

# Quarterly Report

## Emergency Management

Town Council Meeting Date: May 13, 2025

Third Quarter: January, February, March



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:

March 5th, 2025: Natural Gas Emergency

*On Wednesday, March 5th, at approximately 11:55 AM, Warrenton, Virginia experienced a natural gas emergency triggered by an over odorization incident. Multiple 911 calls, beginning at 12:55 PM, indicated a widespread strong odor of natural gas throughout the town. In response, the Town Emergency Management Coordinator activated the Emergency Operations Plan, fully activating the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at 1:43 PM. Columbia Gas of Virginia responded to the scene and confirmed the presence of an over-odorization issue, rather than a gas leak. The coordinated response between local emergency services and Columbia Gas mitigated potential risks and ensured public safety. This incident highlights the importance of robust emergency response protocols and effective communication during potential hazardous material events.*

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

### **Staff Training & Certifications:**

The Emergency Management Coordinator has graduated from the FEMA National Disaster & Emergency Management University.

### **Project Progress:**

- A. **Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)** – The town adopted an EOP in 2022, and its next update is due in 2026. The EMC has reviewed the EOP as part of our 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 ready to bring to the council in June for final approval.
- 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 with FEMA. Once this is complete it will be brought back to the localities for adoption at the local level.
- D. **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.
- E. **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
- F. **Town / County Emergency Management** – The town and county EM's met five times to discuss topics between agencies.
- G. **Water Emergency Tabletop Exercise** – The Town's emergency management office hosted a state-facilitated with over 40 attendees from the town, county, and support organizations. It was a great success and received many positive reviews.

## Incident Response Summary

25-037	01.05.25	Weather Event - Local State of Emergency - Winter Storm Blair
25-038	01.07.25	MVC - Truck Vs. Utility Pole
25-039	01.09.25	Downed Tree - Emergency ROW Tree Removal
25-040	1.10.25	Weather Event - Winter Storm Cora
25-041	1.19.25	Weather Event - Winter Storm Demi
25-042	1.20.25	Weather Event - Hazardous Cold Temps
25-043	1.30.25	Inside Gas Leak - Commercial
25-044	02.03.25	Structure Fire Follow Up - Hazardous Condition - Electrical
25-045	02.05.25	Weather Event - Freezing Rain
25-046	02.06.25	Downed Tree - Hasting Lane - Damaged Property
25-047	02.06.25	Downed Power Lines - High Street
25-048	02.08.25	Weather Event - Snow
25-049	02.10.25	Weather Event - Local State of Emergency - Winter Storm Harlow
25-050	02.15.25	Weather Event - Snow, Ice, Flooding
25-051	02.16.25	Weather Event - High Wind Storm
25-052	02.16.25	Vehicle vs Tree
25-053	02.18.25	MVA vs Utility Pole
25-054	02.19.25	Weather Event - Winter Storm
25-055	02.24.25	Outside Fire - Airlie Reservoir
25-056	03.05.25	Weather Event - Wind Storm
25-057	03.05.25	Natural Gas Emergency
25-058	03.14.25	Structure Fire - Single Family Dwelling

## Attachments

### A. OEM Presentation- Columbia Gas Emergency