



## FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

### DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Department of Emergency Preparedness

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# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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## September Is National Preparedness Month *Prepared Not Scared*

FREDERICK, MD – The Frederick County Division of Emergency Management, along with its preparedness partners, announces that September is National Preparedness Month. Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner kicked-off the month with a proclamation at an August 27 [ceremony at Winchester Hall](#).

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. This year's focus will be on planning with an overall theme: "Prepared Not Scared." Each week will have its own unique theme:

### 2019 Weekly Themes

- Week 1: Sept 1-7                      Save Early for Disaster Costs
- Week 2: Sept 8-14                    Make a Plan to Prepare for Disasters
- Week 3: Sept 15-21                 Teach Youth to Prepare for Disasters
- Week 4: Sept 22-30                 Get Involved in Your Communities Preparedness

The Save Early for Disasters Costs theme is about financial preparedness. This includes ensuring appropriate insurance coverage to reduce the impact of disaster on private and public structures. The National Flood Insurance Program provides affordable insurance to property owners, renters and businesses, more information can be found at: [www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program](http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program).

In support of the week two theme, Make a Plan to Prepare for Disasters, Frederick County Emergency Responders will conduct a free community preparedness seminar on September 14, 2019 from 7:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Public Safety Training Facility, 5370 Public Safety Place, Frederick. Attendance will be restricted to the first 80 registrants and will be closed on September 9, 2019.

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Training will include Preparedness planning, Civilian Response to Active Shooter Event, Stop the Bleed, CPR (non-certificate class) and Naloxone/Narcan© overdose training. Registration is being conducted through Eventbrite.com for Sept. 14 training at [www.tinyurl.com/EmergencyPreparednessSept2019](http://www.tinyurl.com/EmergencyPreparednessSept2019).

On August 21, 2019, Frederick County Emergency Response partners sponsored Emergency Preparedness Night at the Keys game to provide education materials to children and families to prepare for disasters as part of our preparations for National Preparedness Month. The Frederick County Sheriff's Office, Frederick County Department of Fire & Rescue, Frederick County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association, Frederick County Health Department, Frederick County Emergency Management, Frederick Police Department, Frederick Community College Mid-Atlantic Center for Emergency Management and Maryland State Police Department displayed equipment and provided information to the public.

The final week theme is get involved with community preparedness. The Local Emergency Planning Committee will meet at 7 p.m. on September 16, 2019 at Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, and provide an opportunity for the public to view the meeting on FCG TV. In addition, the Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters and Citizen Corps Committee will meet 7 p.m. on September 10, 2019 at American Legion Post #11, 1450 Taney Avenue, Frederick.

Frederick County Emergency Management and preparedness partners encourage 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 communities that are more resilient by working with our families, friends, and co-workers on how to better protect themselves by reviewing their preparedness plans, updating their disaster supply kits, checking that they have appropriate insurance coverage 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 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.

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### **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.

### **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 (visit [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/roadsclosed](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/roadsclosed)).
- 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 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 [www.facebook.com/FCGMDDDEM](http://www.facebook.com/FCGMDDDEM) and follow us on Twitter [www.twitter.com/FCG\\_DEM](http://www.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 and 1085, Frederick County Public Schools cable channel 18, municipal government cable channel 99 (where available) and WDVM 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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