

Emergency Management in Montgomery County



Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security





Agenda

- Short introduction to OEMHS
- Hazards in Montgomery County
- Why Prepare?
- Steps to Preparedness
- Questions





Emergency Operations Center



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Derecho



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Water Main Breaks



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Blizzard 2016



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Flower Branch Apartment Explosion



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Central Maryland Tornadoes (2020)



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Ellicott City Flood 2016 & 2018



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Baltimore Civil Unrest 2015



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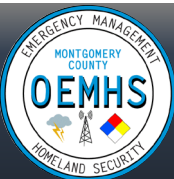




Papal Visit to Washington, D.C.



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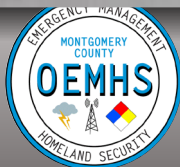


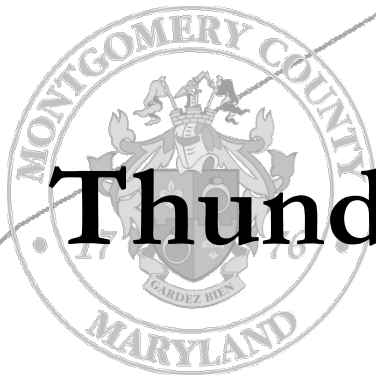
Natural Hazards within the County

- Thunderstorms
- Winter Storms
- Extreme Heat/Extreme Cold
- Flooding
- Hurricane/Tropical Storms



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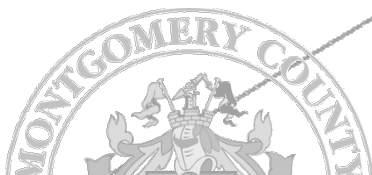


Thunderstorms/Severe Weather



- Know the difference between a Watch vs. Warning
- Tend to be in late afternoon. Watch the Weather!
- Get inside a home, building, or hard top automobile (not a convertible). Although you may be injured if lightning strikes your car, you are much safer inside a vehicle than outside.
- Unplug appliances if possible. Power surges from lightning can cause serious damage.





Watch Vs. Warning



Crab WATCH



Crab WARNING





Flood Emergency

If there is a flood emergency:

- DO NOT enter a flood area!

If you see barricaded roads:

- DO NOT pass the barricades!
- Roads could be gone under water
- Bio- or electrical hazards could be under water (sewage, chemicals, downed power lines, etc.)

**It only takes 6 in. of moving water to knock an adult off their feet

**2 feet of moving water can carry away most vehicles



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MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OEMHS/>

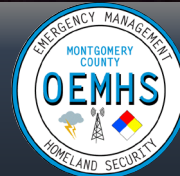
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Tornadoes

- Usually March through May or June, likely to be in the afternoon/evening hours
- Be alert to changing weather conditions
- May appear nearly transparent until dust/debris are picked up or a cloud forms in the funnel
- Stay indoors! Take shelter in an interior room with no windows or a special tornado shelter room
- If outside, lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands. Be aware of the potential for flooding
- Use your arms and hands to protect your head and neck
- DO NOT touch electric lines which may be down!



Earthquakes

In the event of an earthquake:

- **REMAIN CALM.**
- **DROP** to the ground and take **COVER** by getting under a sturdy table or other piece of furniture and **HOLD ON** until the shaking stops. If there isn't a table or desk near you, cover your face and head with your arms and crouch in an inside corner of the building.
- Stay away from glass, windows, outside doors and walls, and anything that could fall, such as lighting fixtures or furniture.
- **DO NOT** use a doorway as shelter, unless you know it is a load-bearing doorway.
- **DO NOT** attempt to go outside until the shaking has stopped, stay inside!
- **DO NOT** attempt to turn light switches on and off.
- **DO NOT** light a match.



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Earthquakes (cont'd)

After the Earthquake:

- Be aware of aftershocks
- Stay away from buildings that could have been weakened by the initial shake

Evacuate the Building
Immediately in the event of the
following:

If you smell or suspect a gas leak. Go to a location where you no longer smell the gas. Report the leak by calling 911.

