

Sull-E Newsletter



A message from Kathy Smith

The latest models and forecast show Hurricane Florence tracking farther south of Fairfax County, potentially decreasing its impact locally. Rain is still expected and flooding conditions may occur in the coming days. Hurricane forecasts and tracks can change, so please remain vigilant and prepared. Read below about what you need to know before, during, and after the storm.

Sincerely,

Kathy

Sign-up for Fairfax Alerts



Have you signed up for Fairfax Alerts? Signing up keeps you informed! Choose up to 10 delivery methods like home phone, cell phone, email, text messaging, and more. The types of alerts you can choose are: weather, traffic, public safety, County tax deadlines, and more. For more information and to register online, please visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts>.

Preparedness Actions



- If possible to do so safely, clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts before the storm arrives.
- Trim trees and shrubbery. Rain-saturated ground increases risk for falling trees. Consult a certified arborist if you need help.
- Move important indoor items to the highest possible floor.
- Check your [emergency supply kit](#) and replenish any items missing or in short supply, especially medications or other medical supplies. Be sure you have extra batteries and flashlights in case you lose electricity.
- Debit cards won't work during a power outage. Include cash in your emergency kit.
- Purchase a battery-powered or hand-cranked NOAA weather radio. Find an online [NOAA radio station](#) or download the NOAA radio app for your smartphone ([Apple Store](#) | [Google Play](#)).
- Review your family's emergency plan. Does your family know what to do or where to go in case of an emergency or localized flooding? And be sure you know what to do with pets.
- Fill plastic bottles with clean water for drinking.
- Take an inventory of what you need that relies on electricity, especially for medical reasons. Charge your devices and plan for batteries and alternatives.
- Fill your car's gas tank in case you need to evacuate your home or seek shelter elsewhere.
- If you have a sump pump, make sure it is working and that the outlet pipe is not blocked. If possible, install a battery-operated backup in case of a power failure.
- Check in on elderly neighbors or those with access and functional needs to see if they need any assistance to prepare for the storm.

Pet Preparedness

Pet Preparedness

A significant number of families have pets and they're part of the family. They need to be ready for a disaster too; take simple steps now so they're prepared.

How to Prepare Before a Disaster



Not all shelters will accept pets, plan in advance for shelter options that will work for both you and your pets.

Develop a buddy system with neighbors or friends to make sure that someone is available to care for your pets if you are unable to do so.

Assemble an emergency kit for your pet.

What Goes in Your Pet Emergency Kit:



- Food and water (3 days) bowls, manual can opener
- Medicines, medical records, and first aid kit
- collar with ID tag, harness, or leash (include backups)
- Crate or pet carrier
- A picture of you and your pet together
- Important documents: registration & vaccination
- Familiar items: favorite toys, treats, and bedding
- Plastic bags/litter for cleaning up after your pet

What to Do During a Disaster



- Bring your pet inside immediately.
- Separate dogs and cats. Anxiety may affect their behavior.
- Feed them moist or canned food so they will need less water to drink.
- Have extra newspapers, for sanitary reasons.



This information is only a portion of what you need to be prepared; for more information and resources, visit Ready.gov and FEMA.gov.

Video: Turn Around, Don't Drown!



Flooding is one of the leading causes of weather related fatalities in the U.S. On average, flooding claims nearly 90 lives each year. More than half of these deaths occur in motor vehicles when people attempt to drive through flooded roadways. This happens because people underestimate the force and power of water, especially when it is moving.

Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock over and carry off an adult. Twelve inches of water can float a small car. If that water is moving, it can carry that car away. Eighteen to 24 inches of flowing water can carry away most vehicles, including large SUVs.

It is impossible to tell the exact depth of water covering a roadway or the condition of the road below the water. This is especially true at night when your vision is more limited. It is never safe to drive or walk through flood

waters.

Any time you come to a flooded road, walkway, or path, follow this simple rule: Turn Around Don't Drown.

