

National Preparedness Month: *Be Disaster Aware, Take Action to Prepare*

Emergencies can happen any time and place, but practicing what to do in advance of a disaster makes you better prepared to handle any emergency you may encounter.

For more than a decade, the *Ready* Campaign has raised awareness about the importance of knowing the four building blocks of emergency preparedness: Be Informed; Make a Plan; Build a Kit; and Get Involved. There is one last critical step you can take to ensure you are ready – practice your plan.

Each year, September is recognized as National Preparedness Month. The *Ready* Campaign calls on all Americans to take the time to understand the risks in their communities, to take that one additional step and practice what to do in advance of an emergency, and plan how to reconnect with family members after a disaster.

On the final day of National Preparedness Month, on September 30, the nation will come together to recognize the commitment and progress toward building a more resilient nation. This National PrepareAthon! Day is an opportunity to move from emergency preparedness awareness to action.

Week 1 (September 1-7): Plan How to Reconnect and Reunite with Family Following a Disaster. Make a Family Emergency Communication Plan for how you will get to a safe place; how you will contact one another; how you will get back together if separated.

Week 2 (September 8-14): Be Informed: Know Your Resources. Give people the resources that most closely align with their planning needs. The resources can be used to inform the plan, and put into practice on National PrepareAthon! Day.

Monday (9/8)	Youth and Children
Tuesday (9/9)	Disabilities, Access & Functional Needs, Older Adults
Wednesday (9/10)	Business
Thursday (9/11)	First Responders – fire, police, EMS, public utility
Friday (9/12)	Organizations (i.e. faith-based, voluntary and state/local/tribal)
Saturday (9/13)	Tribal Audiences
Sunday (9/14)	Pets

Week 3 (September 15-21): How to Build a Kit and Have What You Need. Have the emergency supplies you will need for yourself and your family.

Week 4/5 (September 22-30): How to Be Prepared Through Practice. Register to participate in America’s PrepareAthon! by taking an action; finding and participating in a posted readiness event; or sponsoring an event.