

# All Hazards Community Workshop

*Calvert County Department of Public Safety  
Division of Emergency Management*

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# Why Prepare?

- It is best to be prepared for any type of emergency, as an emergency by definition does not leave us time to prepare and react.
- Preparing helps to keep family members calm by having a comprehensive plan that everyone understands.
- Preparing reduces the risk of an emergency turning into a disaster for your family.

# Step 1 – Build a Kit

- Plan now for what your family may need during an emergency.
- Plan to be without help for up to 72 hours.
- You may already have emergency kit items on hand; you just have to gather it in one place.

# The Kit

- Water: one gallon per person per day; extra water for pets
- Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits, vegetables and a can opener
- Protein or fruit bars, dry cereal or granola, peanut butter
- Nuts, crackers
- Canned juices, non-perishable pasteurized milk
- High-energy foods
- Food, formula, diapers for infants
- Comfort/stress foods
- Matches in a waterproof container

# The Kit continued

- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio and a NOAA weather radio; extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries, glow sticks
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter in place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger

# The Kit continued

- Cold weather clothing – jackets, long-sleeve shirts and pants, sturdy shoes
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- Prescription medications and eye glasses
- Pet food
- Cash or traveler's checks and change
- Important family documents
- Paper and pencil, books, games, puzzles

# First Aid

- Keep basic first aid supplies on hand to address minor injuries.
- Consider taking a first aid class

# Kit Maintenance

- Change stored food and water supplies every six months. Be sure to write the date you store it on all containers.
- Re-think your needs every year and update your kit as your family's needs change.
- Keep items in airtight plastic bags and put your supplies in easy-to-carry containers.

# Step 2 – Plan

- Consider what your family will do in an emergency.
  - What happens if you are apart during an emergency?
  - Who is your out-of-town contact?
  - Who is able to take the kids until you are able to be reunited?
  - What about your elderly or special needs family members?

# Step 2 continued

- How do you get out of a burning house and where do you go?
- Where will you go if evacuated?
- Where will you take the family pets?
- What are your daycare provider's emergency plans?
- What are the emergency plans at your child's school?

# Step 3 – I.C.E.

- All family members should carry *In Case of Emergency* cards/information at all times.
- This information should contain the person's name, emergency contact name and telephone numbers, medical conditions, allergies and medicines taken and date of birth.
- I.C.E. information should also include out-of-town contacts and rendezvous information.
- Put cards in backpacks, purses and wallets; in cars with insurance and registration information; and...
- STORE I.C.E. on cell phones.

# Step 4 - Communication

- Cell phones tend to get jammed during large emergencies. This is when out-of-town contacts are key. They can relay messages about your safety to other family members and assist in coordinating information about meet-up places, etc.
  - Consider getting your children cell phones for emergencies.
  - Teach kids to text. Often text messages will go through when calls will not.
  - Download the Prepare Me Calvert Phone App and use the “I’m OK “ function to send the initial alert to a family group text.

# Step 5 - Practice

- Conduct a family drill once a year (especially as small children grow up).
- Complete the following tasks:
  - Sound the fire alarm. Practice fire safety, evacuate the house and assemble at the meeting place. Make mock calls to 911.
  - Practice emergencies in the home – tornado warning, hurricane and earthquake.
  - Test communication modes – place a call to the out-of-town contact. Make sure children do this also.
  - Make it fun. The goal is not to scare but to prepare.

# RELAX!

- Now that you are prepared, have a plan and have practiced it, you should be able to rest easy that all family members know what to do and how to behave in an emergency. It is critical that parents always remain calm in order to keep children calm.
- By taking these steps, you have put into place all that you can control. Stay relaxed.

# Types of Events to Consider

- Fire
- Flood
- Tornadoes
- Hurricanes
- Earthquakes
- Winter Storms
- Man-made Incidents
- We will discuss each of these in further detail during this presentation.

# Fire

- Household fires are one of the biggest threats to residents, but the risk can be drastically reduced by taking a few easy precautions.
- Never leave food cooking unattended on the stove.
- Keep areas around heating and air conditioning equipment clear of any debris, remove combustibles such as cleaners, gasoline, paint thinners etc. and store away from this equipment.

# Fire Continued

- Have home improvement work (electric, plumbing, heating) done by certified technicians.
- Install smoke detectors in your home.
- Test smoke detectors regularly and replace batteries in smoke detectors at least annually.
- Develop and practice a home fire evacuation plan

# Flood

- The possibility of flooding is usually attached to hazardous weather such as heavy rains, hurricanes and abnormal high tides.
- Those living in flood-prone areas should be familiar with conditions that cause flooding and be prepared to take necessary protective actions.
- Flash floods can occur any time of the year with little to no notice. Monitor weather forecasts to be aware of the chance of these conditions.

