

How to Help Emergency Personnel Get the Information They Need

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Use Community Connect to share information about your home with emergency personnel.

When there is an emergency in your home, every second matters. If you share information about your home and the people living there ahead of time, it can help firefighters and other emergency personnel

respond more effectively. People living in Fairfax County are encouraged to use Community Connect, a free and secure platform, to share helpful details with Fairfax County Fire and Rescue.

Community Connect is simple to use and the information you provide is completely optional – you can choose what you're comfortable sharing. To make it easier for you to know what types of information to include, the portal has sections where you can fill in different types of details, including:

- ◆ **Information about your home.** You can share things like the type of home you live in, whether you have fire sprinklers, or where your family's meeting place is outside the home in case of an emergency. This helps emergency personnel respond quickly and make decisions during an emergency.
- ◆ **Who to contact in case of an emergency.** This can help emergency personnel with everything from accessing your home, dealing with potential hazards,

or locating occupants. Getting in touch helps emergency personnel better communicate at the time when it's needed most.

- ◆ **Needs of people in the home.** If someone in your home has special needs – like difficulty walking, hearing, or seeing – sharing this information can help emergency personnel prepare ahead of time so they can assist that person more easily.
- ◆ **Pets living in the home.** If you have pets, you can let emergency personnel know so they can safely evacuate and care for them. You can even upload a photo of your pet so emergency personnel can identify them during an incident.

How to Sign Up for Community Connect

To create a free profile on Community Connect, visit **communityconnect.io/info/va-fairfax-county**. You'll need to provide your email address, phone number and address. Add any details that can help emergency personnel assist you quickly and effectively. Make sure to update your account if anything changes in your household.

The information you share is stored securely and is only used during emergencies to help keep you and your family safe. Community Connect uses strong encryption, like banks do, and all accounts are password-protected. Your information is never used for anything else.

To learn more or get started, visit **communityconnect.io/info/va-fairfax-county**. ☀

<https://www.communityconnect.io/info/va-fairfax-county>