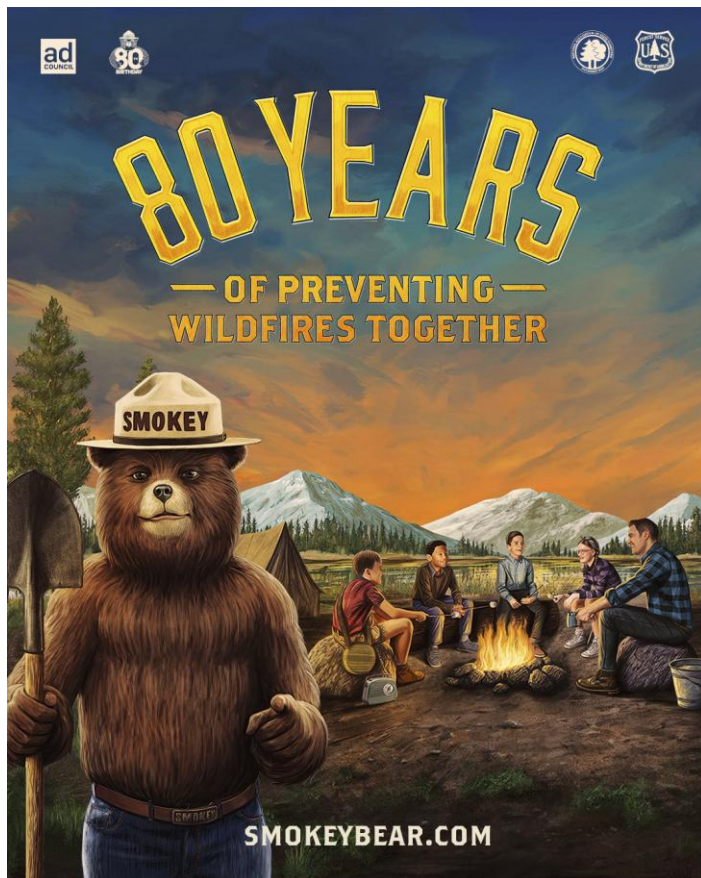


Did you know...

96% of all wildfires in Maryland are started by humans .

Remember Smokey Bear's Rules for Fire Prevention

1. Only you can prevent wildfires.
2. Always be careful with fire.
3. Never play with matches or lighters.
4. Always watch your campfire.
5. Make sure your campfire is completely out before leaving it.



Other Severe Weather

- Substantial snow fall or blizzards.
- Severe thunderstorms.
- Extreme heat/cold.
- All these events have the potential to cause loss of power or other services for several days, property damage, injury, or even death.
- It is important to monitor these events and follow the advice of public safety officials.
- Sign up for CodeRED to get severe weather alerts straight to your phone.



Scan the QR code to sign up for CodeRed today!

A promotional banner for CodeRED. The background is a dark, swirling storm with a lighthouse silhouette on the right. The CodeRED logo is in the top left, and the text 'Register for CodeRED Emergency Alerts Today' is centered. The ONSOLVE logo is in the bottom right.

CodeRED™

Register for CodeRED
Emergency Alerts Today

ONSOLVE™

Man Made Disasters

Terrorist Attacks

- Terrorism is defined as the use of force or violence against persons or property in violation of the criminal law of the United States for purposes of intimidation, coercion, or ransom.
- Terrorists employ threats to instill fear, undermine government authority, and gain immediate attention for their agendas.
 - High Risk Targets:
 - Military & civilian government facilities
 - International airports
 - Large cities
 - High profile landmarks
 - Public gatherings
 - Water/food sources
 - Utilities
 - Corporate centers
- In the immediate area of a terrorist event, you will need to rely on police, fire, and other officials for instructions, but you can prepare much in the same way you would for other crisis events:
 - Remain calm and patient.
 - Listen to your local Emergency Alert System stations.
- If disaster occurs near you, check for any injured (before rendering aid be sure that a victim is not contaminated).
 - If disaster occurs near your home, check for damage.
 - Shut off damaged utilities.

- Confine or secure your pets.
- Check on your neighbors.



Hazardous Materials Emergency

A sudden and unexpected release of any substance that because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics presents a direct and immediate threat to public safety or the environment and requires immediate action to mitigate the threat.