# Tornadoes

- Tornadoes are most often generated by thunderstorm activity.
- The National Weather Service tracks these events and will issue tornado warnings and watches as conditions dictate.
- A Tornado Watch is issued when conditions exist where a tornado could develop.

# Tornadoes Continued

- When a Watch is issued for your area you should prepare to take protective actions until the threat passes.
- A Warning indicates that tornadic activity exists in the warning area.
- When a Warning is issued for your area take immediate protective actions until the threat passes.

# Hurricanes

- Hurricane season is from June 1 to Nov. 30.
- Hurricanes are rated using the Saffir-Simpson scale.
- Storms are tracked well in advance of the threat reaching our area.
- Emergency Management begins preparations five to seven days in advance.

# Hurricanes Continued

- We will begin to issue advisories to residents in that time frame.
- Follow all orders issued by Emergency Management, including evacuation if necessary.
- Hurricanes are a bigger threat to coastal regions. Coastal residents should relocate further inland until threat passes.
- If needed the county will open a shelter.

# Earthquakes

- While rare, in this region, they do occur as we experienced in 2011.
- If you are inside a building:
  - Stay where you are until the shaking stops.
  - Get on your hands and knees so the shaking doesn't knock you down.
  - Cover your head and neck with your arms to protect yourself.

# Earthquake Continued

- If you are outside:
  - Move away from buildings, streetlights and utility wires.
  - Drop, cover and hold until the shaking stops.
  - If in a moving vehicle, stop as quickly and safely as possible; stay in the vehicle until shaking stops.
  - Avoid stopping under trees, powerlines and bridges.

# Winter Storms

- Range from brief snow showers to blizzards lasting several days.
- May include snow, sleet, freezing rain or a mix of these wintry forms of precipitation.
- Stay inside during snow storms.
- After a storm drive only if absolutely necessary.

# Winter Storms Continued

- Before winter approaches add the following supplies to your emergency kit:
  - Salt or ice melt products
  - Sand to improve traction of your vehicle
  - Snow shovels and other snow removal equipment
  - If you use oil for heat, ensure at least a three-day supply

# Man-Made Emergencies

- Hazardous Materials (Haz-Mat): can apply to fixed facilities as well as transportation-related accidents in the air, on the highways and on the water.
- Emergency Management works closely with the Calvert County volunteer fire and rescue departments and Sheriff's Office to develop response plans.

# Man-Made Emergencies

## Haz-Mat Continued

- County first responders are trained to operate in these hazardous environments.
- If a Haz-Mat incident were to occur in the county, citizens should follow all directions given.
- These directions could range from sheltering in place to evacuation of the area.
- If a shelter in place order is given remain in your home or work site, close all doors and windows.

# Man-Made Emergencies

## Haz-Mat Continued

- Monitor the news and radio stations for updates.
- Updates will be sent through the county mass notification system; information hotlines may also be established.
- Evacuation order will be broadcast through the mass notification system as well as media outlets.

# Man-Made Emergencies

## Haz-Mat Continued

- Evacuation routes will be developed to ensure that citizens are put at the lowest risk possible on leaving an area threatened by an incident.
- Those ordered to evacuate will be given a rallying point to report to as part of the order. Additional information will be available at this location.

# Man-Made Emergencies

## Haz-Mat Continued

- Emergency Management staff has worked closely with the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant and Dominion Energy Cove Point LNG terminal to develop response plans.
- Calvert County agencies routinely train and drill with facility personnel to be prepared if an incident were to occur.

# Man-Made Emergencies

- Terrorism, unfortunately, is a concern in every community. It only takes a committed individual to cause much pain and destruction. While the Sheriff's Office works closely with the Department of Homeland Security to prevent such actions, it is every citizen's responsibility to help.

# Man-Made Emergencies

- Citizens can help by just being aware of what's going on around them. If they witness suspicious activity contact the Sheriff's Office immediately.
- "IF YOU SEE SOMETHING SAY SOMETHING"

# Resources

- FEMA's [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov) site is packed with planning information and what to do in an emergency.
- Sign up to receive emergency notifications from the mass notification system on the county website at [www.calvertcountymd.gov](http://www.calvertcountymd.gov) under the Emergency Alerts tab.
- Calvert County also has an emergency preparedness phone app. Download Prepare Me Calvert. It is free and available for both Apple and Android OS.
- Calvert County Public Schools [Emergency Plan](#)

THANK  
YOU FOR  
ATTENDING