



August 31, 2017
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September is National Preparedness Month: Time for planning ahead

The serious flooding down in Texas and Louisiana, as well as the flooding Kane County experienced earlier this summer, can only serve to remind us of the importance of preparing disasters, whether natural or man-made. The Kane County Office of Emergency Management and the Kane County Health Department want to remind you: Disasters don't plan ahead, but you can! In fact, that is the overarching theme for this year's National Preparedness Month (NPM).

Following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, September has been recognized as NPM to serve as a reminder that we all must take action to prepare ourselves and those in our care, now and throughout the year, for the types of emergencies that could affect us where we live, work, and also where we visit. It is recommended that you prepare and plan in the event you must go for three days without electricity, water service, access to a supermarket, or local services for several days.

NPM 2017 features four themes, one for each week of September:

- Week 1: Make a Plan for Yourself, Family and Friends
- Week 2: Plan to Help Your Neighbor and Community
- Week 3; Practice and Build Out Your Plans
- Week 4: Get Involved! Be a Part of Something Larger

When preparing for emergencies, just follow these four steps:

- **Stay Informed:** Information is available at Ready.gov to learn what to do before, during, and after an emergency.

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- **Make a Plan:** Discuss, agree on, and document an emergency plan with those in your care. For sample plans, see Ready.gov. Work together with neighbors, colleagues, and others to build community resilience. Sign up for alerts and warnings in your area. Learn your evacuation zone and have an evacuation plan. Check your insurance coverage and review the Document and Insure Property guide. Plan financially for the possibility of disaster.
- **Build a Kit:** Keep enough emergency supplies - water, nonperishable food, first aid, prescriptions, flashlight, and battery-powered radio on hand - for you and those in your care.
- **Get Involved:** There are many ways to get involved especially before a disaster occurs. The whole community can participate in programs and activities to make their families, homes and places of worship safer from risks and threats.

The most important step you can take in helping your local responders during a disaster is being able to take care of yourself and those in your care; the more people who are prepared, the quicker the community will recover.

To watch a short video that illustrates the importance of communicating your emergency plans with your family, please click [here](#).

More information is available at [ready.gov](#), or you may visit the Kane County OEM web page by clicking [here](#) or the Health Department's Emergency Preparedness web page by clicking [here](#).

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