VDOT Contact Information



Emergency Page:

http://www.virginiadot.org/travel/snow_emergency_pages/nova_emergency.asp

Report Road Hazards: <https://my.vdot.virginia.gov/> or call 800-FOR-ROAD (367-7623)

See Closures: http://www.511virginia.org/mobile/?menu_id=conditions

Check Traffic: <http://www.511virginia.org/>

Who to Contact About Blocked Storm Drains

With all this rain, storm drains may be affected. To report blocked drains during regular business hours (Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.), call 703-877-2800, TTY 711. For after-hours storm flooding emergencies that are not life threatening, call 703-323-1211, TTY 703-239-8498, and state that you are reporting a storm sewer emergency; this number is staffed 24 hours a day.

How to Report a Power Outage

Power outages can range from a nuisance because you can't watch your favorite TV show or use a microwave to life threatening impacts if you need power to supply a medical device.

There are many things you can do to prepare for potential power outages such as having **flashlights/batteries** (but NOT candles due to accidental fire risks) and deciding on a plan to continue with **medical treatments** as needed during an outage.

Save your power company's phone number to report outages on paper, phone or other device so you can access it safely. It's the fastest task you can do during a power outage. **Do not assume your utility company knows about your outage.**

Electricity Service:

Most residents are served by Dominion Virginia Power. Residents in portions of Centreville and Clifton may receive electric service from the Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative.

Dominion Virginia Power -

- Customer Service: 1-866-366-4357 (Monday to Friday 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.)
- Emergencies and Outages: 1-866-366-4357, TTY: 1-800-291-7745
- [View outage map and region reports](#)

Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative -

- Customer Service: 703-335-0500 (Monday to Friday 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)
- Emergencies and Outages: 703-335-0500 or 1-888-335-0500
- [View outage reports](#)

Who to Contact About Downed Trees and Wires



If a tree falls, then who do you call? Here's a list of who to contact if you see a downed tree or wires:

1.) Life-Threatening

- If there's an immediate life-safety issue, **call or text 9-1-1.**
- **If a tree falls into your home:**
 1. Get everyone safely out of your house. **Use your cellphone or go to a neighbor's house and call 9-1-1.**
 2. **Stay away from the home** until public safety employees can access your home for structural safety (as well as ensuring your utilities are OK or should be turned off.)
 3. Only after all of these safety measures should you then **call your insurance company.**

2.) Power Lines

- Of course, NEVER touch a downed wire.
- Dominion Power: 1-866-366-4357 or online at www.dom.com/outage-center.
- NOVEC: 1-888-335-0500 or online at www.novec.com/stormcenter.

3.) Roads

- Call the Virginia Department of Transportation at 1-800-367-7623, TTY 711, or use [VDOT's online reporting form](#).

4.) Sidewalks

- Check out our [online map of who maintains sidewalks](#) to find out who's responsible to remove trees/tree limbs. Most sidewalks are VDOT's

responsibility, so call 1-800-367-7623, TTY 711, or use [VDOT's online reporting form](#).

5.) Fairfax County Government/Schools

- County Government buildings: 703-324-2055, TTY 711.
- Fairfax County Park Authority property: 703-324-8594, TTY 711
- Fairfax County Public Schools property: 703-764-2429, TTY 711

6.) Private Property

- Removal is the property owner's responsibility. We suggest direct communication with your neighbor, then we recommend contacting a professional, licensed arborist to inspect the tree. The county has no authority in civil issues like downed trees.

7.) Posing Hazard to Public Areas

- Contact Fairfax County Urban Forestry at 703-324-1770, TTY 703-324-1877.

Sandbag Update

Our Department of Public Works and Environmental Services has secured 10,000 sandbags, available at four locations:

- Mount Vernon RECenter, 2017 Belle View Blvd., Alexandria
- Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke
- Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston

- McLean Governmental Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean

County staff will be on site to help residents fill the bags today until 7:00 p.m., and from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday (or until the bags are gone).