

Intro to OEM and Winter Storm 'Fern'

Public Safety Committee Meeting
February 18, 2026



City of Annapolis

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Presentation Objectives

- Briefly introduce Emergency Management staff and highlight the Emergency Management program.
- Provide understanding of some key Emergency Management planning areas of focus.
- Detail preparedness, response, and recovery efforts for the recent winter storm.



Emergency Management Overview

Mission Statement

The City of Annapolis Office of Emergency Management provides strategic leadership, coordination, and subject matter expertise to effectively manage the City's all-hazards prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery efforts, fostering a resilient community and a strong culture of safety.



Meet Our Team

!
OEM Director is appointed by the Governor and the Mayor



Kevin Simmons
Director



Dave Mandell
Deputy Director



Andrew Widdekind
EM Planner I



Patrick Kammar
EM Planner I



MK Seborowski
Senior EM Planner



Kyle Lepkowski
EM Grants Specialist



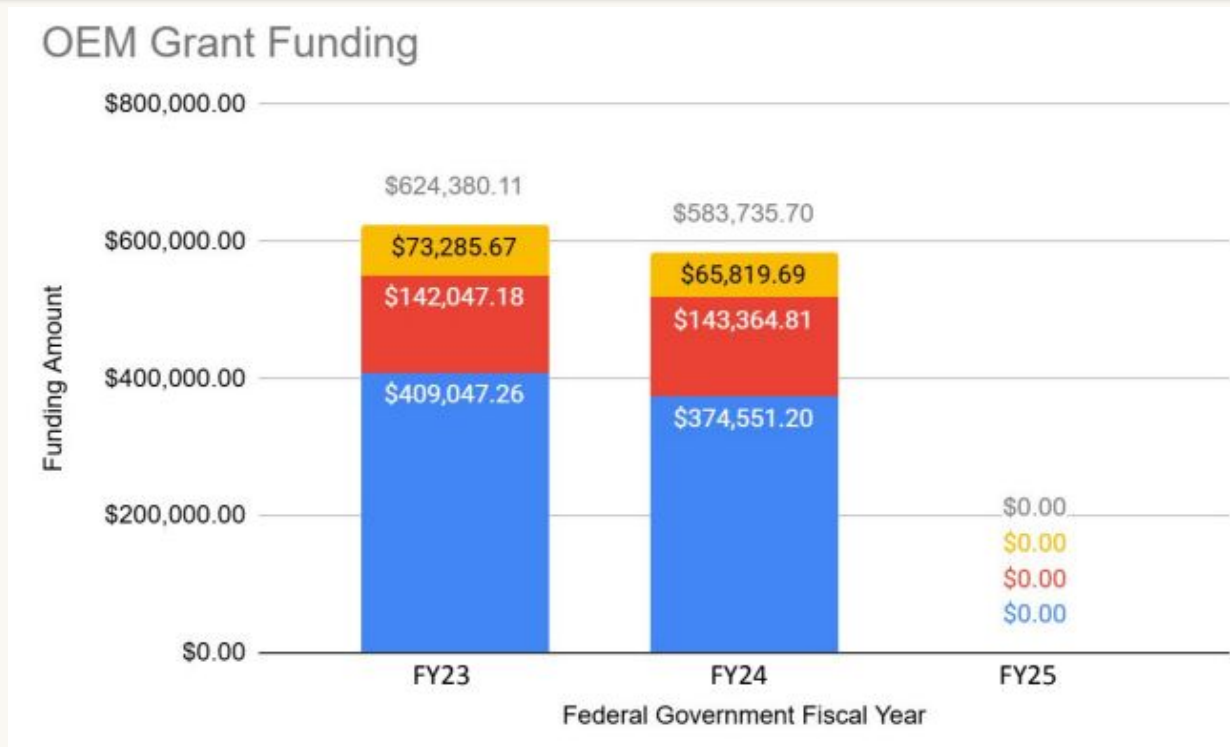
Carina Rosenbaum
T&E, Outreach, PIO

OEM Programmatic Highlights

- **Respond** to complex emergencies, write emergency **plans**, conduct **training** and **exercises**, administer important homeland security **grants**, active in **community engagement**, oversight of consequence management of **special events**, etc.
- From 2010 to 2024, OEM brought in **23 million dollars in grant funding** which supports all City departments and enhances the City's capabilities to respond to and recover from all hazards.
- Staff are **available 24/7/365**.
- Provides administrative oversight to various special programs, including four **Substance Use Disorder (SUD)** programs, **Warming Relief** Program and the **Food Friday** Program.
- Emergency Management has a connection to every City function and Community Lifeline.
- Work with all stakeholders – City departments, shared services, and partners from all levels of government and the community.



Current Challenges





Planning Program Highlights

Special Event Planning, Special Programs Planning & Incident Planning

EM Role in Special Events

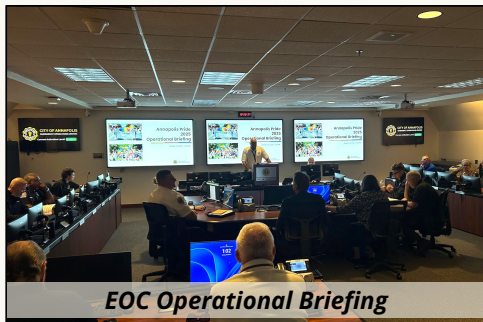
OEM supports special events that may impact City resources, operations, residents, or visitors, including those with the potential to create cascading effects, as well as other events identified by City leadership.

OEM Provides

- Enhanced technical planning for resources, operations, public safety, logistics, deconfliction, etc.
- Develops and implements planning products: Incident Action Plans (IAPs), EOC Action Plans (EAPs), maps, weather forecasts, etc.
