

# Quarterly Report

## Emergency Management

Town Council Meeting Date: November 12, 2025

First Quarter: July, August, September



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:**

A commendable achievement in emergency management was recently accomplished by Johnny Switzer, who earned the prestigious Master Public Information Officer (MPIO) certification from the University of Tennessee's Law Enforcement Innovation Center (LEIC) program.

### **Significance for Emergency Management**

- **Crisis Communication Expertise:** The certification demonstrates mastery in developing **transparent, timely, and effective communication plans** essential for maintaining public trust and safety during emergencies.
- **Enhanced Agency Reputation:** MPIO training covers community engagement, advanced interviewing, and promoting an agency's mission through various media, allowing our EMC to positively represent his organization and manage media platforms during high-stress events.
- **Leadership in PIO:** Graduates of this program are prepared to lead communication efforts, coordinate joint information systems (JIS), and work effectively with multiple agencies and jurisdictions during expanding and complex incidents.

This certification is particularly notable as the LEIC MPIO program is recognized as the **first university-based program of its kind**, highlighting the comprehensive and cutting-edge nature of the training completed.

The EMC responded to twenty incidents during this reporting period.

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

The Emergency Management Coordinator has graduated from the University of Tennessee's Master PIO Program.

### **Project Progress:**

- A. **Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)** – The town adopted an EOP in 2022, and its next update is due in 2026. The EMC continues to review 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 October 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. An application to VDEM for technical assistance will be submitted in the next reporting cycle.
- 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 eight (5) times to discuss topics between agencies.