



City of Bowie Emergency Preparedness Guide

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Know where to get important information in an emergency.

Be Ready 2

Learn how to make your plans now before disaster strikes.

Be Wise 3

Protect your valuables and your documents.

Be Self-Sufficient 4

Your 72-hour checklist.

Keep Connected With



**ALERT
BOWIE**

For information, contact Una Cooper, Communications Manager at 301-809-3032 or email ucooper@cityofbowie.org.

The Four B's to Being Prepared

Be Informed, Be Ready, Be Self-Sufficient, and Be Wise

Whether it's a fire, hurricane, blizzard or water outage, emergencies can and do happen at the most inconvenient times, and very often without warning. They can't always be prevented, but with a little forethought and planning, their effects can often be minimized.

Emergency planning and preparation are everyone's responsibility. The City of Bowie has and will continue to respond to emergencies within its borders, but your personal

emergency plan is the key to the well-being and safety of you and your family.

Are You? Ready

There are four critical steps to comprehensive individual/family emergency preparedness. We refer to them as the 4-B's: **Be Informed, Be**

Ready, Be Self-Sufficient and Be Wise. We will discuss each of those steps in detail on the following pages. Speaking of "Being Prepared", visit our website and take our quiz to see just how prepared you are...or are not.

We encourage you to spend time reading the information on these pages. Then we hope you'll take some simple, but important steps to be prepared in the event of a disaster. We're certain, you'll be glad you did!
www.cityofbowie.org/emergencyprep

Important Telephone Numbers

Keep this list handy and if you have a cell phone, add these numbers to your phone contact list.

Police, Fire/EMS

- Emergencies: **911**
- Non-emergency calls for Bowie Police service: **240-544-5700** (eff. 10/16)
- Bowie Police Department (24 hrs./day): **240-544-5700**

Bowie City Hall:

- Main number: **301-262-6200 (TTY 301-262-5013)**
- After-hours services (water main breaks, sewer backups, etc.) **240-544-5700**

Be Informed

Before, during and after a disaster, being informed is critical. Disasters are sometimes predictable and sometimes not. In either situation, having timely, accurate information is key to your preparedness efforts. Early warning provides valuable time for preparation and pre-planning. When disasters strike with little or no warning, critical

information, such as potential hazards / risks, road closures, power-outages and shelter locations will be critical to your safety and well-being.

When a disaster occurs, the City will use every method it can to communicate with those who live and work here to

Emergency Alert



Tornado Warning in this area until 6:30 PM. Take Shelter. Check Local Media. -NWS

make sure they know what's happening and what they should be doing. Below are several ways to stay informed during a disaster.

Where to go for information:

301-262-6200

- City website – www.cityofbowie.org
- Recorded messages on the main City Hall number 301-262-6200
- Bowie Government Channel – Verizon 10/Comcast 71
- City message boards
- Facebook www.facebook.com/bowiemd
- Twitter - @CityofBowie
- WNEW 99.1 FM
- WMAL 630 AM
- WTOP 1500 AM/103.5 FM
- WKYS 93.9
- Weather forecast, alerts etc. www.weather.gov

Alert Bowie

Get up to the minute local emergency information through Alert Bowie 2.0, a free service available to individuals who live or work in the Bowie area. Individuals choose how they

want to receive messages – on their mobile phones, pagers, and/or via email. You can also sign up to receive a variety of information messages from the City of Bowie. To sign up visit www.cityofbowie.org/alerts or call 301-809-3032.

Be Ready

Natural disasters happen any time and any place; Maryland is no exception. In the past few years, Marylanders have sustained a significant amount of damage to their homes and personal property as a result of tornadoes, floods and hurricanes. While disasters are out of our control, you can take steps to lessen the expo-

sure to these types of emergencies and ensure that you are appropriately “ready”.

One of the key elements in emergency preparedness is planning. Make sure you and/or your family have a plan in place in case of an emergency. This means, that before an emergency happens, you

should sit down together and decide how you will get in contact with each other, where you will go and what you will do in an emergency. We strongly encourage you to keep a copy of this plan in your emergency supply kit or another safe place where you can access it in the event of a disaster.