- Activation of the EOC if required and necessary capabilities required for effective special event management.
- Coordination between City and any supporting agencies.
- Resource Management.
- Activation and oversight of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and volunteers used for special events (e.g., Parade Marshals).



General Special Event Planning Process



1. Permit is submitted to either the City Manager's Special Event Coordinator or Rec & Parks (when on Rec & Park Property).
 - Some events do not require a City permit or they require permits with partnering agencies (Maryland Capitol Police).
2. Communications with City Special Events Coordinator, the event organizer, and other partners and agencies as needed (Planning Meetings).
3. Incident Action Plan (IAP), EOC Action Plan (EAP), City Support Plan (CSP), or other planning product developed and implemented.
4. Conduct an Operations Briefing or Coordination Call as required.
5. Coordination Day of Event may include activation of EOC, Call Center, Command Post, Unified Command representatives, situational awareness, etc.

NOTE: Pending the event, some additional changes are made to the planning process. Although the City has annual events, the circumstances may change each year and modifications and lessons learned are implemented as necessary.

Special Events Statistics & Upcoming Dates

2025 Statistics for Major Events

OEM staff spent a combined estimated total of 477 planning hours and 146 operations hours = **623 total hours** in additional to other daily duties.

2025 notable events included:

- St. Patricks
- Commissioning Week
- Annapolis Pride
- Annapolis Family Day
- Juneteenth
- 4th of July
- Military Bowl & Parade



Upcoming 2026 Special Events

- St. Patrick's Parade | March 8
- MLK Parade | April 11
- Memorial Day Parade | May 25
- Juneteenth Parade/Festival | June 20
- Annapolis 250 | July 4
- LOC Family Day | Sept 2026
- Annapolis Pride Parade/Festival | Oct 3
- Military Bowl | Dec 2026

Other events as they arise.



Update on Annapolis 250





Special Program Planning

Winter Relief Program

The City of Annapolis Winter Relief Program originated in 2010 with this season being the 16th year of the program.

- **Mission Statement:** *Nobody dies from exposure on the streets of Annapolis.*
- **Primary Goal:** Give patrons a place to seek shelter during potentially life-threatening low temperatures.
- **Secondary Goal:** Connect patrons with partner services such as Department of Human Services, Crisis Response, Office of Community Services and Department of Health substance use treatment and recovery.

