



MEDIA RELEASE

Emergency Management Agency

Ohio Emergency Management Agency • Nancy J. Dragani, Executive Director
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Contact: Tamara McBride, Ohio EMA, (614) 799-3695

OHIO'S NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH CAMPAIGN ENCOURAGES OHIOANS TO GET READY

(COLUMBUS) – September is National Preparedness Month 2010, a nationwide coordinated effort to encourage our nation to be prepared for emergencies. During National Preparedness Month (NPM), the Ohio Department of Public Safety will be leading a statewide coordinated campaign with a variety of national, state and local partners. ODPS and partners will be working to highlight the importance of emergency preparedness and promoting community involvement through special events and activities around the state.

September 2010 marks the seventh annual NPM. This year, NPM will focus on encouraging citizens to work together to take concrete actions toward emergency preparedness. NPM and the Ready Campaign are encouraging all Americans to join the readiness team and to help themselves and each other be *Ready* for any incident that could occur, natural or manmade.

“Preparedness impacts every citizen, school, business, government and agency in the state,” said Ohio Department of Public Safety Director Thomas J. Stickrath. “Whether it’s an agency like Ohio Homeland Security, Ohio Emergency Management Agency or a county EMA that coordinates responses to disasters, or families making sure they have emergency plans for everyone in their households – including their pets, everyone has a role in preparedness.”

As part of the campaign, in observance of Patriot Day, the Ohio Statehouse Lawn will again display its Field of Flags: 2,298 American flags decorating the west lawn, outlining the World Trade Center Towers and the Pentagon. Each flag represents an American life lost on that fateful day, September 11, 2001.

National Preparedness Month is an initiative of the federal Department of Homeland Security sponsored by FEMA’s *Ready* Campaign and Citizen Corps. Visit ReadyOhio’s Web site at www.ready.ohio.gov for safety and preparedness information on incidents that typically occur in Ohio.

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The Ohio Department of Public Safety is dedicated to the mission of saving lives, reducing injuries and economic loss and administering Ohio’s motor vehicle laws through the work of its divisions: Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Medical Services, Ohio Investigative Unit, Office of Criminal Justice Services, Ohio Homeland Security, Ohio State Highway Patrol and the Ohio Traffic Safety Office.