



MEDIA RELEASE

Emergency Management Agency

Ohio Emergency Management Agency • Nancy J. Dragani, Executive Director
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Ohio EMA and ReadyOhio Support National Preparedness Month

This September, Be Disaster Aware. Take Action to Prepare.

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.

The *Ready* Campaign established four universal building blocks of emergency preparedness: Be Informed. Make a Plan. Build a Kit. And Get Involved. America’s PrepareAthon! builds on this foundation by encouraging millions of Americans to focus on a simple, specific activity that will increase preparedness.

America’s PrepareAthon! is a new national community-based campaign for action that focuses on increasing emergency preparedness through hazard-specific drills, group discussions and exercises. National PrepareAthon! Days are held every spring and fall. The first PrepareAthon! Day was held in April and highlighted hazards that can occur in the country during spring and summer months.

During National Preparedness Month, the *Ready* Campaign and ReadyOhio ask that emergency responders, emergency managers, and all Ohioans take action by planning a National PrepareAthon! Day during the month of September.

This year’s NPM theme is *“Be Disaster Aware. Take Action to Prepare.”* Each week throughout September, NPM will focus on a different activity:

- **Week 1:** *How to* reconnect with family after a disaster.
- **Week 2:** Know *how to* plan for specific needs before a disaster.
- **Week 3:** *How to* build an emergency kit.
- **Weeks 4 & 5:** *How to* practice for an emergency.

On September 10, 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 additional information about the *Ready* Campaign and National Preparedness Month, visit www.ready.gov and www.ready.ohio.gov. “Like” Ohio EMA on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @ohio_ema to read more on preparedness tips and how to *Be Disaster Aware*.

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