



MEDIA RELEASE

Emergency Management Agency

Ohio Emergency Management Agency • Nancy J. Dragani, Executive Director
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September is National Preparedness Month

Week Five – Get Involved– Are you Ready or Are you *Ready?*

(COLUMBUS) – September marks the observance of National Preparedness Month and the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) is leading a statewide campaign with a diverse group of national, state and local partners to highlight the importance of emergency preparedness and promote community involvement through events and activities.

National Preparedness Month 2009 focuses on changing perceptions about emergency preparedness to help Ohioans understand what it truly means to be *Ready*. Each week during National Preparedness Month, ODPS sent a press release or provided information on different areas of preparedness most likely to impact Ohioans. This release wraps up 2009 by rounding out the preparedness planning and encouraging Ohioans to go one step further and **Get Involved**.

Volunteer opportunities help to train people to be better prepared for and respond to emergency situations in their communities. When emergencies happen, volunteer members can give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims, and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site. **Getting involved** is an opportunity to take responsibility for the safety of your family, home and community.

- Learn to save lives by signing up for CPR and first aid courses.
- Volunteer. Don't wait until a disaster strikes.
- Learn how to help now. Contact your local Red Cross, Citizen Corps, EMA or EMS agencies for more information.

For more information about preparing for or responding to an emergency, including how to get involved, log on www.Ready.Ohio.gov or www.serveohio.org so you can be sure your family and loved ones are *Ready*.

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Throughout the month, ODPS highlighted weekly testimonials of fellow Ohioans who have survived a disaster, or the impact the disaster has had on their community, on Ohio's preparedness Web site. The Web site also has information and resources to help Ohioans develop a successful game plan to be prepared, including making a plan, putting together an emergency kit and sharing information with others.