



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: September 1, 2017

September is National Preparedness Month

SPRINGFIELD, Missouri- September is designated as National Preparedness Month by FEMA, an annual opportunity to encourage personal and community disaster preparedness. This year's theme is "*Disasters Don't Plan Ahead. You Can.*" This four week initiative focuses on specific ways in which individuals and families can better plan for emergencies.

"Individual preparedness leads to community disaster resiliency," said Larry Woods, director of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). "Now is the best time to prepare for disaster, because it's not a matter of if the next disaster will occur, it's a matter of when."

Weekly emphases throughout National Preparedness Month include:

- Week 1: September 1-9 Make a Plan for Yourself, Family and Friends
- Week 2: September 10-16 Plan to Help Your Neighbors and Community
- Week 3: September 17-23 Practice and Build Out Your Plans
- Week 4: September 24-30 Get Involved! Be a Part of Something Larger

Preparedness efforts should be customized to the needs of your family and enhance your ability to survive a disaster event.

As you create an emergency plan, consider the following:

- How will you receive emergency alerts and real-time weather updates?
- Where will you take shelter and where will your family meet?
- How will you evacuate the area?
- Who will serve as your primary contact person following a disaster?

"The first step to preparedness is creating a family emergency plan and then practicing it," said Woods. "If it sits on a shelf, it won't be of much use. By ensuring your family is familiar with the plan, you greatly increase your odds of survival."

Follow OEM on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for preparedness tips and resources throughout the month.

To learn more about disaster planning and preparedness efforts, visit <https://oem.greenecountymo.gov>.

To learn more about National Preparedness Month, visit <https://www.ready.gov/september>.

For more information, contact Erin Hedlun, OEM Public Information Officer at 417-869-6040 (office), 417-860-0903 (cell) or ehedlun@greenecountymo.gov.