

BUSINESS RESOURCE GUIDE FOR FIRST AMENDMENT DEMONSTRATIONS

First Amendment demonstrations are a fundamental right in the United States. However, they also have significant potential to impact business operations, particularly those located in areas where protests are common. By preparing ahead of time, you can better protect your employees, guests and property.

HOW TO PREPARE

- Sign up to have real-time alerts from MDEM and local jurisdictions and the latest information on severe weather, public safety, traffic impacts and more by visiting [MdReady.Maryland.gov](https://www.mdready.gov)
- MdReady has resources available to help businesses create emergency plans, protect critical information, train and exercise employees, and improve the workforce's personal preparedness efforts.
- The Business Emergency Operations Center (BEOC) works with private sector partners to improve the State's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. The [BEOC Dashboard](#) provides members with real-time updates from state and jurisdiction officials and guidance for making a business more resilient. For more information, email WCI.MDEM@Maryland.gov

HOW TO PROTECT

- Determine what your staffing plan looks like, ensure that security cameras – if owned – are operational, and have business documents (insurance paperwork, lease agreements, etc.) in a safe and secure place.
- Take steps to protect your property from damage, such as fortifying up doors and windows or removing valuable items.
- Educate and train staff about their rights and responsibilities during demonstrations, and how to handle potential situations to keep them and your patrons safe.

HOW TO REPORT

- Contact local authorities: Report any incidents of property damage, vandalism, or threats to law enforcement. Obtain a copy of the police report for your records
- Contact your business insurance agent or carrier to file any necessary claims. Take photos or videos of any damage or disruptions.
- Maintain open communication with staff to address any concerns and operations.