If there is electrical damage. Report the hazard by calling 911.

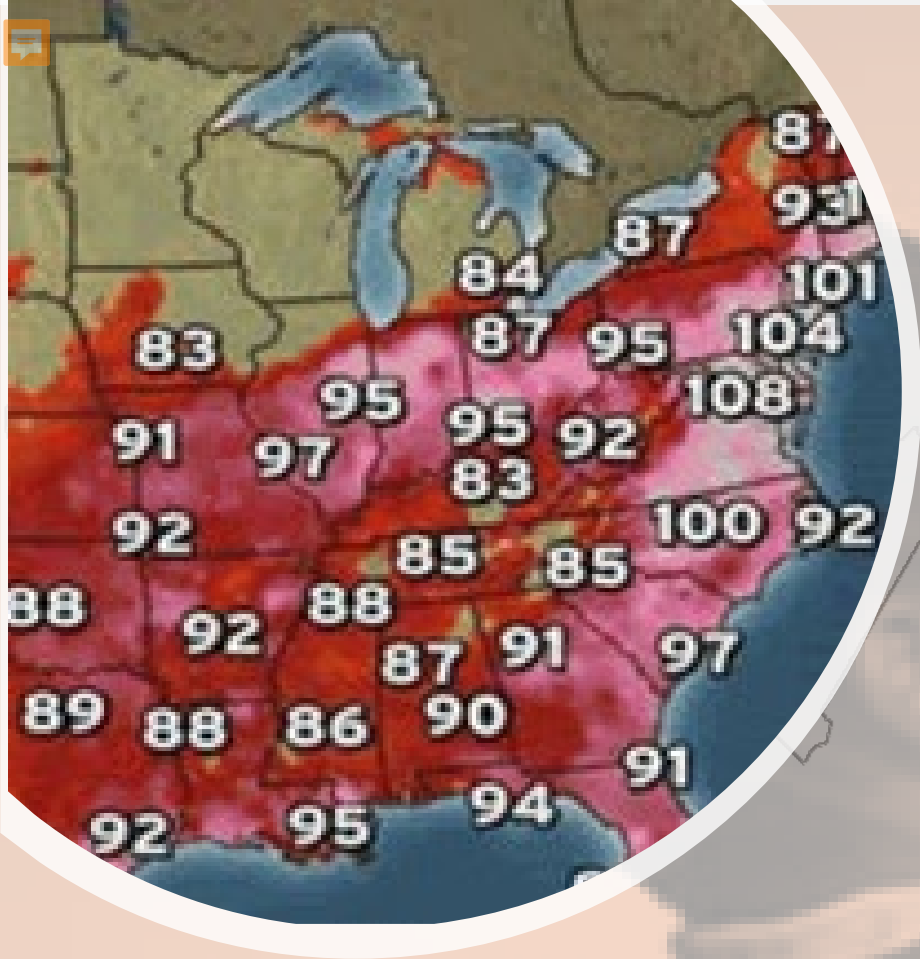


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Extreme Heat

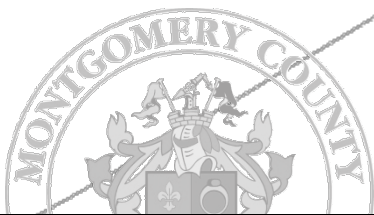
- Stay informed by tuning into local weather providers and the National Weather Service (NWS).
- Hats/Sunscreen.
- Take breaks if doing outdoor activities
- Consider spending the warmest part of the day indoors
- Stay on the lowest floor out of the sunshine if air conditioning is not available
- Check in on neighbors, seniors with chronic health issues
- Hydrate, Hydrate, Hydrate!!!



Extreme Cold

- Stay informed by tuning into local weather providers and the National Weather Service (NWS).
- Bundle up. Make sure to wear several layers of loose-fitting clothing and one layer of heavy clothing, a hat that covers your ears and gloves/mittens, etc.
- When shoveling snow/ice make sure to wear boots with tread on the sole.
- Shoveling can be a strenuous activity. Shovel small sections at a time and take frequent breaks to avoid health complications, such as heart attacks.
- Drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration.
- In preparation for the winter season make sure to have food, water, and prescription medication, to cover 3 days per person in your home, including pets.





