



2855 West Dublin-Granville Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43235  
[www.ema.ohio.gov](http://www.ema.ohio.gov)  
[www.publicsafety.ohio.gov](http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov)

Ted Strickland, Governor

STATE OF OHIO

Henry Guzmán, Director

## MEDIA ADVISORY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 26, 2009**

Contact: Tamara McBride, Ohio EMA, 614-799-3695

### **SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH. ARE YOU READY? *FEMA and Ohio Citizens Join Public Officials to Kick Off Campaign***

**Columbus, OH** - September 2009 marks the sixth annual National Preparedness Month, sponsored by FEMA's Ready Campaign and Citizen Corps. National Preparedness Month (NPM) is designed to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and communities.

**WHO:** Ohio Department of Public Safety Director Henry Guzmán  
Ohio Emergency Management Agency Executive Director Nancy Dragani  
FEMA, Region V Deputy Federal Preparedness Coordinator James Opoka  
Ohio Community Service Council CEO William Hall  
Ohio Public Transit Association President William Lhota  
Ohio Homeland Security Executive Director William Vedra

**WHAT:** NPM 2009 is focusing on helping Americans understand what it truly means to be Ready, which includes specific items to include in disaster preparedness kits, making a plan, being informed and getting involved. Throughout the month of September, activities and events will take place across the state and the nation to highlight the importance of emergency preparedness.

**WHEN:** **Friday, August 28, 11 a.m.**

**WHERE:** State Emergency Operations Center/Joint Dispatch Facility  
Ohio Emergency Management Agency  
2855 West Dublin Granville Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43235  
(The event will take place in the front of the building, or in Room 204, in the event of rain)

*In addition to the keynote speakers, Ohio citizens will give testimonials on being prepared for emergencies. Ohio Emergency Management Agency, Ohio Homeland Security, Ohio Emergency Medical Services Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Citizen Corps and COTA will have representatives at the event to give safety demonstrations and highlight different areas of preparedness.*

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