

National Preparedness Month 2008

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS NEWSLETTER/WEB SITE ARTICLE – SAMPLE 2

“September is Coming – Ready or Not?”

By Erin Streater, Director, Ready Campaign

Planning is a daily part of our routine. We plan our summer vacations, weekend activities and grocery store visits. We plan our children’s schedules and daily tasks. And, without a doubt, endless lists often follow. There is one particular list that deserves to be checked twice – and it’s not the list you make in December. We’re talking about reviewing your emergency preparedness checklist and developing an emergency preparedness plan for your family.

September is National Preparedness Month (NPM) and a good reminder that we all have a responsibility in protecting ourselves, families and our communities. Emergencies will happen, but taking action now can help us minimize the impact they will have on our lives.

This year, the *Ready* Campaign and its Department of Homeland Security partner Citizen Corps are reminding Americans to take important preparedness steps during NPM including: Get an Emergency Supply Kit; Make a Family Emergency Plan; Be Informed about the emergencies and their appropriate responses; and Get Involved in community efforts, such as Citizen Corps Councils. Throughout September, activities and events will take place across this country to highlight the importance of emergency preparedness and promote individual involvement, such as first aid trainings, town hall meetings and much more.

The *Ready* Campaign encourages you to take a few extra minutes this month to plan in case of an emergency. Consider the following questions: Have you spoken to your children’s schools about their shelter-in-place and/or evacuation plans?; Do you know the evacuation plan at your work?; If your cell phone was inoperable how would you get in touch with your family?; Do you have a family meeting place and an out of town contact? These are just a few of the questions you should consider as you are developing your emergency plan.

Free preparedness resources, such as a Family Emergency Plan template and an Emergency Supply Kit Checklist are just a click away at ready.gov or listo.gov or by calling 1-800-BE-READY. The *Ready* Web site also has a special sections for kids, ages 8-12, (*Ready Kids*) and small- to medium-sized businesses (*Ready Business*). Be sure to check it out – print out your emergency plan template and emergency supply kit list and start checking off those emergency supply kit items. Emergencies can happen anytime and to anyone – *Ready* or not.

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