

Quarterly Report

Department

Town Council Meeting Date: February 11, 2025

Second Quarter: October, November, December



Please accept this as the quarterly report for the Office of Emergency Management

Department Introduction:

The Warrenton Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is dedicated to safeguarding our community by preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies. We work tirelessly to mitigate risks, coordinate resources, and ensure the well-being of our residents during times of crisis.

- Our mission is to build a resilient community through effective emergency planning, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. We achieve this by:
- Developing and maintaining comprehensive emergency plans
- Conducting regular training exercises and drills
- Establishing strong partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies
- Providing timely and accurate information to the public
- Promoting individual and community preparedness

We are committed to serving our community and will continue working diligently to make Warrenton safer for all.

Commendable Achievements:

The acrid smell of smoke still clung to the air around the Waterloo Street Apartments, even days after the blaze on November 8th. For the residents, the world had been turned upside down in a matter of terrifying hours. But amidst the chaos and loss, a different story began to unfold – a story of community, resilience, and the power of preparedness. As the flames flickered and died, the wheels of the local emergency management program whirled into action. Almost as quickly as the fire trucks had arrived, so too did the Red Cross, offering warm blankets, hot meals, and a comforting presence to those who had lost everything. The Building Official and Fire Marshal's team, clad in their hard hats, meticulously surveyed the damage, working tirelessly to determine which apartments were salvageable and which were beyond repair. The process was long and arduous, but their presence offered a glimmer of hope amidst the devastation.

Then, just as the town was preparing for the festive cheer of Christmas Eve, disaster struck again. This time, it was the Moffet Manor Apartments that fell victim to a devastating fire. The timing couldn't have been worse. Families were preparing for celebrations, not grappling with the loss of their homes. But, like a well-oiled machine, the emergency management program sprang into action once more. The response mirrored the Waterloo Street incident: swift activation, immediate Red Cross support, and the steady presence of the Building Official and Fire Marshal's team. The Christmas Eve fire, though heartbreaking, served as a stark reminder of the importance of the program. It was a testament to the countless hours of planning, training, and dedication that went into building a system capable of responding effectively to such crises. In the aftermath of both fires, the community rallied together, offering support and a helping hand to their displaced neighbors. While the scars of the fires remained, so too did the stories of resilience, community spirit, and the invaluable role of a well-prepared emergency management program. These incidents, though tragic, underscored the vital importance of such programs in minimizing suffering and facilitating recovery in the face of disaster.

The EMC responded to sixteen incidents during this reporting period. A summary is listed in this report.

Staff Training & Certifications:

The Emergency Management Coordinator has enrolled and has been completing the FEMA National Disaster & Emergency Management University. The EMC will be graduating from this program in the next reporting cycle.

1) Project Progress:

- A. **Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)** – The town adopted an EOP in 2022 and its next update is due in 2026. The EMC will be reviewing the EOP as part of its annual review to ensure it is up to date.
- B. **Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)** – The COOP has undergone a full update since August and is currently out for review with legal and VDEM.
- C. **Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP)** – The EMC attended four meetings with the RRRC regarding the HMP 2024 update. One of these meetings was an open public forum at the Culpeper County Fieldhouse. The HMP is in the final stages of review prior to it being submitted to FEMA for review and approval. Once this is complete it will be brought back to the localities for adoption at the local level.
- D. **Emergency Procedures Guide (EPG)** – OEM has finalized the EPG to release to all town employees. The EPG covers all hazards of emergencies and will guide staff in the “What Do I Do?” of an emergency or hazardous incident.
- E. **Dam Planning** – The EMC is reviewing the Dam EOP in preparation for a tabletop exercise. This exercise is required to obtain our full operator's permit.
- F. **Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)** – The EMC has met monthly with our VDEM state partners and continues to build a collaborative EM program with the state partners
- G. **Elections 2024** – The Fauquier County Sheriff's Office formed an Election Security Working Group to start discussions about the upcoming November elections. This working group is comprised of officials from all Fauquier / Warrenton public safety agencies, VDEM, VDOT, and the Registrar of Fauquier. This working group successfully monitored the elections and had minimal issues with the election process.
- H. **Town / County Emergency Management** – The town and county EM's met three times to discuss topics between agencies.

Incident Response Summary

Incident Number	Date	Incident Brief
25-001	29-Aug	Power Outage and Generator Failure to Start at a Healthcare Facility
25-002	29-Aug	Severe Thunder Storm & Flash Flood
25-003	30-Aug	Hydraulic Oil Spill on Roadway
25-004	4-Sep	Vehicle Struck Utility Lines
25-005	6-Sep	Inside Gas Leak - Residential
25-006	10-Sep	Auto Accident involving a Towed Vehicle
25-007	12-Sep	Auto Accident involving a School Bus
25-008	12-Sep	Graffiti Damage Involving Critical Infrastructure - Utilities
25-009	16-Sep	Deceased Person
25-010	17-Sep	Vehicle Struck Utility Lines
25-011	17-Sep	Tree & Downed Utility Lines
25-012	18-Sep	Roadway Hazard - VDOT Broadview Project
25-013	20-Sep	Outside Gas Leak - General Area of Winchester St & John E. Mann
25-014	20-Sep	Outside Gas Leak - Highland School
25-015	24-Sep	Unknown Odor involving Critical Infrastructure - Utilities
25-016	24-Sep	Structure Fire - Multi-Family
25-017	25-Sep	Auto Accident involving a Pedestrian
25-018	25-Sep	Auto Accident - Traffic Incident Secondary Accident
25-019	27-Sep	Residential Flooding - Storm Related
25-020	27-Sep	Sanitary Sewer Overflow - Storm Related
25-021	1-Oct	Mutual Aid Culpeper County / Arrived to Find - Auto over Embankment
25-022	1-Oct	Trees & Wires Down
25-023	1-Oct	Water Plant Power Failure
25-024	1-Oct	Tree Downed in Roadway
25-025	4-Oct	Inside Gas Leak - Residential
25-026	14-Oct	Tree Downed in Roadway
25-027	16-Oct	Auto Collision
25-028	16-Oct	Mutual Aid Culpeper County - Multiple Vehicle Rollover with Ejection & CPR In-Progress
25-029	17-Oct	Auto Collision with Entrapment
25-030	8-Nov	Commercial Structure Fire - Multi-Family Dwelling
25-031	9-Nov	Outdoor Fire & Trespassing on Critical Infrastructure
25-032	18-Nov	Haz-Mat @ Educational Institution
25-033	Voided	Voided Report - Skipped
25-034	6-Dec	Structure Fire - Detached Garage
25-035	23-Dec	Structure Fire - Commercial Brewery
25-036	24-Dec	Structure Fire - Institutional - Age Restricted Facility

Attachments

- A. Town Hall Emergency Procedures Guide
- B. Town Hall EPG One-Sheet