



Prince George's County Office of Homeland Security (OHS)
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)



December 17, 2025

1. **Attendee List**
 - a. See attached.
2. **Welcome and Introductions**
 - a. Deputy Director Meloyde Batten Mickens
3. **LEPC**
 - a. No pending items from last meeting.
4. **WSSC Water- Emergency Preparedness Presentation, Joey Curtis, Emergency Manager**
 - a. Serves 1.9 million residents in Prince George's and Montgomery County, Maryland.
 - b. Infrastructure includes reservoirs (Triadelphia, Rocky Gorge, Little Seneca), water filtration plants (Laurel, Potomac), wastewater recovery facilities, dams, pumping stations, substations, water towers.
 - c. Threats and challenges include human-caused (accidental/intentional) and natural hazards; drought, extreme storms, excessive rainfall, heat/cold; operational: winter water main breaks, cold weather pipe stress; water quality: harmful algae blooms affecting treatment; and other risks: weather events impacting reservoirs, infrastructure, and capacity.
 - d. WSSC Office of Emergency Management team leads preparedness efforts.
 - i. Plans include Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP), Facility-specific response plans, Dam Emergency Action Plans, Chlorine and hazardous materials response plans
 - ii. Regular training, drills, tabletop exercises, and coordination with the National Weather Service. Identification of critical personnel and systems for continuity during major emergencies.
 - e. Emergency Response & Coordination
 - i. Collaborate with local counties, City of Laurel, Joint Operations Center, fire departments, and emergency agencies
 - ii. Member of WARN and NCR response groups
 - iii. Coordinates controlled dam releases before major storms with downstream partners
 - f. Black Sky / Major Emergency Preparedness Plan
 - i. Plans for long-term, catastrophic events focusing on redundancy, situational awareness, ongoing improvement, and targeted mitigation/response plans
5. **Fire/EMS HazMat & Hazardous Material Reporting Update Chief Jonathan Bender**
 - a. We are part of the special operations unit, and our tech rescue team recently completed their annual confined space training at the Duckett Dam, thanks to WSSC for the opportunity.
 - b. Since our last meeting, we've been responding to numerous carbon monoxide leaks and are monitoring lithium-ion batteries due to some incidents. We work closely with the Maryland Department of the Environment to ensure proper packaging and disposal of these batteries.
 - c. Recently, we responded to an alarm at the NEF facility, which led to a full hazardous materials response. After measuring, we found no hazard present, and the situation was turned over to the contractors at Airgas.



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- d. As we enter the holiday season, we are focusing on safety tips regarding lithium-ion batteries, including not leaving them unattended while charging and using appropriate chargers. Additionally, ensure live trees are watered, keep space heaters three feet away from objects, and place candles on stable surfaces away from flammable materials.

6. Winter Weather Preparedness Tips, Tyrone Wells/ Meloyde R. Batten Mickens

- a. The Department of Public Works is hosting a Snow Summit tomorrow at their complex on Darcy Road. The event will inform residents about snow season and weather monitoring during winter and summer storms.
- b. You can sign up for alerts and use our preparedness and emergency apps. We will discuss weather updates from the National Weather Service, including advisories, watches, and warnings.
- c. Prepare for inclement weather.
 - i. Prepare an emergency kit for evacuations or power outages, especially in winter. Organize supplies and work with neighbors to make preparation easier. Get your home winter-ready: clear gutters, trim trees, insulate pipes, and replace smoke detector batteries. Use space heaters and fireplaces safely. Change heating system filters.
 - ii. Coordinate with public works for safe winter roads. Watch for bridges and black ice in Prince George's County. Keep a winter emergency kit in your car with blankets and snacks for kids. Check road conditions on Maryland.gov and share travel plans with loved ones.
- d. Weather Health Risks
- e. Risk of Hypothermia; the Fire department and Social Services have activated a plan for unsheltered people. Know hypothermia signs: shivering, numbness, fatigue, confusion, and slurred speech. Dress for the cold and watch for frostbite during outdoor activities. The county with their outreach teams connects with those on the streets, and four shelters offer warmth. Dress for the cold and watch for frostbite during outdoor activities.
- f. Utility Outages
 - i. Prince George's County collaborates with utility partners to monitor outages. Utilities prepare before storms to clear hazards.
 - ii. We recommend keeping utility contact numbers handy to report outages. If you lose power, stay warm in one room with blankets. Use the Maryland power outage app and utility websites for updates. Beware of carbon monoxide—move to fresh air and call 911 if symptoms appear.
 - iii. Prevent frozen pipes by letting faucets drip and opening cabinets. Insulate pipes and drain exterior faucets.
 - iv. Check on vulnerable neighbors before and after storms; signs like overflowing mail or pets outside may mean they need help.
 - v. Inspect your home for ice dams, wet ceiling spots, signal problems. Clear walkways of snow within 48 hours in Prince George's County, help neighbors, and use pet-safe ice melt.
- g. Insurance Coverage
 - i. Understand your insurance coverage, as it plays a key role in addressing any storm-related damage. Be aware of local risks, plan for outages or evacuations, and make an inventory of your property items.