Be Wise

Emergency preparedness is more than just having supplies on hand before the next hurricane or blizzard strikes. It's also about being prepared for the smaller scale emergencies like fire, a burst pipe, or a sewer backup that might affect only your home or your family. These types of incidents are more common and can often be just as devastating.

Insurance

Read your homeowner's or renter's insurance policy. Know what your deductible is. Ask "what if" questions of your agent, such as "If I have a fire in my house, will you replace my belongings?" "What documentation will I need to get items replaced?" "Am I

insured against sewer backups?" and "What incidents are excluded from my coverage?"

The Maryland Insurance Administration has published the *Consumer Guide to Homeowners Insurance* and *An Insurance Preparedness Guide for Natural Disasters*. These publications are available at www.mdinsurance.state.md.us

Valuables

Create a written or photographic record or inventory of your valuables and store it in a safe deposit box or other off-site location. Consider also keeping a copy on a CD or flash drive in your disaster kit, so that you can provide it to your insurance company following a loss; this will allow you to start the insurance/recovery process more

quickly.

Vital Records

Scan important records such as vital records, medical records, and financial documents, and save the files on a disk or flash drive. You may also want to password-protect the data you have stored in case of loss or theft. Store the backup records in a safe deposit box or other off-site location.

If you have too many records or no way to scan/copy them, store them in a flood/fire proof home safe or a safe deposit box. Also consider giving backup copies of important documentation to family members to store for you.

Reuniting with loved ones

reunification. Reunification is the planned procedure for how you will reunite / communicate with family members (including extended family) in the event an emergency occurs while your family is separated or becomes separated as a result of the emergency.

Here are some great pointers:

- Children should always have an ID on their person and, ideally, a written list of family contact numbers.
- Parents should always know who is supposed to pick up a child from school.
- Know your family's school and job place disaster plans.
- Designate emergency rendezvous points to include
 - ⇒ Neighborhood Meeting Place
 - ⇒ Out-of-Neighborhood Meeting Place
 - ⇒ Out-of-Town Meeting Place
- Know hospitals closest to all places where family members spend lots of time (schools, work, etc.)
- Designate an out-of-town relative or friend as a contact point in case of a community-wide disaster.
- Use contact person as an information clearinghouse for loved ones.
- Make sure critical phone numbers and addresses are stored in cell phone.
- Review Plan with family regularly.

One of the most critical features of an individual / family preparedness plan is



Be Self Sufficient

Medical:

- Medication
- Sterile bandages
- Tweezers
- Needle
- Moist towelettes
- Antiseptic
- Thermometer
- Petroleum jelly
- Cleanser/soap
- Aspirin/Pain Reliever
- Antacid
- Gloves
- Alcohol swabs
- Rubbing alcohol
- Sterile water
- Medical tape

Sanitation:

- Soap
- Personal hygiene items
- Plastic bags with ties
- Disinfectant
- Household chlorine bleach

Food and Water:

- Store at least a 3-day supply of non-perishable food that requires no preparation and little water
- Store water in plastic containers

- Store one gallon per person per day
- Replace stored water every 3 months and stored food every 6.

Tools and Supplies:

- Paper cups, plates, and plastic utensils
- Battery operated radio/batteries
- Flashlight/batteries
- Utility knife and non-electric can opener
- Pliers
- Tape
- Signal flare
- Needles and thread
- Wrench
- Map of the area
- Aluminum foil
- Plastic sheeting

Other:

- One complete change of clothes
- Cash
- Work gloves
- Coolers
- Rain gear
- Work boots
- Liquid propane grill/stove with extra gas
- Garbage bags
- Special needs items - baby formula, copy of prescriptions, eyeglasses, contacts, etc.



IS YOUR FAMILY
PREPARED?

Reporting Utility Outages

BGE – Power outages:
1-877-778-2222

Downed wires:
1-800-685-0123

City of Bowie Water
Service:
301-262-6200

Comcast:
1-800-934-6489

Verizon:
1-800-483-7988

Washington Gas
Emergencies:
1-800-752-7520

WSSC Emergencies:
301-206-4002

Learn More

Contact the City of Bowie Emergency Manager Lee Cornwell at 301-809-3079 for more information. You can also request an emergency preparedness presentation for your HOA, church, scout troop, or other group.