

Prepare for emergencies during National Preparedness Month

September marks National Preparedness Month, which was founded after 9/11 to increase preparedness in the U.S. First responders and emergency managers understand that there will be an overwhelming demand to reach people in distress following a disaster. Getting to every person quickly following an emergency, including people that may need additional assistance, will simply not be possible – especially

if roads are damaged and power is out. It's imperative that community members take the necessary steps to prepare for emergencies. The actions we take today will lead to a stronger recovery when disaster hits home.



This year's theme is "Disasters Don't Plan Ahead. You can." During the month of September there will be weekly promotional themes:

- Week 1: Make a Plan for Yourself, Family and Friends
- Week 2: Plan to Help Your Neighbor and Community
- Week 3: Practice and Build Out Your Plans
- Week 4: Get Involved! Be Part of Something Larger

This September, prepare and plan for any event that may cause you to go for three days without electricity, water service, access to a supermarket or other local services. It is a time to prepare yourself, your family and your loved ones for any emergency. Just follow these three steps:

- 1. Get a Kit:** Keep enough emergency supplies on hand for you and those in your care, including water, non-perishable food, first aid, prescriptions, flashlights and a battery-powered radio. For a complete checklist of supplies, visit www.ReadyOC.org.
- 2. Make a Plan:** Discuss, agree on, and document an emergency plan with those in your care. For sample plans, see www.ReadyOC.org. Work with your neighbors, colleagues and others to build a community network of resilience.
- 3. Be Informed:** Information is available to assist you from local, state, and federal resources. You can find preparedness information by:
 - Signing up for emergency alerts and notifications at www.AlertOC.com.
 - Accessing www.ReadyOC.org to learn what to do before, during, and after an emergency.

Additional resources are available for people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs:

- <http://www.readyoc.org/prepare/disabilities.html>
- <https://www.ready.gov/individuals-access-functional-needs>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/emergencypreparedness.html>
- <http://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/access-functional-needs>

Resilient public alert and warning tools are essential to save lives and protect property during times of national, state, regional, and local emergencies. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is used by alerting authorities to send warnings via broadcast, cable, satellite, and wireline communications pathways. The national test of the Emergency Alert System test will be held on September 27 at 11:20 a.m. (PDT).

Find out more about National Preparedness Month at <http://www.ready.gov/september>.