



Proudly providing resilience education and training in the Shenandoah Valley since 2000.

Resiliency Digest

August 2021

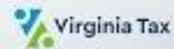
*News & tips for being ready
before, during, and after emergencies.*

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**Use the Virginia Sales Tax Holiday for
Preparedness Purchases**

Sales Tax Holiday



Did you know you can use the Virginia Sales Tax Holiday to stock your emergency preparedness kit? From August 6-8, 2021 you can purchase qualifying school supplies, clothing, footwear, hurricane and emergency preparedness items, and Energy Star™ and WaterSense™ products without paying sales tax. The following items are eligible:

- School supplies, clothing, and footwear
 - Qualified school supplies - \$20 or less per item
 - Qualified clothing and footwear - \$100 or less per item
- Hurricane and emergency preparedness products
 - Portable generators - \$1,000 or less per item
 - Gas-powered chainsaws - \$350 or less per item
 - Chainsaw accessories - \$60 or less per item
 - Other specified hurricane preparedness items - \$60 or less per item
- Energy Star™ and WaterSense™ products
- Qualifying Energy Star™ or WaterSense™ products purchased for noncommercial home or personal use - \$2,500 or less per item

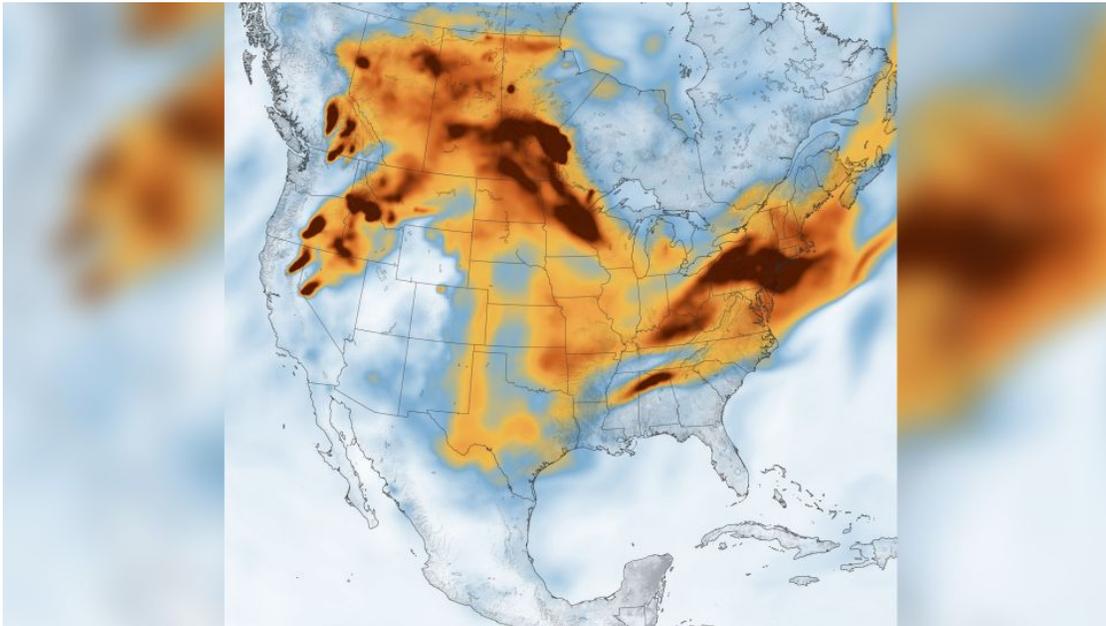
Back-to-School Safety During COVID



If you have school-age children, back-to-school in fall 2021 has a special set of challenges. This article from the American Academy of Pediatrics outlines some important recommendations for safely returning to school.

[Read Article](#)

How Extreme Heat Can Create Unhealthy Air



Black carbon particulates from wildfires spread across US, July 2021.
Image credit: Joshua Stevens/NASA Earth Observatory

We all know that extreme heat can cause dangerous and even deadly consequences

from [heat-related illness](#), not to mention the economic losses that occur from heat events. But the impacts of weather and climate extremes on air and water quality is something scientists have been studying in more depth to help incorporate into current and future planning efforts.

Heat waves promote air stagnation that traps pollutants. Combined with drought, extreme heat can dry out vegetation and fuel wildfires. The smoke from wildfires can create a serious medical hazard. With recent wildfires raging across the western United States and Canada causing the [Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality \(DEQ\) to issue a health alert](#) in July 2021, knowing how to protect yourself and your family from poor air quality is a must even when fires happen elsewhere. The American Lung Association's [10 Tips to Protect Yourself from Unhealthy Air](#) is a great place to learn more.

Interested in knowing more about how weather affects air quality? The National Science Foundation's National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) has some [excellent resources to explore](#).

2021 Resilient Virginia Conference Registration Open



2021 Resilient Virginia Conference
Moving to Vibrant, Healthy, and Equitable Communities
Dates: August 25-27, 2021
Location: Virtual

The past year's COVID experiences have highlighted the need for inclusive resiliency plans that integrate health, social, and economic concerns with ever-increasing climate change impacts. The conference will bring national and local perspectives on solutions being formulated to address vulnerabilities while moving forward to create a more economically sound and equitable future.

[Register](#)

Community Resiliency Achievements & Announcements

Did the start of the pandemic catch you off guard? Do you wish you had been more prepared? This fall, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training sponsored by Augusta County, Staunton, and Waynesboro will restart. Learn how to be prepared for severe weather, emergencies, and disasters. The course is free and all materials will be provided. If you would like to learn more or be put on the waiting list for the Fall CERT Course, contact Rebecca Joyce SAW CERT Coordinator at rebecca@cspdc.org or 540-292-7754.



For additional resources to help protect yourself, loved ones, and property, visit the [National Weather Service](#), [Ready.gov](#), [U.S. Fire Administration](#), and the [National Safety Council](#).

[540.885. 5174] [rebecca@cspdc.org] [www.cspdc.org]

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Central Shenandoah Planning District
Commission | 112 MacTanly
Place, Staunton, VA 24401