BlessedIn Tech Ministries is a non-profit that provides the staffing for activations while the Office of Emergency Management provides administrative oversight.

Winter Relief Program (Cont'd)

Location: Pip Moyer Recreation Center

Hours of Operation: 7:00 PM to 7:00 AM or 24 hour operations as necessary

Threshold for Activation: 32°F or at OEM Director's discretion.

Notification of Activations: OEM coordinates with partners and notify distribution list via email.

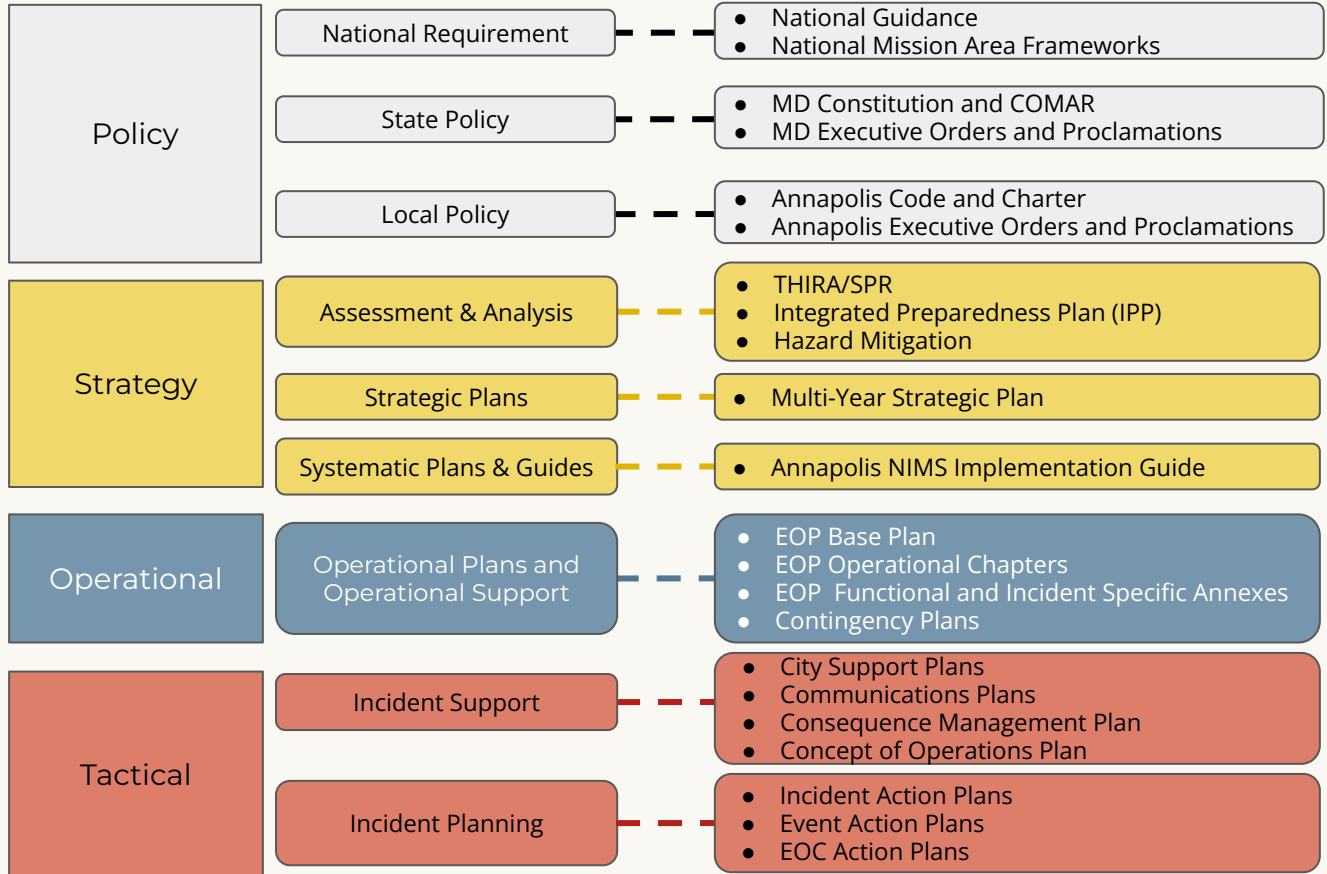
Staffing: 1 staff member to every 10 patrons with a nightly supervisor.