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7. Planning, Training and Outreach, Subcommittees, OHS/Emergency Management

- a. Training, Chris Caisse, Emergency Preparedness Specialist
 - i. Three classes are confirmed for early 2026, with more being scheduled: Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (Jan 14–15), covering FEMA fundamentals.
 - ii. Disaster Management for Public Service and Public Works (Jan 17). Disaster Management for Water and Wastewater Utilities (Feb 11–12), all part of Texas A&M's critical infrastructure certificate.
 - iii. Three additional classes are planned for the second quarter, and more SMART classes will be announced.
- b. Planning, Darrell Small, Emergency Preparedness Specialist
 - i. We are making minor updates to the severe weather, Joint Information Center/System, and extreme temperature plans.
 - ii. The Family Assistance Center plan is nearly complete,
 - iii. the Access and Functional Needs assessment is underway.
 - iv. The Continuity of Government plan is being developed. COOP procedure 525 is under review. The agency's COOP plan review is going well, and we are adding COOP plans for Procurement and the Housing Authority.
- c. Outreach, Meloyde R. Batten-Mickens, Deputy Director, OHS/EM
 - i. Director Rease will visit county municipalities to discuss needs, share information, promote cooperation, and support CERT training. We plan to expand public outreach, training, and communication with agency partners. A recent weather event allowed us to include municipalities in briefings and calls; we're exploring more local emergency resources.
 - ii. We're developing a hazard mitigation education series for 2026 to help partners with grants and ensure involvement in the 2028 plan updates.

8. Around the table

- a. Tessa Livingston, Health Department, Planner
 - i. Thank you for today's presentation and discussion on winter weather. No updates at this time; quarterly cooperative plan reviews continue. Let us know if you need help with the Family Assistance plan.
 - ii. OHS is working with partners and Victoria to expand and finalize the Family Assistance plan. We hope it's never needed, but we're prepared.
- b. Reginald Bagley, City of Hyattsville, OEM Director
 - i. Thank you for the information shared. In Hyattsville we have two multi-family buildings facing code violations, including no heat. If the city revokes their rental licenses may displace residents. Are there County OEM, Red Cross, or partner resources to help families displaced by no-heat emergencies, similar as fire responses?
 - 1. Deputy Director Mickens explained:
 - a. The county and Health and Human Services are coordinating with social services and the Red Cross to assess shelter options, though this isn't a declared disaster.



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- b. The properties are privately owned condos. Community Relations and the Common Owners Commission are providing support, and a resource fair is planned for residents. Maintenance issues are handled differently than disaster responses.

Next and Upcoming LEPC Meetings 2026

- March 25, 2026, at 10:00 am to 11:30 am (virtual)
- June 24, 2026, at 10:00 am to 11:30 am (virtual)
- September 30, 2026, at 10:00 am to 11:30 am (In-Person)
- December 30, 2026, at 10:00 am to 11:30 am (virtual)

Other valuable information and links:

- Prince Georges County OHS/Emergency Management email: oenstaff@co.pg.md.us.
- Community Outreach: Rasheed Plummer: rdplummer@co.pg.md.us.
- Training & Exercise: Tyrone Wells, staffoem@co.pg.md.us
- FIRE/EMS Hazmat Response: Jon Bender jwbender@co.pg.md.us
- Tier II Reporting:
 - <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/businessinfocenter/communityrighttoknow/pages/tier2reporting.aspx>
- Dept of the Environment email: doecares@co.pg.md.us.
- LEPC Website go to: www.princegeorgescountymd.gov.
 - Government> Departments > Homeland Security > Emergency Management > Local Emergency Planning Committee
- Eventbrite: www.eventbrite.com.
 - Organizer name: Prince George's County Office of Homeland Security.
- American Red Cross-National Capital & Greater Chesapeake Region
 - <https://www.redcross.org/local/dc-va-md-de.html>
- Alert Prince George's
 - <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/departments-offices/homeland-security/services/alert-prince-georges>
- Maryland Department of Emergency Management
 - <https://mdem.maryland.gov/Pages/home-12345.aspx>
- WSSC
 - <https://www.wsscwater.com/customerservice>