Depending on the situation, emergency personnel may ask you to shelter in place or evacuate.

Monitor your local Emergency Alert System (EAS) stations for the latest information and official instructions

If you are home-

Shelter in place until all clear is given.

If you are outside and cannot go indoors-

Stay upwind if possible and stay out of low-lying areas; or move crosswind so the wind blows from your left or right but not in your face or from behind.

In a chemical incident, you may be directed to leave and given specific route instructions. If no route is given, use the shortest path out of the area.



Photo by Travis Cowger, Pocomoke City Volunteer Fire Company



Identifying Suspicious Packages

- Inappropriate or unusual labeling
 - Excessive postage
 - Handwritten or poorly typed addressed
 - Misspelling of common words
 - Strange or no return address
 - Incorrect titles or title without a name
 - Not addressed to a specific person
 - Marked with restrictions such as “person confidential” or “Do Not X-Ray”.
 - Marked with threatening language
 - Postmarked from a city or state that does not match the return address.
- Appearance
 - Powdery substance felt through or appear on the package or envelope.
 - Oily stains, discoloration, or odor.
 - Lopsided or uneven envelope.
 - Excessive packaging material such as masking tape, string, etc.
- Other suspicious signs
 - Excessive weight
 - Ticking sound
 - Protruding wires or aluminum foil.

Suspicious or Unattended?
OFFICE FOR BOMBING PREVENTION

Criminals or terrorists sometimes conceal improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in backpacks, suitcases, or common items.

Use this process to safely determine if an item is a serious threat or just unattended.

Is it HOT?

Hidden	Obviously suspicious	not Typical
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Placed out of sight Appears purposely concealed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unexplainable wires or electronics Bomb-like components 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Out of place for the location Strangely related to a threat

YES Suspicious (Use R. A. I. N. (Continue to other side))
 NO Unattended (Treat with caution, Try to determine the owner, Report to an authority)

If an item is suspicious you should:

	R	Recognize the Indicators of a Suspected Explosive Device Indicators can be related to the characteristics, events, location, or time, including whether the item is Hidden, Obviously suspicious, or not Typical (HOT).
	A	Avoid the Area Don't touch the suspected item. Instead, immediately move and direct others to move away immediately.
	I	Isolate the Suspected Item Establish a perimeter to secure the area and continue to direct people away. Use frontal and overhead cover and if available wear personal protective equipment.
	N	Notify Appropriate Emergency Services Describe the Suspicious items and persons, the person's Actions, the Location of the item, the Time of placement and discovery, and Your actions to mitigate risk (SALTY).

If you **see something, say something**[®]
REPORT SUSPICIOUS ITEMS. Contact **local law enforcement** or **9-1-1** in case of emergency

DEFEND TODAY, SECURE TOMORROW

If You See Something, Say Something[®] used with permission of the NY Metropolitan Transportation Authority



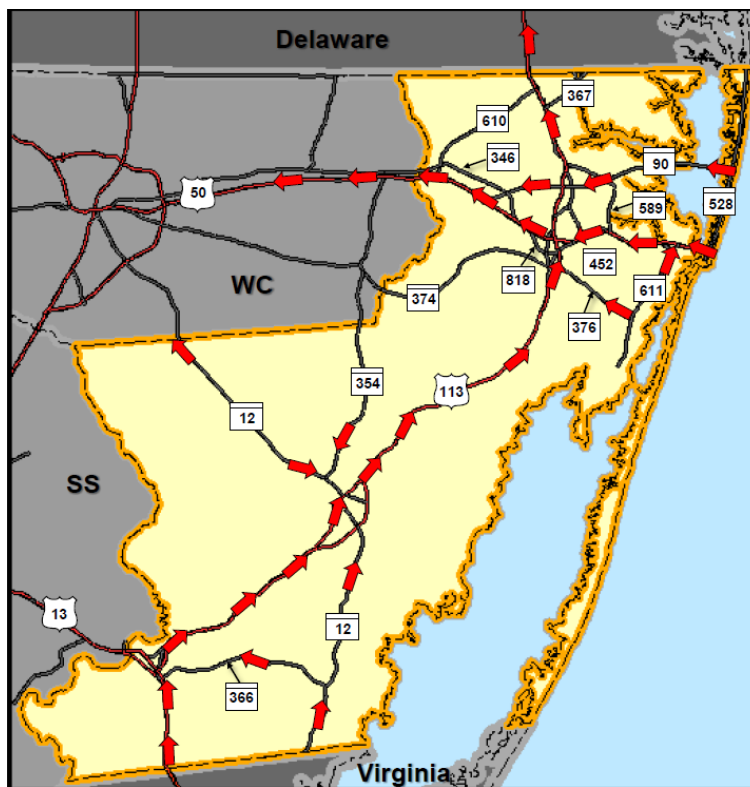
If a package or envelope appears suspicious, **DO NOT OPEN IT!**
Contact law enforcement or 911 for emergencies.



