



MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Marc Elrich  
County Executive

Scott E. Goldstein  
Fire Chief

April 15, 2020

To Our Montgomery County Community,

Today, we are living in uncertain and unprecedented times in our daily lives. Our community, like so many others, is facing unprecedented challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. I want to assure you the top priority of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service is your health and safety. The stakes are high – and the "call to action" has never been more important to each and every one of us.

In January of this year, I assembled a Pandemic Task Force to prepare for the potential of a widespread epidemic. Several weeks ago, incident management teams consisting of staff and personnel from the offices of Emergency Management, Health, and other departments in County Government, closely monitored, assessed and have assisted in evaluating COVID-19 conditions, and making periodic adjustments daily as conditions warrant. The Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service continues to be guided by County Executive Marc Elrich, CDC, State and County health departments and other officials.

Each one of us plays an important role in stopping the spread of COVID-19. ***Wash your hands, cover your cough, stay away from sick people, wear a face covering (mask) when around others, and please Stay Home.*** COVID-19 is impacting every aspect of our lives and continues to evolve rapidly. Social contact separation and distancing does not mean social isolation. It is always a good time to check on your neighbors. Remember to reach out to family, friends, neighbors, and acquaintances while following social distancing protocols. The health and well-being of our community depends on each and every one of us doing our part to protect each other. Leaders across the County and State are working together and stand united and committed to protecting our community.

Office of the Fire Chief

---

100 Edison Park Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor • Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878-3204 • 240-777-2486 • 240-777-0725 TTY • 240-777-2443 FAX

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov)

During COVID-19 responses to our Community, you may notice some changes in the way our personnel respond to emergency incidents. In addition to various levels of additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), our 911 call takers and first responders may be asking more verbal screening questions than in the past. These changes in procedures are following the guidance of our healthcare partners and medical director. I request the public's cooperation and understanding as we work together to keep our first responders healthy and safe and enable them to continue to respond to emergencies and to ensure that our most critical fire and rescue resources are available for those most in need at the time of their emergency.

Like many of our personnel on the front-lines of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are encouraged by the outpouring of support we have received from you. To our local businesses, citizens, County departments and our elected officials, we are very grateful and thank you for your continued support – especially as we enter into what is projected to be most challenging weeks of the pandemic.

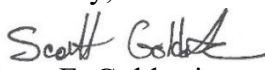
Please know that we are working for you and have every resource focused on the safety and well-being of our community. We will do everything we can to provide you with outstanding service. I could not be prouder of the dedication of Montgomery County's first responders and public safety teams. Every day, our personnel are facing enormous challenges, responding with courage, resolve and exemplary professionalism to provide the highest level of care possible to our community during this historic time. They are Respectful, Responsible, Ready.

During your home quarantine, I am personally asking you to check the smoke alarms in your homes and be extra vigilant while cooking and using additional electronic equipment. With the likely increase in technology demands on our homes, our residences now become both workplaces and classrooms. Home fires and injury risks are greatly increased. A working smoke alarm gives you and your family vital time to escape in the event of a fire. And if it occurs, do not forget to close the door on the way out to a safe place.

We are your fire and rescue service. We are committed to excellence and your safety and well-being. Thank you for being here for us while we are working to be there for you.

Stay Safe, Stay Well, and STAY HOME

Sincerely,

  
Scott E. Goldstein  
Fire Chief