Patrons: Given a cot, blanket and pillow to sleep with. Also, receive a hot meal.



Incident/Event Planning

EM Planning Program Overview



- **OEM develops, maintains, and implements a variety of City-specific plans for all threats and hazards.**
- **Some plans may support other areas of focus.**
- **Each of these plans have their own maintenance and training schedule.**
- **EM works with all relevant stakeholders to develop, exercise, and improve plans.**

Current Planning Goals

1. Emergency Operations Plan (EOP):

Comprehensive operational plan that **details how the City will respond to and recover from any threat or hazard**. This plan is the foundation of all other Emergency Management related plans.



2. Continuity of Operations (COOP):

Ability to **continue essential City functions**, provide essential services, and deliver core capabilities, **during a disruption** of City operations.



3. Continuity of Government (COG):

Intended to **preserve the statutory and constitutional authority of elected officials** in order to ensure City government can continue.





Winter Storm Fern: Jan 2026

EM/EOC Planning, Response, Recovery, and Communications

Preparedness Efforts

- 2025 Winter Season After Action
- 2025 Citywide Exercise - Winter/Ice Storm
- Conducted Winter Weather Tune Up
- Hosted EOC Refreshers for EOC Representatives
- Pre-event Operational Coordination Calls




EOC Planning and Operations

- The EOC initially activated to **ENHANCED** on Friday to coordinate preparedness activities and then increased to **PARTIAL (in-person)** on Saturday.
- **Red Team** and **Blue Team** members staffed a total of **11 operational periods** for this event.
- Each operational period focused on incident objectives and Senior Policy Group (SPG) priorities:
 - Protect life
 - Maintain effective coordination and situational awareness
 - Ensure timely and responsive support to external customers
 - Maintain essential City services
 - Track, manage, and coordinate resources
 - Maintain public order

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City of Annapolis Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Incident/Event Action Plan



Incident/Event Name: Winter Storm "Fern"



Operational Period: OP #5

EOC Activation Level: Partial

Start Date: Monday, January 26, 2026 **Start Time:** 7:00 AM
End Date: Monday, January 26, 2026 **End Time:** 4:00 PM

Issue Date/Time: Monday, January 26, 2026, 7:00 AM

Prepared By: Mary Kate Seborowski Approved By: Kevin Simmons



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EOC Planning and Operations (Cont'd)

Policy and EOC Management	
Senior Policy Group	Mayor's Office, City Manager's Office, Emergency Management, Fire, Police, Public Works, Law
EOC Manager	Emergency Management
Joint Information Center (JIC)	
JIC Staff	Mayor's Office, Emergency Management, Fire
Operations Section	
Infrastructure	Public Works, Central Services, Recreation and Parks, ITS
Transportation & Parking	Transportation
Public Safety	Fire, Police, Emergency Management
Public Health & Medical	Health Department, Anne Arundel Medical Center
Health and Human Services	Office of Community Services, Social Services

