



CITY OF FAIRFAX

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FALL NEWSLETTER

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CITY OF FAIRFAX OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

[#ReadyCityofFairfax](https://www.instagram.com/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 SUMMER EDITION NEWSLETTER

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HOME PREPAREDNESS

Prepare your home for the upcoming season change:

- **Clean gutters:** Remove leaves and debris to prevent water backup and ice dams.
- **Inspect the roof:** Check for loose or damaged shingles and look for eave stains indicating leaks.
- **Seal gaps:** Check door and window seals, and repair or replace worn weather stripping.
- **Service heating:** Have your fireplace and chimney inspected before the first use.



LADDER SAFETY

Ladder Safety DOs:

- Maintain a 3-point contact (two hands and a foot, or two feet and a hand) when climbing/descending a ladder.
- Face the ladder when climbing or descending.
- Keep the body inside the side rails.
- Use extra care when getting on or off the ladder at the top or bottom.
- Avoid tipping the ladder over sideways or causing the ladder base to slide out.
- Carry tools in a tool belt or raise tools up using a hand line. Never carry tools in your hands while climbing up/down a ladder.
- Extend the top of the ladder three feet above the landing.
- Keep ladders free of any slippery materials.

Ladder Safety DON'Ts:

- Place a ladder on boxes, barrels, or unstable bases.
- Use a ladder on soft ground or unstable footing.
- Exceed the ladder's maximum load rating.
- Tie two ladders together to make them longer.
- Ignore nearby overhead power lines.
- Move or shift a ladder with a person or equipment on the ladder.
- Lean out beyond the ladder's side rails.
- Use an extension ladder horizontally like a platform.



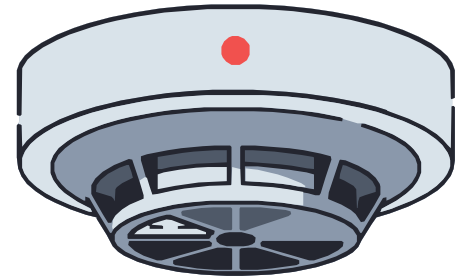
How to Test Your Smoke Detectors

Testing:

- Warn household members: Let everyone know you are testing the alarm so the loud siren does not scare children.
- Press and hold the test button: Locate the test button on the device and hold it for a few seconds until a loud, piercing siren sounds.
- Check the sound level: Make sure the alarm is loud enough to be heard clearly in all sleeping areas and distant rooms.
- Inspect for dust and debris: Keep the cover clean and make sure nothing blocks the sensor grates.

Maintenance and Replacement Best Practices:

- Replace batteries regularly: Change the batteries at least once or twice a year, or use the daylight saving time schedule as a reminder.
- Address chirping immediately: A regular chirping sound means the battery is low and needs immediate replacement.
- Know the 10-year rule: Replace the entire smoke detector unit every 10 years from the manufacture date, or sooner if it fails a test.
- Verify hardwired units: If a hardwired alarm does not sound during a test and has fresh backup power, contact a professional to check the wiring.



Ask the City of Fairfax Fire Department if you need assistance checking your smoke detectors

Building an Emergency Kit

To assemble your kit store items in airtight plastic bags and put your entire disaster supplies kit in one or two easy-to-carry containers such as plastic bins or a duffel bag. A basic emergency supply kit could include the following recommended items:

- Water (one gallon per person per day for several days, for drinking and sanitation)
- Food (at least a several-day supply of non-perishable food)
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert
- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Extra batteries
- Whistle (to signal for help)
- Dust mask (to help filter contaminated air)
- Plastic sheeting, scissors and duct tape (to shelter in place)
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties (for personal sanitation)
- Wrench or pliers (to turn off utilities)
- Manual can opener (for food)
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery



THE READY FAIRFAX CITY CHALLENGE

You have 60 seconds: can you find a flashlight in your home? Go check now, then make sure it works and put it somewhere you can reach easily during a power outage. If you couldn't find one, or the batteries are dead, add a flashlight or fresh batteries to your shopping list.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES IN FAIRFAX



Nov 11 -Veterans Day - City Services May Be Affected



Nov 21/22 - 40th Annual Holiday Craft Show- 3501 Lion Run, 22030

OEM IN ACTION!

On August 27, the City of Fairfax conducted a hurricane tabletop exercise to familiarize new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staff with the processes used to activate, operate, and demobilize the EOC. Participants discussed EOC roles, staffing, operational coordination, information sharing, sheltering, financial documentation, and the systems and products needed to support City leadership during an emergency.



NATIONAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS Month

Each September, FEMA's Ready Campaign celebrates National Preparedness Month. Since 2004, the campaign has taken the month to encourage Americans to prepare for emergencies. The month is a great time to take small steps to make a big difference in being prepared.

This year's theme is, "Americans Stand Ready."

Throughout the month of September, the Ready Campaign will share easy, affordable steps to take to stand ready, no matter what comes. Tips include:

- Be in the know. Make sure you know where to get information when you need it most. Download the [FEMA App](#) to get emergency safety alerts and resources.
- Make a plan to keep you and your family safe and prepared. The plan should include emergency contact information, emergency meeting places and medical information.
- Build a kit with the essential items your family needs to stay safe and comfortable if something happens.
- Be there for your community. From volunteering in your community to learning skills like first aid and CPR, you can take steps to prepare for disasters and keep your family safe and make your neighborhood and community more resilient. Take a training course through [FEMA's Training and Education Program](#), the [American Red Cross](#), or your local emergency management agency to build or gain skills to protect yourself, family, friends and community.