



MEDIA RELEASE

Emergency Management Agency

Ohio Emergency Management Agency • Nancy J. Dragani, Executive Director
www.ema.ohio.gov



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 3, 2013

Contact: Tamara McBride (614) 799-3695

Ohio EMA and ReadyOhio Support National Preparedness Month *This September, You Can Be the Hero*

Columbus, OH – September is National Preparedness Month (NPM). NPM was originally created by FEMA’s *Ready* Campaign in response to the tragic events of September 11, 2001, in order to educate the public on how to prepare for all hazards and emergencies.

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency and ReadyOhio have committed to participate in National Preparedness to increase readiness throughout Ohio and the United States. NPM, is now in its ninth year. This year’s NPM theme is: ***You Can Be the Hero***. FEMA and the *Ready* Campaign are urging the country’s communities to take the pledge of preparedness.

One of NPM’s key messages is: Be Prepared in the event an emergency causes you to be self-reliant for at least three days without utilities, electricity, water service, access to a supermarket or local services, or maybe even without response from police, fire or rescue. Preparing can start with four key steps:

- ✓ **Be Informed** about emergencies that could happen in your community. Access www.ready.ohio.gov for information on Ohio’s hazards and what to before, during and after an emergency.
- ✓ **Make a Plan:** Discuss, agree on, and document an emergency plan with those in your household or care. For sample plans, visit www.ready.gov.
- ✓ **Build a Kit:** Keep enough emergency supplies – water, nonperishable food, first aid supplies, prescriptions, flashlight and a battery-powered radio – on hand for you and the household.
- ✓ **Get Involved:** There are many ways to get involved, especially before a disaster occurs. Community leaders agree that the formula for ensuring a safer homeland consists of volunteers, a trained and informed public, and increased support of emergency response agencies during disasters. Look into volunteer programs like local chapters of the American Red Cross and Ohio Citizen Corps. Visit <http://ohioresponds.gov/>.

On September 9, Ohio EMA is partnering with HandsOn, Central Ohio for setup of the annual Field of Flags 9/11 Memorial on the Ohio Statehouse Lawn. Approximately 3,000 small U.S. flags will be arranged on the Statehouse West Lawn to silhouette the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon. Each flag represents a life lost on September 11, 2001.

For more information about the *Ready* Campaign and National Preparedness Month, visit www.ready.gov and www.ready.ohio.gov. “Like” Ohio EMA on Facebook and read more on preparedness tips and how ***You Can Be the Hero***.