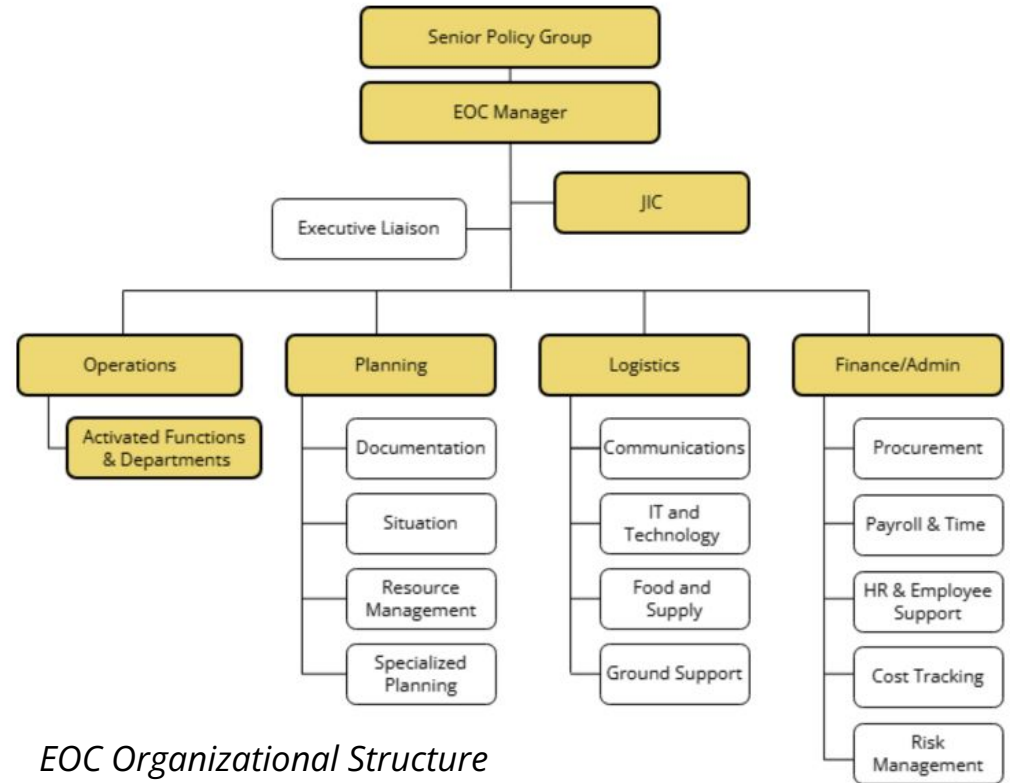
Planning Section	
Planning Section Chief	Emergency Management
Logistics Section	
Food Unit	Emergency Management
Finance and Admin Section	
Finance & Admin	Finance Department
Employee Support	Human Resources
Call Center Operations	
Call Takers	Emergency Management, Police, Mayor's Office, Transportation, OCS
Allied Agency Representatives	
Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM), Maryland National Guard (MDNG), Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE)	

Many departments and agencies support the City during incidents.

EOC Planning and Operations (Cont'd)

Use of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) for this event allows the City to effectively:

- Coordinate and use standardized approach to incident management.
- Ensure clear roles and effective coordination among all department and agencies.
- Ensure consistent, scalable, and interoperable incident management.



Mayor & Senior Policy Group (SPG) Decisions

- The Mayor:
 - Requested National Guard personnel and equipment
 - Ordered implementation of Phase 3 of the Snow Emergency Response Plan.
- The Senior Policy Group discussed:
 - Government Operating Status
 - The Free use of City Garages
 - Essential Employee Hotels
 - Reimbursement and Cost Code



The Senior Policy Group members for this event included:

- Mayor
- City Manager
- Public Works Director
- Fire Chief
- Police Chief
- OEM Director
- City Attorney



Mutual Aid Through MIEMAC

- After Annapolis has exhausted all resources and made reasonable attempts to obtain support through mutual aid, contracts, and regional partnerships, OEM may submit a request to the State to access additional state resources through the Maryland Intrastate Mutual Aid System (MIEMAC).
- Following consultations with Public Works and the Mayor, the EOC made a MIEMAC request on Thursday, Jan. 29th for 2 loaders, 3 medium plows, and 3 large plows.
- The State Highway Administration filled this request and supplied personnel and equipment on Friday, Jan. 30th. The use of these assets ended on Sunday, Feb. 1.



