



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Office of Emergency Management Launches Social Media Campaign for September National Preparedness Month

SPRINGFIELD, Missouri- National Preparedness Month is an annual campaign that takes place each September in order to help encourage Americans to properly prepare for disasters and emergencies. Organized by FEMA, this month-long initiative strives to educate the public on the benefits of planning ahead for potential disasters and emergencies. This year's theme is *"Disasters Happen. Prepare Now. Learn How."*

Starting September 1, the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) will launch a social media campaign to educate the citizens of Greene County on how to prepare now for when disasters strike.

"Making an emergency preparedness plan for you and your family prior to a disaster situation is paramount," said Larry Woods, director of OEM. "Taking the necessary precautions to properly plan ahead of emergencies and disasters will help to alleviate the stresses of recovery. FEMA's National Preparedness Month campaign is a great way to learn about how important it is to prepare in advance to help yourself and your community."

Weekly themes throughout National Preparedness Month include:

Week 1: Sept 1-8	Make and Practice Your Plan
Week 2: Sept 9-15	Learn Life Saving Skills
Week 3: Sept 16-22	Check Your Insurance Coverage
Week 4: Sept 23-29	Save For an Emergency

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

This year, September 15 has been named as the National Day of Action. This day is dedicated for communities to hold events that align with the mission of National Preparedness Month by learning how to best prepare and take action in the event of an emergency.

In accordance with the National Day of Action, OEM is hosting a set of Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) courses. Starting September 15, the three-week long CERT course will take place on Saturday, September 15, 22 and 29 and will teach individuals basic disaster preparedness and response tactics.

"The CERT program educates individuals who are interested in learning about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills," said Samantha Foster, deputy director of OEM. "Often times, our CERT volunteers are the first responders until professional help arrives. Having the ability to educate the citizens of Greene County about how to actively respond to emergencies and disasters helps to further our vision to be the most disaster resilient community in America."

Those who are interested in becoming a registered CERT volunteer can sign up here:

<https://greenecountymo.gov/oem/cert/>

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>.

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