Fire/Smoke

IF YOU DETECT SMOKE OR FIRE:

Immediately pull the nearest fire alarm.

Evacuate to a safe place.

Call 911 to report the location of the fire. Be specific with the location of the building. 911 may not automatically see your address.

IF YOU HEAR A FIRE ALARM:

Immediately evacuate the area using marked emergency exits.

Do not use elevators

Do not waste time by gathering your belongings.

Individuals requiring evacuation assistance should go to the designated area for rescue assistance on their floor and await further instructions.





Medical Emergency

If there is a medical emergency:

- **Call 911** if you believe the injury or illness is life threatening and provide the dispatcher with:
 - The specific location of the patient and their age (if known);
 - The nature of the injured person's illness or injury; and
 - Your name and phone number
- Remain on the line to answer any questions.
- Immediately ask a nearby co-worker to direct rescue units to your location.
- **DO NOT** attempt to move an injured person unless you have been trained.



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Utility Disruptions

Power Outage:

- Call your power provider
- Turn off all appliances that will turn on and unplug them
- Keep refrigerators and freezers set to as cold as possible
- Assume downed power lines are dangerous
- Don't use candles
- Don't use generators indoors

Gas Leaks:

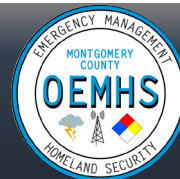
- Evacuate and call 911
- Do not smoke or light lighters or matches
- Do not operate any light switches or electrical devices

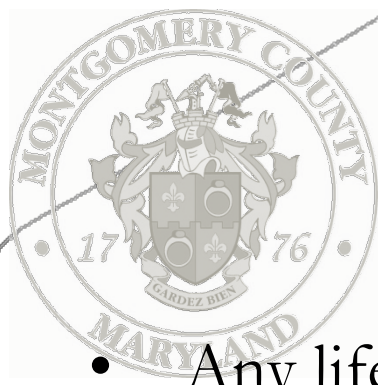
Water related problems:

- Ensure you have a three-day supply of water in your emergency kit - one gallon per person per day.
- Insulate your pipes before cold weather arrives.



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When to call 9-1-1

- Any life-threatening situation - fights, weapons, personal-injury, vehicle collisions
- An immediate fear for your personal safety or the safety of others
- A serious crime in progress - robbery, burglary, assault
- Smell of gas or downed power lines
- Any type of fire
- Any serious medical problem that requires immediate medical response



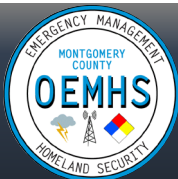


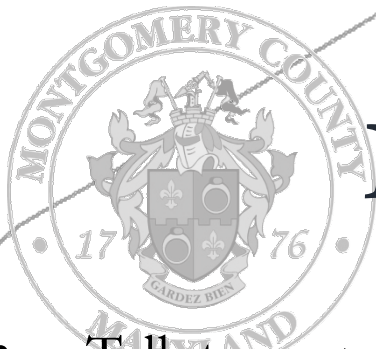
Make a Plan

- Identify at least 2 people to be in your support network
- Include what to do if you need to evacuate (pick 2 locations) or shelter in place
- Identify how you would communicate with your loved ones in the event of an emergency.
- A written plan should include:
 - List of medications
 - Special medical conditions
 - Eyeglass prescription
 - Health insurance information
 - Doctors and pharmacist information
 - Special communication devices/equipment
 - A record of personal property for insurance purposes photos



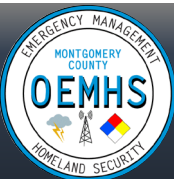
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Make a Plan (cont'd)

- Talk to everyone in your home about the plan, and make sure everyone knows where supplies are kept
- Make sure you have the appropriate insurance for your home, even if you rent, including flood insurance
- Be familiar with the emergency plans of buildings you visit often
- Clear hallways and exits for easy evacuation
- Know when and how to shut off your utilities
- Makes sure your home number is visible from the street so that emergency vehicles can find you

