

# Emergency Preparedness

Emergency Preparedness in Harford County is a continuous process which involves all of us. There are a variety of hazards that we face every day and there is an extremely dedicated group of people who plan for, and respond to, these hazards.

Our County is vulnerable to the effects of a number of natural emergencies such as hurricanes and severe winter storms. In addition, we are also susceptible to a variety of man-made hazards such as hazardous materials incidents on our roads, at fixed sites, nuclear power plant incidents and fires.

Families who are prepared can reduce the fear, inconvenience and losses that surround a disaster. They can be ready to evacuate or shelter in their homes, make their stays in public shelters more comfortable and know how to take care of their basic medical needs. They can even save each other's lives.

If disaster threatens, we will try to help you. But you need to be prepared as well, local resources may be overwhelmed after a major disaster, and emergency responders may not be able to reach you right away. What you do to prepare can make a difference. After most disasters, you and your family should be ready to be self-sufficient for at least seven days; this may mean providing for your own shelter, first aid, food, water and sanitation.

This pamphlet can help. It was developed by the Harford County Division of Emergency Operations and designed to help you learn basic steps to take in various emergencies or disasters. It gives you information on possible emergencies and what you should do before, during and after it happens. Share this information with your family; it could save your life.

The Harford County Division of Emergency Operations also provides Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) to residents and businesses of Harford County. CERT is an 18 hour class that teaches residents how to be prepared during an emergency, basic medical skills, fire safety and light search and rescue. For more information or to schedule a training contact the Harford County Division of Emergency Operations at 410-638-4900.

