

OEM

# CITY OF FAIRFAX

## OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FALL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2 • OCTOBER 2024



## CITY OF FAIRFAX OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

[#ReadyCityofFairfax](#)

Emergency management protects the community by coordinating and integrating all activities necessary to build, sustain, and improve the capability to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from threatened or actual natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other man-made disaster.

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OEM  
FALL EDITION  
NEWSLETTER

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# CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

Be Prepared!

October is Cybersecurity Month! Learn ways on how you can protect yourself and reduce your cyber risk.

Cyberattacks are malicious attempts to access or damage a computer or network system. Cyberattacks can lead to the loss of money or the theft of personal, financial and medical information. These attacks can damage your reputation and safety.

Cybersecurity involves preventing, detecting and responding to those cyberattacks that can have wide-ranging effects on individuals, organizations, the community and the nation.



- Use a Strong Password
- Turn on Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)
- Recognize and Report Phishing
- Update Your Software

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY OF FAIRFAX IT OFFICE:

#Cybersecurity



October is **Cybersecurity Awareness Month**, when we emphasize the value of cybersecurity and the precautions we can take to stay safe online. As technology continues to advance, so do the tactics used by cybercriminals and fraudsters.

**Why This Is Important:** Everyone needs cybersecurity, including companies, governments and private citizens. One data breach has the potential to cause reputational harm, financial loss and identity theft. We may lessen these hazards by continuing to be aware and watchful.

### How You Can Take Part

**Keep Yourself Informed.** Learn about prevalent cyberthreats such as malware, ransomware, phishing and smishing. These attacks use emails or messaging services to trick the user into taking an action, such as opening an infected email attachment or clicking a malicious link.

**Practice Safe Browsing.** Use strong and long, one-of-a-kind passwords with a combination of upper- and lowercase letters, numbers and special characters (such as # @ ! or \*). Also change your password often. If feasible, use two-factor authentication (also called two-step verification) to help you browse safely.

**Think Before You Click.** When opening attachments or links in emails or messages from unfamiliar senders, use caution. Don't reveal personal or financial information in emails and don't respond to email solicitations for this information. Be suspicious of any emails or texts asking you to check or renew a password or login credentials, even if they seem to come from a trusted source.

**Safeguard Your Devices.** Use antivirus software and make sure your software is up-to-date. Don't leave your devices unattended or in vehicles and never install apps or software from an unknown developer.



# THE GREAT SHAKEOUT

Stay Alert!

JOIN THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
OFFICE

ON OCTOBER 17th at 10:17 AM

IN PARTICIPATING IN THE WORLDS  
LARGEST EARTHQUAKE DRILL!

REGISTER NOW AT:  
[WWW.SHAKEOUT.ORG](http://WWW.SHAKEOUT.ORG)



## Get Ready to Shake Out.



October 17, 2024

Shake Out

Register at [ShakeOut.org](http://ShakeOut.org)

## City of Fairfax Earthquake Safety Checklist



### Earthquake Preparedness

- ☐ Determine safe places in your home, workplace, and/or school. A safe place could be a doorway, small closet, under a piece of heavy furniture or against an interior wall.
- ☐ If you do not have sturdy furniture to hold on to, sit on the floor next to an interior wall and cover your head and neck with your arms. Danger spots include windows, near hanging objects, mirrors, fireplaces, and tall unsecured pieces of furniture.
- ☐ If you are inside during an earthquake, drop, cover, and hold on. Move as little as possible.
- ☐ Stay indoors during an earthquake until the shaking stops and you are sure it is safe to exit.
- ☐ When leaving a building, use stairs instead of elevators.
- ☐ Learn how to shut off the gas valves in your home and keep a wrench handy for that purpose. Do not shut off gas unless an emergency exists. If gas is ever turned off, a professional must restore it.
- ☐ Keep and maintain an emergency supplies kit in an easy-to-access location.
- ☐ If you are outside during an earthquake, find a clear spot and drop to the ground. Stay away from buildings, power lines, trees, streetlights, etc. and stay there until the shaking stops.
- ☐ If you are in a vehicle during an earthquake, pull over to a clear location and stop. Avoid bridges, overpasses, and power lines if possible. Keep your seatbelt on.
- ☐ After an earthquake, expect and prepare for potential aftershocks which may occur minutes, days, weeks, and even months following an earthquake.
- ☐ Check yourself for injuries.
- ☐ Look quickly for damage in and around your home and get everyone out if your home is unsafe.
- ☐ Listen to a portable, battery-operated or hand-crank radio for updated emergency information and instructions.
- ☐ Look for and extinguish small fires. Fire is the most common hazard after an earthquake.
- ☐ Open closet and cabinet doors carefully as contents may have shifted.
- ☐ Stay out of damaged buildings.
- ☐ Return to buildings only when authorities say it is safe.
- ☐ Be careful when driving and anticipate traffic light outages.
- ☐ Do not evacuate into a street or roadway as vehicles sometimes do not know an earthquake is happening and will not expect you entering the roadway.

## PREPARING FOR AN EARTHQUAKE

#Earthquakesafety

Why is it important to do a Drop, Cover, and Hold On drill? To react quickly you must practice often. You may only have seconds to protect yourself in an earthquake, before strong shaking knocks you down--or drops something on you. Practicing helps you be ready to respond.



# HALLOWEEN

## SAFETY TIPS!

#HalloweenSafety



Know the route your kids will be taking if you aren't going with them. Let them know that they are to check in with you every hour, by phone or by stopping back at home. Make sure that they know not to deviate from the planned route so that you always know where they will be.



