



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DON'T WAIT UNTIL AN EMERGENCY TO TALK ABOUT A PLAN September is National Preparedness Month

Columbus, OH - September is National Preparedness Month (NPM). This year, FEMA and the Ready Campaign encourage citizens to take action now. Make an emergency plan with your family and for your pets. Ensure emergency plans exist at your job, your children's schools, and for your neighborhood. Have an emergency plan for every incident or hazard that can impact your community or home. If family members are in different locations when disaster strikes, plan how to contact each other and plan where to meet.

Make a communications plan:

- ✓ Make a list of the family's work, school and cellphone numbers
- ✓ Have an out-of-town contact person for household members to call and notify they are safe. Sometimes it is easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call across town. Local phone lines could become overloaded if the incident is widespread.
- ✓ Sign up to participate in *America's PrepareAthon!* and the *National Day of Action*, which culminates NPM on September 30th. Visit www.ready.gov.

Ohio EMA will feature weekly interactive themes for NPM on Facebook and Twitter using the hashtag **#Three4Me**. Snap and share photos of items in your emergency supply kit you'll use to sustain members of your household for three days.

Ohio EMA encourages county EMAs, businesses, schools and households to not only share EMA's **#Three4Me**, but start their own! Ohio EMA is following FEMA Region V's weekly NPM themes:

- ✓ **Week 1: NPM Kickoff** - Share photos of items in your family emergency supply kit
- ✓ **Week 2: Digital Preparedness/Digital Engagement** - Share photos of communication planning of how to reconnect with family after a disaster by use of text, e-mail, social media and cell phone
- ✓ **Week 3: Pet Preparedness** - Share photos of supply kit items for your pets
- ✓ **Week 4: Preparedness for Ohioans with Functional Needs** - Share photos of supply kit items for babies or older adults or for family members with medical/special needs
- ✓ **Week 5: Lead up to National PrepareAthon! Day, September 30th** - Share photos of emergency preparedness activities

Hashtags for National Preparedness Month and America's PrepareAthon! include: **#Three4Me**, **#NatlPrep**, and **#PrepareAthon**.

For additional information on emergency preparedness and National Preparedness Month, visit www.ready.ohio.gov and www.ready.gov.

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ReadyOhio is comprised of multiple federal, state and local organizations dedicated in educating Ohioans to prepare for and respond to all types of emergencies that can impact the state, including natural and man-made hazards.