Shelter in Place

Shelter in place means finding a safe location indoors and staying there until you are given an “all clear” or told to evacuate.

- Bring your family and pets indoors.
- Close doors, windows, air vents and fireplace dampers.
- Turn off fans and HVAC systems
- Seal all windows, doors, and air vents with plastic sheeting and duct tape. Consider precutting the sheeting in advance of an emergency to save you time.
- Be prepared to improvise and use what you have on hand to seal gaps so that you can create a barrier between yourself and any contamination.
- Grab your emergency supply kit and move to an interior room with as few windows as possible.
- Local authorities may not immediately be able to provide information on what is happening and what you should do. However, you should watch TV, listen to the radio, or check the internet often for official news and instructions as they come available.



Primary evacuation routes pictured above are RT13 North, RT113 North, RT50 West and RT90 West

Evacuate

Depending on the situation you may decide on your own to leave your home, or there could be times where you are ordered to leave.

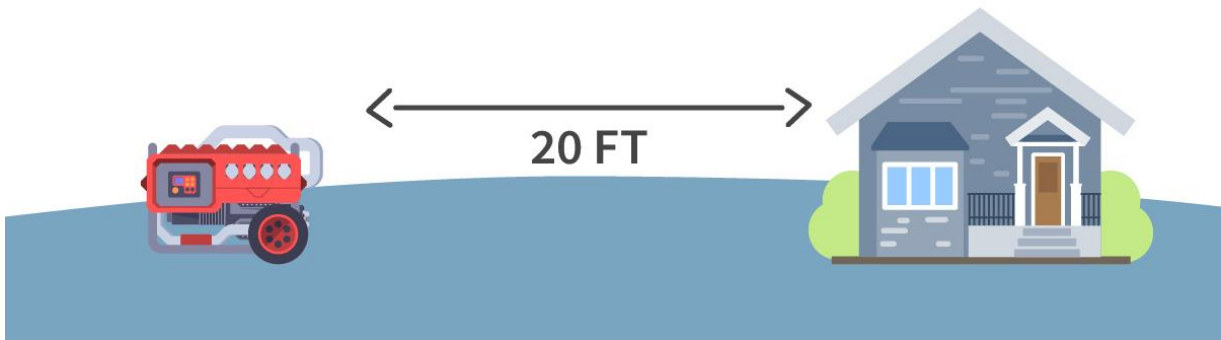
Create an evacuation plan

- Plan places that your family will meet both inside and outside of your immediate neighborhood.
- Become familiar with designated local shelters and alternate routes to them.
- If you do not drive, plan how you will leave.
- Always keep your car at $\frac{3}{4}$ tank.
- Take your emergency supply kit.
- Unplug electrical equipment such as radios, televisions and small appliances. Leave freezers and refrigerators plugged in unless there is a risk of flooding. If there is damage to your home and you are instructed to do so, shut off water, gas and electricity before leaving.
- Secure your home by closing and locking doors and windows.
- Take your pets but understand that not all shelters are pet friendly.
- Check with neighbors who may need a ride.
- Listen to a battery-powered radio and follow local evacuation instructions.
- Follow recommended evacuation routes. **Do not take shortcuts**, they may be blocked.
- Leave early enough to avoid being trapped by severe weather.
- Be alert for road hazards such as washed-out roads or bridges and downed power lines. Do not drive into flooded areas.
- If time allows: Call or email the out-of-state contact in your family communications plan. Tell them where you are going.
- Leave a note telling others when you left and where you are going.
- Wear sturdy shoes and clothing that provides some protection such as long pants, long-sleeved shirts and a hat.