Trick or treating isn't what it used to be. It is best to make sure that an adult is going with them. If you can't take them yourself, see if another parent you know can go with them.



Teach your kids about not getting into strangers cars or talking to strangers, no matter what the person says to them. Explain to them as simply as you can that some adults are bad and want to hurt children, that they should never go into a house that they don't know, get into a car or go anywhere with a stranger. Also, tell them what to do should this happen, to scream as loud as they can to draw attention and to run away as fast as they can to someplace safe.



Provide children with flashlights or glow sticks to carry, or add reflective tape or material to their costumes.



Make sure you set a time that your kids should be home by. Make sure they know how important it is for them to be home on time or to call immediately if something happens and they are going to be delayed.



Happy Halloween!

# COLD WEATHER

#WinterReady

Now that the summer months have come and gone. Are you ready for the cold winter weather? Does your emergency kit have the essentials for cold weather? Now, is a good time to check those emergency kits and be prepared, have a plan so you don't let a winter storm take you by surprise! Here are some tips to help you get started.

- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio and portable radio to receive emergency information
- Extra food and water such as dried fruit, nuts, granola bars and other food requiring no cooking or refrigeration.
- Extra prescription medicine
- Baby items such as diapers and formula
- First-aid supplies
- Heating fuel: refuel before you are empty; fuel carriers may not reach you for days after a winter storm
- Emergency heat source: fireplace, wood stove or space heater properly ventilated to prevent a fire
- Fire extinguisher, smoke alarm; test smoke alarms monthly to ensure they work properly
- Extra pet food and warm shelter for pets
- Never run a generator in an enclosed space
- Make sure your carbon monoxide detector is working correctly and that the outside vent is clear of leaves and debris. During or after the storm, make sure it is cleared of snow.
- Home fires are common each winter when trying to stay warm. Review ways to keep your home and loved ones safe.



## City of Fairfax Winter Weather Safety Checklist



### Winter Weather Advisory

- Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. Typically for 2-4 inches of snow accumulation.

### Winter Storm Watch

- Winter storm conditions with significant accumulation are possible within the next 36 to 48 hours.
- Monitor NOAA Weather Radio or local radio/TV weather broadcasts and be prepared to take protective measures should a warning be issued.
- Review your family disaster plan.
- Make sure you have disaster supply kits available
  - For information on how to build a kit visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/EM/EM.asp](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/EM/EM.asp)
- Dress in several layers of lightweight clothing, wear gloves and a hat.
- Take preventive measures and use salt, rock salt, sand, or non-clumping kitty litter to make walkways and steps less slippery
- Locate snow shovels or snow removal equipment.
- Winterize vehicles and keep the gas tank full to avoid fuel line from freezing.
- Make sure heating sources are in good condition and ventilation systems are adequate to avoid carbon monoxide exposure.

- Continue to monitor your NOAA Weather Radio or local radio/TV weather broadcasts for updated information.

### Winter Storm Warning

- Life-threatening, severe winter conditions have begun or will begin within 24 hours in the warning area.
- Be prepared to take protective measures immediately and seek shelter if needed.
- If traveling, avoid traveling at night, keep on main roads, and advise other people of your traveling schedule.
- Before tackling strenuous tasks in cold temperatures, consider your physical condition, the weather factors, and the nature of the task.
- If power or heat is lost during periods of extreme cold seek alternate shelter.
- Continue to monitor your NOAA Weather Radio or local/TV weather broadcasts for updated information.

## WINTERIZE Your Home



Your home isn't the only one that can be winterized.  
Your neighbors and those most vulnerable might need your help too!

weather.gov NOAA



For more information on disaster and emergency preparedness,  
visit <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/emergency-management>





# 2024 OEM PREPAREDNESS EXPO

#Preparedness

September was the month of national preparedness. The City of Fairfax Office of Emergency Management teamed up with Fairfax County Department of Emergency Management and Security for their second annual Preparedness Fair on September 8th. Many vendors across the City and County attended the fair and brought some great information, handouts, giveaways and tips on how to be preparedness for an emergency.

The City and County are looking forward to next years Preparedness Fair in September and we hope to see you there!



# 2024 PREPAREDNESS CALENDAR

**JAN'  
24**

**RESOLVE TO BE READY**

#WINTERREADY

**NATIONAL CANNED FOOD MONTH**

#WINTERREADY

**FEB  
'24**

**MAR  
'24**

**SEVERE WEATHER MONTH**

#FLOODSAFETY

**NATIONAL FINANCIAL  
CAPABILITY MONTH**

#SAFEPLACESELFIEDAY

**APR  
'24**

**MAY  
'24**

**NATIONAL HURRICANE  
PREPAREDNESS**

**PET PREPAREDNESS MONTH**

#SUMMERREADY

**JUNE  
'24**

**JULY  
'24**

**FIREWORKS SAFETY**

#SUMMERREADY

**CHILDREN & YOUTH  
PREPAREDNESS**

#SUMMERREADY

**AUG  
'24**

**SEP  
'24**

**NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS  
MONTH**

**CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS  
MONTH/GREAT SHAKEOUT  
EARTHQUAKE DRILLS**

**OCT  
'24**

**NOV  
'24**

**THANKSGIVING COOKING  
SAFETY**

#WINTERREADY

**RESOLVE TO BE READY**

#WINTERREADY

**DEC  
'24**

The City of Fairfax is committed to the letter and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This document will be made available in alternate format upon request. Call 703 385-4856



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<https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/emergency-management>