

## National Preparedness Month 2011

### *This September: A Time to Remember. A Time to Prepare.*

National Preparedness Month is the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) annual campaign to encourage Americans to take steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, schools, organizations, businesses, and communities. National Preparedness Month is sponsored by FEMA's *Ready* Campaign, a campaign that promotes preparedness and provides free preparedness information and resources, in partnership with the Citizen Corps whose local councils bring together government and community leaders to involve all citizens in emergency preparedness planning.

The goal for this September's National Preparedness Month is to turn awareness into action by motivating all Americans to make an emergency preparedness plan. FEMA relies on federal, state, and local partnerships and its Coalition Members to help bring this call to action to all communities throughout the U.S. You can play a key role in National Preparedness Month – no event or effort is too large or too small to make a difference.

### National Preparedness Month Coalition

**Sign up to be a National Preparedness Month Coalition Member!** Coalition Membership is easy, free, and important. Membership is open to all individuals, as well as businesses, organizations, associations, and coalitions. As a member, you will have access to tons of information and ready-to-use templates and messaging, including the ability to connect with the thousands of other members across the country. Help us encourage everyone to sign up at [community.fema.gov](http://community.fema.gov). Here are a few easy ways to participate as a Coalition Member:

✓ **Leverage Existing Events**

Participate in events and meetings that already exist within your community. Whether it's setting up a booth to pass out information or requesting time to present to participants, tapping into something that is already planned and scheduled is a great way to reach members of your community. Be sure to post your preparedness activity at [community.fema.gov](http://community.fema.gov).

✓ **Host an Event, Meeting, or Workshop**

Host an event, such as a preparedness workshop, day, or fair. You could invite a local first responder to talk about preparedness, or consider asking the American Red Cross to give a CPR training. Be sure to post your preparedness activity at [community.fema.gov](http://community.fema.gov).

✓ **Be Part of a Much Larger Event or Initiative**

People want to be part of something bigger. For example, September 11<sup>th</sup> is now an annual day of service and this year will mark the ten year anniversary of the terrorist attacks. Use this year's annual day of service to add a preparedness event or include preparedness in an event already scheduled. Visit [911dayofservice.org](http://911dayofservice.org) for a list of volunteer activities in your community.

✓ **Spread the Preparedness Message**

Include preparedness messaging in existing forms of communications, such as emails, websites, blogs, social media, newsletters, and even as bill stuffers. Once you're signed up as a Coalition Member, you will have access to ready-to-use messaging that you can use or customize.

*Together, we can make certain that all of our communities nationwide are prepared for disasters and emergencies of all kinds. Contact [NPM@fema.gov](mailto:NPM@fema.gov) for more information.*