Special Considerations: Electrical Outages

STAY SAFE.

NEVER USE GENERATOR INDOOR KEEP GENERATOR OUTSIDE.
AND AWAY FROM HOMES & GARAGES.



- Check to see if your neighbors have power.
- Turn off all major appliances.
- Use flashlights and battery powered lanterns. Candles and kerosene heaters present a fire hazard.
- Consider purchasing a portable emergency generator.
- Always keep your car fuel tank at least $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
- If you have a well, use alternate sources of water.
- Be prepared for gas appliances to be inoperable.
- Have a contingency plan for those with life support equipment.

Public Shelters

While Worcester County does have pre-designated emergency shelters, shelters should be used as the option of last resort. Unless it is unsafe to do so, the better option for you and your family is to evacuate to a friend or family members home outside of the threat area.

Worcester County shelters:

- Pocomoke High (pet friendly)
- Snow Hill High
- Stephen Decatur Middle (pet friendly)
- Stephen Decatur High

What to expect:

Mass care shelters provide life sustaining services to disaster survivors. Mass care shelters often provide water, food, medicine and basic sanitary facilities. Mass care sheltering can involve living with many people in a confined space, which can be difficult and unpleasant. All shelters accept service animals, but many public shelters and hotels do not allow pets inside. Know a safe place where you can take your pets before disasters and emergencies happen.

What to Bring:

- food and water (non-perishable)
- medications (prescription and over-the-counter)
- chargers
- change of clothes
- personal hygiene items
- flashlight with extra batteries
- battery-powered radio
- important documents (IDs, insurance cards)
- blankets or sleeping bags
- any necessary items for infants or people with special needs

What **NOT** to Bring:

- Alcohol
- Drugs & other illegal substances
- weapons of any kind
- loud electronics
- cigarettes/lighters
- Pets to a non-pet shelter (except service animals)
- large amounts of personal belongings
- flammable items
- anything that could disrupt the safety or comfort of other shelter occupants

Contact Information

For emergencies call 911

Local Agencies

Contact	Address	Phone Number
Town of Berlin	10 Williams St, Berlin	410-641-2770
Town of Ocean City	301 N. Baltimore Ave, Ocean City	410-289-8221
Emergency Svc.	6501 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City	410-723-6616
Ocean Pines Association	239 Ocean Pkwy, Berlin	410-641-7717
City of Pocomoke	101 Clarke Ave, Pocomoke	410-957-1333
Town of Snow Hill	103 Bank St, Snow Hill	410-632-2080

County and Support Agencies

Contact		Phone Number
Emergency Information Hotline		410-632-2751
Choptank Electric	Outages	800-410-4790
Delmarva Power	Outages	800-897-8042
Chesapeake Utilities/Sandpiper Energy	Outages	410-524-7060
Life Crisis Center	24hr Line	410-749-HELP(4357)
Worcester County	Animal Control	410-632-1340
	Commission on Aging	410-632-1277
	Board of Education	410-632-5000
	Commissioner's Office	410-632-1194
	Emergency Services (24HR)	410-632-1311
	Fire Marshal's Office	410-632-5666
	Health Department	410-632-1100
	Sheriff's Office	410-632-1111
	Social Services	410-677-6800
Worcester County Public Works	Roads Division	410-632-2244
	Solid Waste	410-632-2177
	Wastewater	410-632-1111



Be Ready! - Emergency Checklist

In an emergency, keep these items in a sturdy, easy-to-carry container
- for example, a duffle bag or a plastic container.

