

National Preparedness Information

September 1, 2016

[National Preparedness Month](#) is finally here! Now is the time to take action, prepare and encourage others to do the same. There are many types of emergencies that could affect us where we live, work, and visit, but there are many things in common with all hazards... **COMMUNICATION**. As you know, this year's NPM theme is "Don't Wait. Communicate. Make Your Emergency Plan Today." Embody that slogan by reaching out and make a plan with your loved ones for how you will communicate and what to do during an emergency or disaster. Each week in September has a different theme based around preparedness actions. The fifth week leads up to National PrepareAthon! Day on September 30 when the nation will come together to take action and practice their preparedness in advance of an emergency.

- Week 1- August 28th – September 3rd: Kickoff to National Preparedness Month
- Week 2 - September 4-10: Preparing Family & Friends
- Week 3 - September 11-17: Preparing Through Service
- Week 4: September 18-24 Individual Preparedness
- Week 5: September 25-30 Lead up to National PrepareAthon Day

Communities are better prepared to withstand a disaster and can recover more quickly if the whole community is involved. This means emergency managers, schools, businesses, organizational and community leaders, houses of worship, government officials and residents must work together. Only with input from all sectors can the community assess its needs and determine the best ways to organize and strengthen its collective assets, capacities and interests. For more tips on getting prepared, for any emergency please visit www.Ready.gov or [America's PrepareAthon](#). Your local weather forecast, and hazardous weather statements, is available at www.weather.gov.

Encourage friends and family to sign up for local weather alerts or download the FEMA app. The FEMA App contains disaster safety tips, interactive lists for storing your emergency kit, emergency meeting location information, and other disaster-specific information. The app is free to download through your smart phone provider's app store on [Android](#), [Apple](#), and [Blackberry](#) devices.

The purpose of both of these resources is to provide you with **Do It Yourself (DIY)** tools that make it easy for you to lead by example. Included in this email:

- 5 DIY tagline quote that folks can voluntarily add to their email signature block to continually direct readers to safety resources.
- DIY preparedness tips culled from the toolkit to reinforce the new month's Preparedness Themes.

Our goal is to provide tools that everyone can use and share to spread the message. We are always open to any feedback or suggestions. These DIY tools will always be synchronized with ongoing seasonal preparedness themes throughout the year.

SEPTEMBER'S DIY TAGLINE ENCOURAGES EVERYONE TO LEARN AND TAKE ACTION DURING NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH.

Add the below Tagline to your emails:

- 1) ["A prudent person foresees the danger ahead and takes precautions. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences."](#) - Proverbs 27:12
- 2) ["Better to have, and not need, than to need, and not have."](#) - Franz Kafka
- 3) ["By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail."](#) - Benjamin Franklin

- 4) ["Make preparations in advance – you never have trouble if you are prepared for it." - Theodore Roosevelt](#)
- 5) ["It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark." - Howard Ruff](#)

This month's quote, when clicked, will link you directly to the resources provided for National Preparedness Month.

If you are using Outlook:

- Step One: Left click on the quote and select "copy"
- Step Two: Open a new email and go to the "Insert" Tab
- Step Three: Click on "Signature" and select "signature..."
- Step Four: Click in the Box at the bottom (where you can edit your current Signature), and scroll to the end.
- Step Five: Left hand click in the box and select "paste" and the banner will appear.
- Step Six: Click "Okay"

SEPTEMBER DIY TIPS CAN BE POSTED ON BULLETIN BOARDS, REINFORCED AT MEETINGS, BE ADAPTED INTO TALKING POINTS IN ANY VENUE, TO ENFORCE TAKING SUMMERTIME PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS:

Safety and Preparedness Tips for 2016 National Preparedness Month

Week 1- August 28th – September 3rd: Kickoff to National Preparedness Month

- o Find resources to promote NPM at: www.ready.gov/september
- o [Copy and share our web content; just reference the Ready Campaign](#) or [America's PrepareAthon!](#) as the source.
- o Share [public service announcements and instructional videos](#)
- o Print, share, or order FREE [emergency preparedness publications](#)
- o [Download the FEMA app](#) for disaster resources, weather alerts, and safety tips
- o Sign up for monthly preparedness text messages: Text PREPARE to 43362 (4FEMA) to receive [monthly preparedness tips](#). (msg/data rates apply)
- Social Media Content: This content can be used on various social media channels, and is less than 140 characters.*
- o #time2prep #NatlPrep #NPM starts 9/1. #DontWaitCommunicate. Make Your #EmergencyPlan Today." Tools: www.ready.gov/september
- o #NPM begins 9/1! #time2prep Follow [#NatlPrep](#) for tips. More info: www.ready.gov/september
- o #DontWaitCommunicate. Make Your Emergency Plan Today. Get started here: www.ready.gov/make-a-plan [#NatlPrep](#) #time2prep
- o Share your plans for National Preparedness Month using the hashtag [#NatlPrep](#) #time2prep #npm #dontwaitcommunicate
- o Get ready to go from awareness to action during National Preparedness Month. [#NatlPrep](#) #time2prep #npm
- o RT This: "Don't Wait. Communicate. Make Your Emergency Plan Today." [#NatlPrep](#) #time2prep
- o Creating your Emergency Plan starts with one simple question "What if?" 1.usa.gov/1JwEwRG #time2prep
- o Do your loved ones know what to do during a disaster? Start a plan today. #time2prep #NatlPrep
- o You may not be at home when an emergency happens. Create an emergency plan now: 1.usa.gov/1JwEwRG [#NatlPrep](#)

