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### **Get a kit, make a plan, stay informed in September**

September is National Preparedness Month. The Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management encourages area households to spend some time in September making sure they are prepared for a disaster. Ryan Nicholls, Director of the Office of Emergency Management, advises residents to be “Ready in 3” and prepare a kit, create a plan and stay informed.

“It’s very easy to assemble some basic necessities, make a disaster plan and to be ready to stay informed during a community emergency,” said Nicholls. “Spending a few minutes to prepare now can make the difference between keeping your family safe or being caught completely off-guard by a disaster.”

Basic home disaster preparation calls for:

1. Assembling an emergency supply kit, including
  - Water supply for three days — 1 gallon per person per day
  - Ready-to-eat food supply for three days —canned foods, cereal bars, etc.
  - Any medicines or medical supplies needed by family members
  - Flashlight and batteries
  - Battery-powered radio and batteries
  - First aid kit
  - Can opener
  - Blankets
  - Pet food and leashes or carriers, if needed
  - Place these supplies in a plastic tub or bag and keep in a safe place
2. Making a plan for contacting each other, including
  - Identify an out-of-town friend or family member to call or e-mail, in case family members become separated
  - Chose an emergency meeting place, in case family members can’t reach home
  - Make sure the whole family understands the plan
3. Stay informed on emergency information, including
  - Have a weather alert radio in your home, to keep you informed on severe weather watches and warnings
  - Know CPR and basic first aid
  - Learn your workplace and children’s school disaster plans
  - In the event of a disaster, monitor local media for important information (via TV, radio, newspapers, Internet, mobile devices)
  - Sign up for local emergency alerts at [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com)
  - Visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for more preparedness information

Nicholls also encourages preparedness plans for businesses, schools, and churches through his office’s CERT and Hometown Ready training programs.

For more information, call Ryan Nicholls, Director of the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management, at 417-869-6040; or Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Greene County Public Information Officer, at 417-829-6019 or 417-224-5510.

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