Gov. Moore at the Annapolis EOC during Winter Storm Fern

MIEMAC: Maryland National Guard

Utilizing MIEMAC and the State's Emergency Declaration, OEM was able to request and secure national guard assets for High Clearance Vehicle Support & EOC Coordination.

- Provided transportation support to facilitate staff rotations and sustain continuous Warming Center operations.
- Transported critically essential personnel to the EOC.
- Supported transport of essential personnel to conduct operations.
- On standby for mass evacuation and sheltering operations.



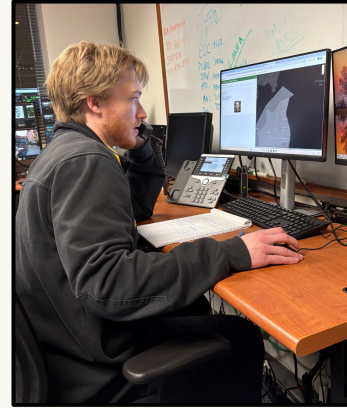
Annapolis Call Center

The Call Center was activated as a part of the Joint Information Center (JIC) to support Annapolitans during the winter storm and responds to non-emergency inquiries from the public.

Call Center staff and EM staff received **745 calls** over the course of the entire winter storm event.

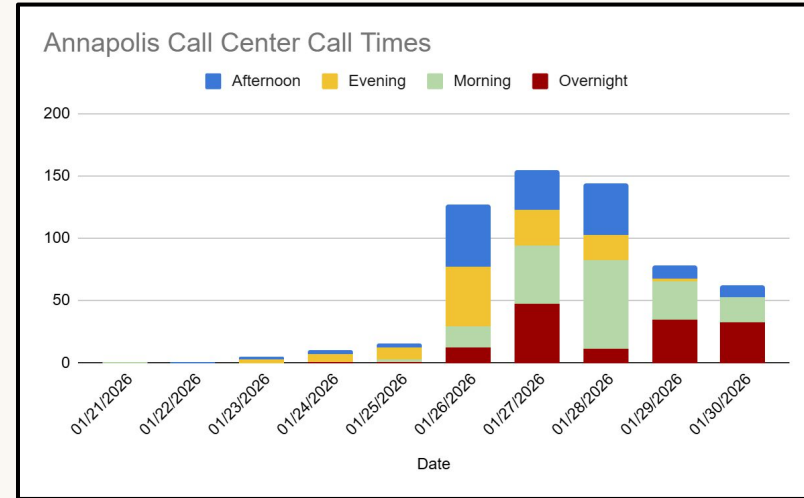
The majority of calls were related to:

- Plowing
- Sidewalks
- Parking/Garages
- Icy Roads/Road Salt



Annapolis Call Center (Cont'd)

- Many calls came following the end of snowfall, during recovery efforts, between Monday, January 26th, and Friday, January 30th, 2026.
- The Call Center received **566 calls** of the 745 total during this five day period.
- Staff from different City Departments worked the Call Center during these days where the call volume was at its peak and received just-in-time training.



NOTE: This event generated the highest call volume of any Call Center activation to date.

Essential Employees & Accommodations

Essential employees carry an elevated level of duty and responsibility in serving the residents of Annapolis.

Providing hotel accommodations for essential employees improves coordination and streamlines decision-making while also enhancing employee safety during EOC activations.

OEM has signed agreements with the Fairfield Inn & Suites and Hilton Garden Inn for standard room rates to utilize during emergency events to house essential city employees.

By Department:

- OEM: \$1,927.80
- APD: \$3,502.44
- AFD: \$226.80
- DPW: \$4,536.00
- Rec and Parks: \$1,283.04
- ADOT: \$213.84
- Central Services: \$320.76

Total City Cost: **\$12,010.68**



Supporting Vulnerable Populations

Special Assistance Roster

Voluntary, confidential registry maintained by OEM to identify residents who may need additional support before, during, or after emergencies.

OEM and partners conducted **special assistance roster checks** during the storm and **registered new individuals** throughout the event.