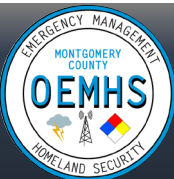


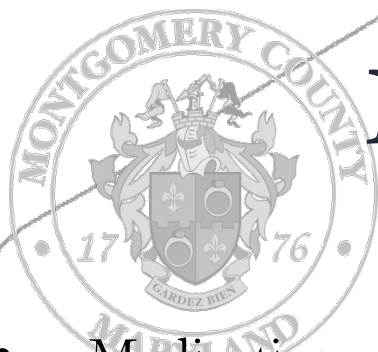


Make a Plan (cont'd)

Special Considerations

- Be sure to establish a support network!
- You may also need to consider shelter and transportation
- Hearing/visual impaired: may need special arrangements to receive warnings
- Non-English speakers may need assistance planning and communicating during a disaster
- Those with special dietary needs should take precautions to have an adequate emergency food supply tailored to their diet
- If you rely on medical equipment that requires electricity, make sure you have a backup power source, and your electricity provider is aware of this need





Make a Plan (cont'd)

Special Considerations

- Medications and life-saving treatments: is there an adequate emergency supply, can you pre-schedule treatment?
- Temporary conditions (broken leg, pregnancy, etc.) should register at workplace and take other appropriate measures
- Considerations for pets:
 - Arrange for a neighbor to help evacuate your pet if you are not home
 - Know the nearest hotel that accepts pets, or better yet, arrange for a family/friend to shelter you and your pet
 - Be sure to have your pet licensed and micro-chipped if possible
 - Have a picture of you with your pet
 - Include items in your kit for your pet.





Build a Kit – Shelter in place



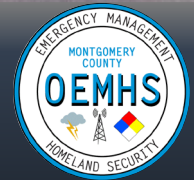
- Food and Water (3 days worth)
- Clothes and shoes
- Manual can opener
- Radio and batteries
- Flashlight and batteries
- First aid kit
- Medication
- Hygiene items
- Important documents
- Contact Information
- Map
- Money
- Make it personal (items for pets, infants, etc.)

Have at least 3 kits (if applicable)

1. Home
2. Car
3. Work



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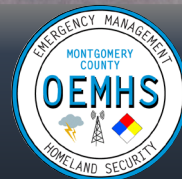
Build a Kit – Go Bag



- Food/snacks
- Clothes and shoes
- Radio, Flashlight and batteries/charger
- First aid kit
- Medication
- Hygiene items
- Extra pair of eyeglasses/contacts
- Important documents
- Contact Information
- Map
- Money
- Make it personal (items for pets, infants, etc.)



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Stay Informed

- Sign-up for Alert Montgomery
- Read and review information distributed by county through brochures, the website, and Facebook/Twitter
- Watch or listen to the news during an event (watch vs. warning)



ALERT MONTGOMERY



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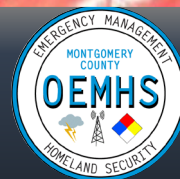


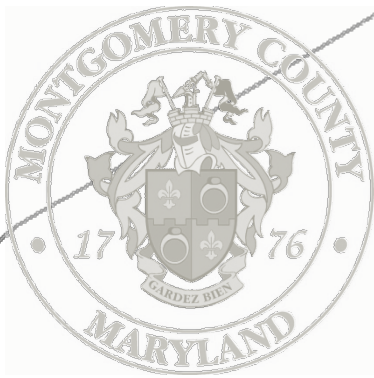
Get Involved

- Take trainings offered throughout Montgomery County
- Volunteer Groups in Montgomery County
 - Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
 - County Animal Response Team (CART)
 - The Red Cross
 - Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)
 - ESCVs
 - Montgomery County COAD



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Resources

- OEMHS Resource Library -
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/oemhs/resource-library/index.html>
- Ready.gov





Any questions?

Sareem Streater

Sareem.Streater@montgomerycountymd.gov

240-499-6076

