

Ready PA *monthly*

✓ Be informed. ✓ Be prepared. ✓ Be involved.

A Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) digital newsletter

Ready PA Monthly - April 2024



Ask A Volunteer

Spring is a time of growth and renewal. And just like nature, we're curious about what's out there. So, we chatted with volunteers, asking them questions to learn about their experiences. Join us on this journey of discovery as we dive into the world of volunteering. Let's get talking!

What importance does the month of April hold for volunteers and community involvement?

April is National Volunteer Month. It's a time to shine a light on the volunteers in our communities making a difference. It's also a chance to grow that opportunity in our own lives.

Click on the link below to read more...

[READ MORE](#)

National Financial Capability Month

Financial Literacy Month in Pennsylvania is a great time to review your finances and prepare for emergencies. With recent natural disasters, it's important to be financially prepared.

Here's how you can do a financial checkup:



1. **Check Your Credit Report:** Check your credit report every year to ensure everything is correct. You can get a free report at AnnualCreditReport.com. This is important for getting new credit if you need it.
2. **Know Your Insurance History:** Get your insurance history for your belongings and cars. This helps you know if you're covered properly in case of disasters.
3. **Verify Your Job History:** Check that your job history is accurate. This can be helpful when you're looking for a place to live, a job, or applying for credit.
4. **Check Your Bank Status:** Make sure your bank accounts are in good standing. Keep some cash on hand for emergencies since power outages can happen during disasters.
5. **Keep Important Contacts:** Save the numbers for your bank and financial advisors on your phone. Have a paper copy, too, in case your phone dies.

For more help with your finances, visit [here](#).

Be Prepared: Financial experts suggest saving 3-6 months' worth of living expenses. Even if you start small, like putting away \$5 a week, it can help. Use direct deposit to save money without noticing.

If there's a disaster, having some savings can ease your worries. Save money for travel, hotels, food, and other needs. Also, having a credit card with available credit can be useful. If you own a home, make sure you have enough insurance coverage. Know how much your home and belongings are worth. Do a yearly check with your insurance agent.

By taking these steps, you can be better prepared for emergencies and feel more secure about your finances.

Severe Weather Awareness Week

April 15 - 19, 2024

Severe Weather Awareness Week in Pennsylvania is a crucial time for everyone to prepare for the unpredictable forces of Mother Nature. As we move through spring, the Keystone State becomes

susceptible to a variety of severe weather hazards from thunderstorms, including damaging wind, hail, tornadoes, and floods. This annual awareness week aims to educate Pennsylvanians on the importance of being proactive in their readiness to severe weather events. Through increased awareness and preparedness, Pennsylvanians can minimize the risks associated with these hazards. By staying informed and taking proactive measures, we can all contribute to building a more resilient and disaster-ready Pennsylvania. Here are five tips for what to do before, during, and after a severe thunderstorm.

BEFORE:

- Create an emergency plan with family members, including designated meeting places and communication methods.
- Build an emergency kit stocked with essentials like water, non-perishable food, flashlights, batteries, and a first aid kit.
- Stay informed by monitoring weather forecasts and alerts from reliable sources such as NOAA Weather Radio or local media outlets and weather apps.
- Secure outdoor objects and furniture to prevent them from becoming projectiles in strong winds.



- Trim trees and branches near your home to minimize potential damage from falling debris.

DURING:

- Seek shelter immediately in a sturdy building, avoiding windows and doors, or in a vehicle with a hard top.
- Avoid contact with electrical equipment, water, and plumbing during the storm to prevent injury from lightning strikes.
- Stay indoors and avoid using electrical appliances or plumbing fixtures to reduce the risk of electrocution.
- If caught outdoors, seek shelter in a low-lying area away from tall structures, and avoid open fields, hilltops, and isolated trees.
- Monitor weather updates and be prepared to take further action if conditions worsen, such as moving to a safer location or taking cover in a basement or interior room.

AFTER:

- Check for injuries and administer first aid, prioritizing safety before assessing damage.
- Inspect your property for any signs of damage, such as roof leaks, broken windows, or fallen trees, and take photographs for insurance purposes.
- Avoid downed power lines and report them to the utility company immediately.
- Monitor local news and weather updates for information on road closures, emergency services, and recovery efforts.
- Assist neighbors and community members in need, and work together to clear debris and restore normalcy as quickly and safely as possible.

[APRIL TIP SHEET: EMERGENCY FINANCIAL FIRST AID KIT](#)

[APRIL SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLKIT](#)

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