- Water**
 - One gallon per person per day (two quarts for drinking, two quarts for food preparation and sanitation) for three days.
 - Three-day supply for each person
 - Store in plastic containers (clean plastic bottles with screw caps).
- Food** (Don't forget a non-electric can opener)
 - Ready-to-eat canned meat, fruits and vegetables
 - Canned juices, milk and soup
 - High-energy snacks (crackers, trail mix, granola bars, peanut butter, etc.)
 - Comfort foods (cookies, candy, hot chocolate, tea bags, instant coffee)
- Prescription medicines**
- First aid kit** (including non-prescription drugs like pain relievers)
- Flashlight and extra batteries**
- Portable radio and extra batteries**
- Cash** (bills and coins)
- Important family documents**
- Sturdy clothing** (and a change of clothing), **rain gear and bedding**, (blankets, sleeping bags)
- Small tool kit**
- Bathroom supplies** (toilet paper, soap, personal hygiene items)

NOAA Weather Radio

Salisbury 162.475

Emergency Alert System Stations

Radio: WQHQ-FM 104.7 - WSCL-FM 89.5 - WQJZ-FM 97.1 - WRDE-FM 103.9
TV: WBOC-TV 16 (Cable Channel 6) - WMDT-TV 47 (Cable Channel 7)
WRDE-TV Cable Channel 9

IN AN EMERGENCY - CALL 911

WORCESTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



Family Communication Plan

Emergencies can happen at any time. Does your family know how to get in touch with each other if you are not all together?

Before an emergency happens, have a family discussion to determine who would be your out-of-state point of contact, and where you would meet away from your home — both in the neighborhood and within your town.

Let them know you're OK!

Pick the same person for each family member to contact. It might be easier to reach someone who's out of town.

Important Information

Fill in this information and keep a copy in a safe place, such as your purse or briefcase, your car, your office, and your disaster kit. Be sure to look it over every year and keep it up to date.

Out-of-Town Contact

Name: _____
Home: _____
Cell: _____
Email: _____
Facebook: _____
Twitter: _____

Neighborhood Meeting Place:

Regional Meeting Place:

Work Information

Workplace: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Facebook: _____
Twitter: _____
Evacuation Location: _____

Workplace: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Facebook: _____
Twitter: _____
Evacuation Location: _____

School Information

School: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Facebook: _____
Twitter: _____
Evacuation Location: _____

School: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Facebook: _____
Twitter: _____
Evacuation Location: _____

School: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Facebook: _____
Twitter: _____
Evacuation Location: _____



<http://www.ready.gov/kids>

Family Information

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Social Security Number: _____

Important Medical Information: _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Social Security Number: _____

Important Medical Information: _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Social Security Number: _____

Important Medical Information: _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Social Security Number: _____

Important Medical Information: _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Social Security Number: _____

Important Medical Information: _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Social Security Number: _____

