

# The Seaboard

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## Use of CERT Volunteers to Supplement 911

During an emergency event in Worcester County there are a number of calls of non-emergency nature. To relieve the burden of the Emergency Services 911 staff, calls for information can be made directly to, or transferred to, (410) 632-9200/9201 to be answered by a CERT trained volunteer. The CERT members will be supplied with information sheets that provide the phone numbers to utility providers such as Choptank Electric, Delmarva Power, Verizon, Mediacom, and Comcast. Callers will be directed to call the provided numbers to report their outage directly. Downed trees and flooded streets and roads will be referred to the Operations desk

for notification to be made to the proper Public Works department.

Each CERT member that commits to this duty will be responsible for covering a 12 hour shift from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for the duration of the activation. At the discretion of the Emergency Operations Center Duty Manager, if workload permits, staffing can be scaled back to one person. If the CERT member isn't able to respond or can't work a full 12 hour shift, contact the EOC Operations so a replacement can be arranged.

The first training session will be August. 22nd from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. No onsite training will be conducted during an activation.

## Community Outreach

If you are a member or know of any church, civic group, club, association, business or municipality, we (and maybe one of you) will come and give a presentation about preparedness and Emergency Management. We can do this nights, days, or weekends, what ever is convenient to the group that requests us.

Tom Kane  
410-632-3080

Email: [tkane@co.worcester.md.us](mailto:tkane@co.worcester.md.us)

## Worcester County Summer Events

This summer there are three events that we will need some assistance with. The request will be for a basic medical resource group and handing out preparedness literature.

Here are the dates and names of the events with locations.

1. **Blessing of the Combines** - Snow Hill  
Saturday, August 6  
Need 2 people for each shift.  
Shift #1 - 10am - 1pm  
Shift #2 - 1pm - 4pm
2. **Worcester County Fair** - Snow Hill  
August 13 & 14  
Need 2 people for each shift.

- Saturday, August 13:  
Shift #1 - 11am - 1pm  
Shift #2 - 1pm - 4pm  
Shift #3 - 4pm - 7pm

- Sunday, August 14:  
Shift #1 - 11am - 1pm  
Shift #2 - 1pm - 4pm

3. **Preparedness Night** - Shorebird Stadium  
Saturday, August 27, 6pm - 8pm  
Need 2 people to hand out literature.

Call or email me to register. Also, feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Thanks, Tom.

## Lightning Safety

According to the National Weather Service, lightning strikes the US about 25 million times each year. While lightning mostly occurs during the summer months, it can happen at any time of the year.

Here are a few lightning tips that the NWS offers if you are indoors:

- Stay off corded phones. Cell phones are OK.
- Don't touch electrical equipment such as computers and TVs. Remote controls are safe.
- Stay away from windows and doors that have small leaks that can let lightning in.
- Stay off of porches.

If you are outside, get inside a safe building or vehicle, but if you can't here are some safety tips if you are outside:

- Avoid open fields, tops of a ridges, or hills.
- Stay away from tall trees or tall objects, stay low if you are in a forest.
- If you are in a group spread out to avoid current traveling between group members.

### HANDS-ONLY CPR



1. Call 9-1-1



2. Push hard and fast in the center of the chest



# Preparedness Planning: Hurricane

Hazard	Have developed and discussed a household preparedness plan	Know how to get real-time alerts and warnings	Have copies of critical documents safeguarded	Have enough supplies set aside in home to get through three days	Have participated in a disaster preparedness drill or exercise in the past year
Hurricane	55%	74%	64%	66%	26%
Tornado	47%	74%	71%	69%	34%*
Earthquake	44%*	56%*	56%	64%	38%*
Winter Storm	40%*	67%	60%	65%	30%
Flood	43%*	72%	67%	62%	33%
Wildfire	46%*	68%	60%	68%	31%

**KEY TAKEAWAY:**

- More than one-half of those living in historical hurricane areas have developed and discussed a household emergency plan. They are also more likely than those in other hazard areas to have developed and discussed a household emergency plan.
- Those living in historical hurricane areas are the least likely to have participated in a disaster preparedness drill or exercise within the past year.



**FEMA**

*Note: \* Denotes a significant difference from Hurricane oversample*

## Preparedness Planning Comparison

When I looked at the above chart I would have thought that Hurricanes would have lead the way in all types of planning because of the publicity they get with topics such as yearly predictions, coverage on the Weather Channel, how the news sensationalizes hurricanes, and how the east coast is prone to hurricanes. Tornados, a close second, showed to be big concern. This is likely because the survey was nationwide and the Tornado Alley residents weighed heavily on this survey. Next was the west coast with their concerns of Wildfires and Earthquakes.

The point I'd like for you to take away from this is to know your geography and what you are prone to experience in your area and prepare the maximum that you can. Along with helping yourself and your family, help your neighbors be prepared.

Natural disasters cannot be prevented, but with a little planning and preparation you can put yourself in the best situation to survive what comes your way.