



# Individual Emergency Preparedness



Tuesday, April 18th, 2023

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# What is the OEM?


- OEM is a division of the Baltimore City Fire Department.
- Provides field response to all major incidents and emergencies around the city on a 24/7 basis.
- Offers logistical and tactile support to first responders and city agencies during incidents which are complex, widespread and prolonged.
- Develops emergency plans for the city.
- Maintains preparedness among Baltimore's citizens, workers, visitors, and environment to decrease the impact of both natural and man-made emergencies.
- Engages in community preparedness, education and outreach.

## **OEM's Mission**

“The Baltimore City Office of Emergency Management (OEM) will maintain the highest level of preparedness to protect Baltimore’s citizens, workers, visitors, and environment from the impact of natural and man-made disasters. OEM will prepare the City for emergencies, prepare the public for emergencies, and coordinate interagency response and recovery. To achieve this mission, OEM will maintain a comprehensive program of disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.”

## **OEM's Vision**

- Well-prepared households and businesses
- Resilient communities
- Integrated, efficient, and rapid response and recovery



# What type of incidents do we need to prepare for and why do we prepare?

We prepare for emergencies and disasters as **individuals, communities, and jurisdictions.**

We do this to reduce vulnerabilities and keep safe!

## What is the difference between an emergency and a disaster?

**Emergencies-** Any occasion or instance that warrants action to save lives and to protect property, public health, and safety. **Emergencies may include:** hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, fire, explosion, nuclear accident, or any other natural or man-made catastrophe.

**Disaster-** An occurrence of a natural catastrophe, technological accident, or human caused event that has resulted in severe property damage, deaths, and/or multiple injuries. **Type of Disasters can be:** Climate based, Geophysical, Pandemics and Epidemics, Agricultural Disease (outbreaks), Technological/ Accidental, Adversarial/Human Caused)

\*The local effects of emergencies can be managed with local resources, while disasters cannot and require additional supports.

# How do we prepare?

1. Be informed.
2. Make a plan.
3. Build a kit.

# 1. Be informed

*To prepare we need to learn about the types of emergencies and or disasters that are likely to happen in our communities and how this will affect our lives.*

*Once we know these risks, what steps can we take to mitigate potential problems and what local resources are available?*

## **Learn about the following programs:**

- [BCFD Smoke Detector Program](#)
- [BCFD Household Safety Tips](#)
- FEMA's [Ready.gov](#) preparedness materials.
- [BGE Assistance Programs](#)
- [OEM's BMORE ALERT](#) emergency notification system
  - COMING May 2023: Everbridge
- [BCHD Emergency Preparedness & Response](#) programs like Code Red/Blue
- Get CPR and First Aid trained through [OEM's CERT Program](#) or contact BCFD for a [Hands only CPR](#) training.
- Schedule a [free Naloxone training](#) for you and your neighbors with MONSE's Prevention Coordinator.
- Have a fire extinguisher and learn how to use it.



# What is BMORE ALERT?

BMORE ALERT is a mass notification system provided by OnSolve through the CodeRED platform.

- It provides emergency notifications to the public via phone calls (English, Spanish, French, Chinese, Korean), TDD/TTY transmissions, text messages, Emails, mobile app alerts and social media posts.

How to Sign Up:

- Download the CodeRED Mobile Alert app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.
- Sign up through OEM's website: <https://emergency.baltimorecity.gov>





## 2. Make a Plan

*Since we cannot always be with our loved ones it's important to create a [Family Emergency Communication Plan](#) before an emergency or disaster takes place.*

### **Ask yourself/ discuss these questions:**

1. How will I receive emergency alerts and warnings?
2. What is my shelter plan?
3. What is my evacuation route?
4. What is my family/household communication plan?
5. Do I need to update my emergency preparedness kit?

### **Don't forget to consider specific needs in your household such as:**

- Individual ages, dietary needs, access and functional needs, other medical needs such as prescriptions.
- Daily schedules/ locations frequented
- Cultural and religious considerations
- Pets/ service animals
- Households with school-aged children or grandchildren, etc.

## 2. Make a Plan- (Continued)

- **Locate all emergency exits from each room in your home.**
- **If you live in an apartment, or if you are staying in a hotel, know where the fire alarms and at least two emergency exits are located.**
- **Designate a family meeting area and be sure to share the information with all family members .**
- **Plan escape routes from the neighborhood and meet with neighbors to discuss.**
- **Make necessary plans for family members or neighbors with functional needs.**
- **Choose an out-of-town contact that lives far enough away and will not be affected by the same event.**
- **Plan for each family member to call or email the same out-of-town contact person in the event of an emergency.**
- **If you don't have an out-of-town contact, make arrangements through friends, cultural associations or local community organizations.**
- **Practice and review the plan at LEAST once a year to update and refresh your memory.**

## Planning for Children

- Find out school or daycare's emergency policies, including emergency procedures and how they will communicate with the family during an emergency.
- Give updated contact information each year to the school/daycare, including designated contact people for children should their parents be unavailable.
- Teach children who their contact people are and how to get in touch with them.
- Create a health information card, with medication and allergy list, insurance information and vaccination history – this can be stored in several areas, including on the fridge and in the wallet.
- A grab-and-go bag with two weeks of medication supplies and prescriptions (if possible).

## 3. Build a Kit

*After an emergency resources may not be accessible or available for days. To be prepared, build a kit for your household to survive on for at least 3 days. Supplies to create kits can be used to Shelter-in-place or as go kits.*

### What to include?

- Water – 1 gallon per person for three days – add 1 gallon per day for each pet
- Food – canned, energy bars and dried foods – add food for your pets too!
- First Aid Kit including personal prescriptions and non-prescription meds.
- Fully charged power bank to charge electronics (phones, etc.)
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Battery or wind-up radio
- Paper and writing utensil
- Copy of your Family Emergency Communication Plan
- Whistle
- Cash
- Matches
- Fire extinguisher
- Sanitizer, face/ dust mask, gloves
- Printed copies of important documents: Maps, ID's, insurance policies, bank records, etc.



**Make sure your kit is easy to carry. Keep it in a backpack, duffel bag or suitcase with wheels, in an easy-to-reach, accessible place, such as your front hall closet. Make sure everyone in the household knows the emergency kit's location.**



# Resources

## Energy Assistance:

- Baltimore City Community Action Partnership subsidies to low-income residents. [Application Link Here](#)
- Seniors can apply for energy assistance by contacting the Office of CARE Services at 410-396-CARE (2273)
- DHCD offers weatherization or energy efficiency programs for those at or below 200% Federal poverty level. Find information [here](#).
- BGE has a special needs program for those who need power for life support. Call 1-800-735-2258 or go [here](#).

## For more on Emergency Preparedness:

- [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)
- [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)
- <https://disastersafety.org/>

# Questions?

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