Important Medical Information: _____

Medical Contacts

Doctor: _____

Phone: _____

Doctor: _____

Phone: _____

Pediatrician: _____

Phone: _____

Dentist: _____

Phone: _____

Dentist: _____

Phone: _____

Specialist: _____

Phone: _____

Specialist: _____

Phone: _____

Pharmacist: _____

Phone: _____

Veterinarian/Kennel: _____

Phone: _____

Insurance Information

Medical Insurance: _____

Phone: _____

Policy Number: _____

Homeowners/Rental Insurance: _____

Phone: _____

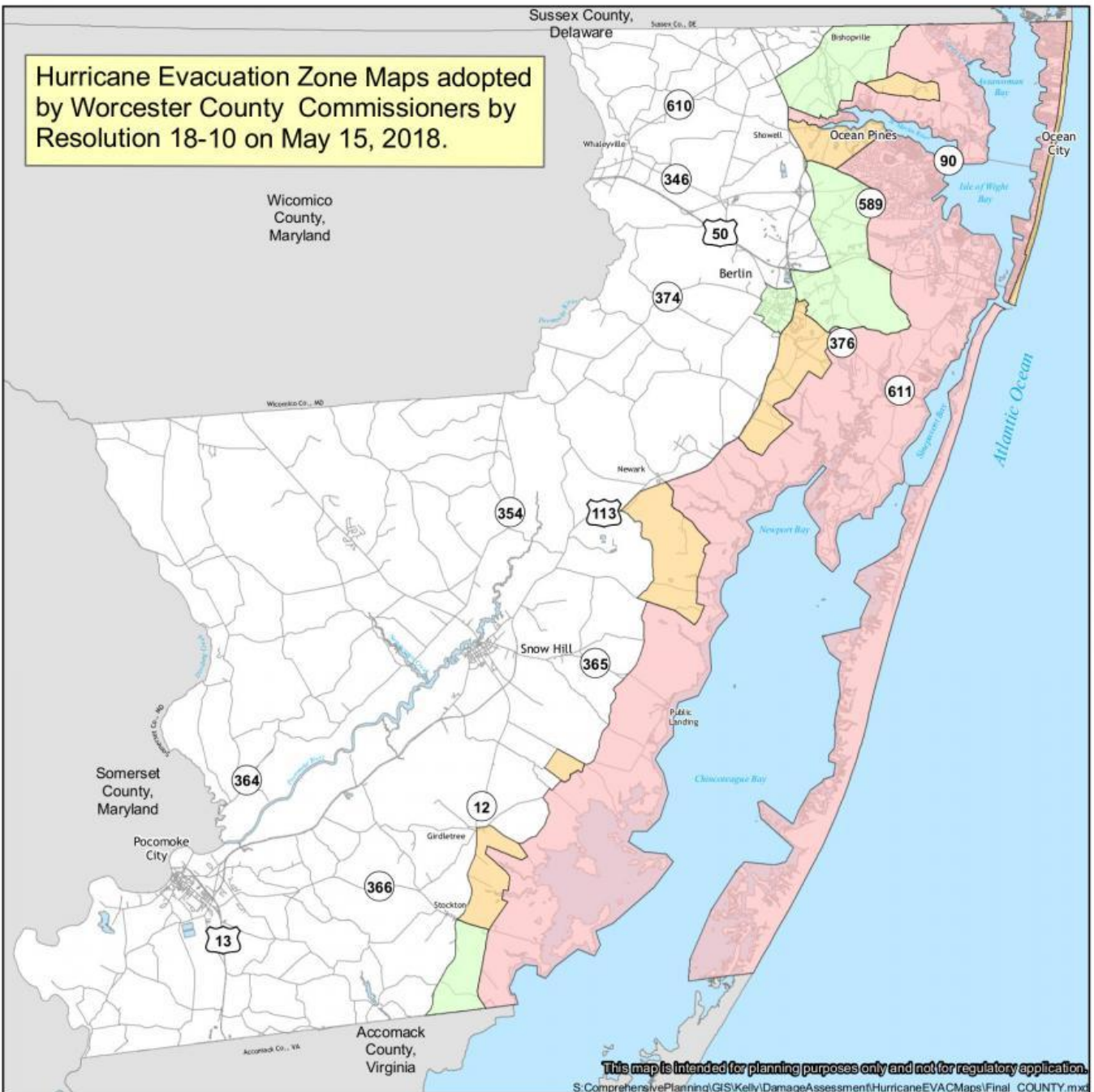
Policy Number: _____

Text, don't talk!

Unless you are in danger, send a text. Texts may have an easier time getting through than phone calls, and you don't want to tie up phone lines needed by emergency workers.



Hurricane Evacuation Zone Maps adopted by Worcester County Commissioners by Resolution 18-10 on May 15, 2018.



This map is intended for planning purposes only and not for regulatory application.
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Worcester County, Maryland Hurricane Evacuation Zones

Department of Development Review and Permitting
 Technical Services Division - May 2018



- Zone A
- Zone B
- Zone C

Zone	Wind Direction and Storm Category
A	All Category 1; NE2; NNE2; N3
B	N2; NNW2; NW2; PAR2; WNW2; NNE3; NNE4; NE4
C	N3; NNW3, NW3; PAR3; WNW3; N4; NNW4; NW4; PAR4; WNW4

N=North, E= East, W= West, and PAR = Parallel

MARYLAND'S Coast WORCESTER COUNTY

For more information visit:

co.worcester.md.us/departments/emergency-services

oceancitymd.gov/oc/departments/emergency-services/cert/

Weather.gov

Ready.gov

Call 410-632-3080 to schedule presentations to
your group.



Special thanks to:

The Worcester County Commissioners

President, Theodore “Ted” Elder- District 4

Vice President, Eric Fiori- District 3

Caryn Abbott- District 1

Diana Purnell- District 2

Anthony “Chip” Bertino- District 5

Madison J. Bunting- District 6

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Deputy Fire Marshal, Chris Vieira

Fire Marshal, Matt Owens

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