City of Annapolis Special Assistance Roster

The Special Assistance Roster is a voluntary, confidential registry maintained by the Annapolis Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to identify residents who may need additional support before, during, or after emergencies. Individuals with access and functional needs, such as mobility challenges, chronic health conditions, sensory impairments, or lack of critical transportation for evacuation, are encouraged to register. **In the event of an emergency, dial 9-1-1.**

La Lista de Asistencia Especial es un registro voluntario y confidencial mantenido por la Oficina de Manejo de Emergencias (OEM) de Annapolis para identificar a los residentes que puedan necesitar apoyo adicional antes, durante o después de una emergencia. Se alienta a las personas con necesidades de acceso y funcionales –como dificultades de movilidad, condiciones médicas crónicas, discapacidades sensoriales o falta de transporte para evacuar– a registrarse. **En caso de emergencia, llame al 9-1-1.**



City of Annapolis
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Winter Relief Program

The Warming Center was activated for a total of **204 continuous hours** for this winter storm event.

Patron Visits: 464

Staffing: Multiple activations exceeded **31+ patrons** which require an additional staff member to be called in.

Staffing Costs: \$8,740.00



Volunteers

The City received support from the Naval Academy's Midshipman Action Group. After the snow stopped, volunteer midshipmen took to the streets to help clear snow for neighbors in need.



Messaging Priorities

- **Pre-event preparedness and safety:** communicate anticipated hazards and protective actions ahead of the storm.
- **Service continuity and timely updates:** provide coordinated and timely updates on essential services and rapidly evolving conditions, while monitoring and responding to community concerns.
- **Operational transparency:** highlight EOC response and coordination efforts throughout event to maintain public trust.

***Key Topics:** Forecast updates, snow removal, parking/towing*



Message Timeline

Pre-Event

- **Wed (1/21):** Forecast updates, preparedness actions
- **Thurs (1/22):** MD State of Preparedness declaration
- **Fri (1/23):** Winter storm warning, cold weather advisory, parking garage openings
- **Sat (1/24):** Phase 2 parking restriction info, garage openings

During Event

- **Sun (1/25):** Video interview w/ Chief Simmons, snow removal info
- **Mon (1/26):** Governor's visit highlights, City closure updates

Post-Event

- **Tues (1/27) - Fri (1/30):** Parking updates, call center highlights, recovery tips (check on neighbors, shovel a hydrant), energy conservation tips

Messaging Channels Used



PrepareMe
Annapolis



Alert Annapolis
(text/email/call)



Facebook



X



NextDoor

**Alongside original content, OEM reshared and amplified key City messaging across platforms*

Engagement and Reach

Facebook Reach (1/21-1/30)

- 14 posts published
- 39.9k unique viewers
- 67.1k total views

Top Posts by Reach

- Call Center Operations — 11,098
- Governor's EOC Visit — 9,269
- Pre-storm NWS Forecast — 6,444
- Winter Storm Warning issued — 3,815



Upcoming Winter Weather

Cold weather impacts begin today, followed by a winter storm over the weekend. Between 10-12 inches of snow and icy conditions may cause significant and hazardous impacts.

- Friday (1/23)**
 - 8 PM Cold Weather Advisory ⚠️
- Saturday (1/24)**
 - 4 PM City-owned garages open for free to the public
 - 8 PM Vehicles must be moved from snow emergency routes
 - 11 PM Winter Storm Warning ⚠️

Take action now. Review plans, check supplies, and stay informed with official updates.

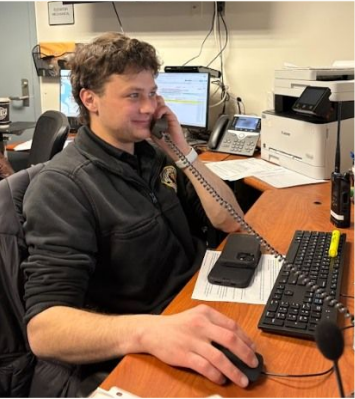
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Highlights: Annapolis Works!





Questions?
