

Somerset County LEPC Meeting 22nd April 2026

- At 1:05PM, Emergency Services Planner, Laraine Buck, opened the meeting. The group were told we reconvened the County CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Team). And 2 members are joining us today Bill and Liz Shaffer. We welcomed them and anyone else who would like to join CERT. We meet every 3rd Wed. at of the month at 5:00pm in our EOC located at 11916 Somerset Ave. Princess Anne. If anyone has any question to please reach out to Laraine Buck at lbuck@somersetmd.us
- I asked everyone around the room if they had any updates from their respective departments. Danielle Weber with the Health Dept. mentioned the Rural Health Transformation Program. It's funding from the federal government to rural jurisdictions. The funding is supposed to be for 5 years. Locally some of it is being used to develop programs that increase healthcare access. RFPs haven't been released yet, but partners can check our website where they will be posted when available.

Attendees:

Laraine Buck – ES Planner
Derrick Crag- Chesapeake Utilities
Ronnie Howard- Sheriff
Keith Muir- SCDC
Mike Marvel-Roads
Danielle Weber – SCHD
Christopher Osment- SCHD
Lori Engle- Social Services
Bernard Johnson- BOE Transportation
Sarah Hirsh-UMD.edu (Extension office)
Bill & Liz Shaffer- CERT

There was not a Oct or Jan meeting- both presenters- could not attend- .

- Old Business: N/A

- New Business:

Eric Seymour : Warning Coordination Meteorologist for the National Weather Service
Wakefield, VA. (The office that we receive our region weather radar from)

Highlights from his presentation:

- The official Hurricane Forecast is due to come out in May
- Though June 1 marks the official beginning of hurricane season- they've found that typically Aug.1-Oct is prime time for hurricanes
- He discussed the science and past findings behind some of the strongest hurricanes that effected our area.
- Climatology that has researched past years hurricanes – Says it seems that reoccurrences happen on a 13 to 15 year cycle. For our area (Hurricane Irene was a Cat.3 downgraded to a Cat. 1 Storm when it hit the Outer Banks of NC and it happened in 2011) So we are due –
- The “Cone” will be changing to an elipse shape to show a 90% accuracy of where the “Center Eye” of a hurricane could be located).

- The weather service has found hurricane warnings for wind have been heeded by the public but warnings concerning water have not had as much success and they are showing a increase of 55% more fatalities are due to rain / storm surge involved storms.
- We need to have better messaging that goes out to our citizens about traveling during a rain / storm surge event. They need to understand when you can not see through a water covered road they should NOT proceed through it.
- Once Eric shares the slides from his presentation – I will send them out.

Our next meeting **is actually the Table Top Drill July 22, 2026 at 10- AM**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15pm

Submitted Respectfully,
Laraine Buck, Facilitator