Week 2 - September 4-10: Preparing Family & Friends

- Make a [family emergency communication plan](#)
- Make sure that your loved ones and friends have their ICE (In Case of Emergency) contacts up to date and accessible on their phones.
- Make sure everyone, including children, knows how and when to call 911 for help BEFORE an emergency.
- Do your friends have emergency supplies in their car or a 72-hour bag? Take some time and prepare together!
- Make a map of your local evacuation routes and make copies for your loved ones, family members and friends.
- Practice how to communicate in an emergency with kids. Find ways here: 1.usa.gov/1JwEwRG
- When the kids go #BacktoSchool update your family communication plan: 1.usa.gov/1rTLEjY
- Review your family emergency communications plan with kids at your next household meeting.
- Speak Up! Ask your child's teacher about the plans the school has in place for emergencies. Many Americans aren't familiar with their child's school evacuation & reunification plans. Are you?
- Email, voice, or text. What will your child's school use to communicate during an emergency? Find out: <http://bit.ly/2axHk6u> #YouthPrep
- Talk to your loved ones about what to do before, during, and after a disaster. Know the facts: <http://go.usa.gov/NYVT> #YouthPrep
- #BackToSchool tip: Create a backpack emergency card that your child can keep with them: <http://bit.ly/2aa0BtW> #YouthPrep
- Allow children to be a part of the emergency planning process #YouthPrep
- Kids, parents, & educators, visit the Ready Kids web pages in Spanish: www.ready.gov/es/ninos #YouthPrep

Week 3 - September 11-17: Preparing Through Service

Honor 9/11 by Getting involved in your community & planning with neighbors.

- Get [CERT](#) trained in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations.
- Find veteran volunteer opportunities through [Veterans Active in Citizens Corps](#).
- Get trained in CPR and basic first aid and volunteer to help mass care and sheltering operations at your local [American Red Cross Chapter](#).
- Get trained and volunteer with [Medical Reserve Corps](#) to provide support during a public health emergency.
- Support community safety and security by getting trained and involved in [Neighborhood Watch](#) and [Volunteers in Police Service](#).
- Find a volunteer opportunity with a [Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster \(VOAD\)](#).
- Volunteer to support local fire departments through [Fire Corps](#).
- [Civil Air Patrol](#) recruits volunteers through local squadrons that support aerospace education, cadet programs and emergency services. This air auxiliary has been supporting missions since the 1940's.
- [American Radio Relay League](#) supports the advancement of Amateur Radio Service and trains individuals interested in learning the skill of operating ham radios.
- [Meals on Wheels Association of America](#) and the MOWAA volunteers provide meals and essential disaster preparedness information to over one million seniors in the U.S. each day.

Week 4: September 18-24 Individual Preparedness

Take individual steps to prepare for a disaster today like [downloading the FEMA app](#).

- Buy an extra hygiene item each week for your kit.
- [Build your preparedness kit!](#) Even if you are just collecting items into a tub or suitcase, you'll still be able to grab and go if needed.

- [Prep your car](#). Make sure your car is in prime shape before disaster strikes and have enough supplies in your trunk to last for at least 72 hours.
- [Prep your food](#). Buy additional amounts of regular family favorite foods with a long shelf life when you go to the store.
- Purchase an item for your survival kit each week this month. Upgrade a flashlight, add a headlamp pack additional batteries or add leather work gloves. All these items can cost less than \$10 each.
- [Prep your water](#). Learn about the different storage methods and keep a supply in your car, in your home, and in your go kit.
- Learn about the basics about [water management and water purification methods](#) and invest in the supplies to DIY your water!
- Start gardening in containers or make raised beds. Make a victory garden and DIY your fruits, veggies and herbs!
- Make a first aid kit or check the expiration dates on your supplies

Week 5: September 25-30 Lead up to National PrepareAthon Day

Be counted and register your preparedness event for [National PrepareAthon Day!](#)

- Participate in [National PrepareAthon! Day](#) on September 30.
- Learn how to access Alerts and Warning systems
- Test communication plans
- Assemble or update your emergency supplies
- Conduct a drill to practice emergency response actions for local hazards.
- Plan with your neighbors on what to do in case of emergencies. Start the conversation now with these [Neighbor Helping Neighbor strategies](#).
- Participate in a class training or discussion on disaster preparedness
- Conduct an exercise of a disaster scenario to review and improve your emergency plan.
- [Safeguard your Important Documents](#) by taking inventory of your household documents, contacts, and valuables and make paper and electronic copies for your go bag.
- Make property improvements to reduce potential injury and property damage (mitigation).
- [Document and Insure property](#) by keeping your vital records safe, understanding your policies, and documenting what your property looks like before disaster strikes,
- Add your preparedness activity to www.ready.gov/prepare.
- Encourage others to do a preparedness activity and register it on www.ready.gov/prepare.
- Share images of you and your community doing a preparedness activity.
- Share stories of how being prepared made a difference using #PrepareAthon.

**DON'T WAIT. COMMUNICATE.
MAKE YOUR EMERGENCY PLAN TODAY.**



SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH!



AMERICA'S
PrepareAthon!

Ready ®