

NEWS RELEASE

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ORANGE COUNTY ANNOUNCES PARTICIPATION IN SEPTEMBER'S NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH (NPM)

This September: You Can Be the Hero

Orange County, VA – This September is National Preparedness Month (NPM). Orange County has committed to participate in this important initiative to increase preparedness throughout the U.S. The event, now in its ninth year, is a nationwide, month-long effort hosted by the *Ready* Campaign and Citizen Corps, encouraging households, businesses and communities to prepare and plan for emergencies.

One of NPM's key messages is: being prepared in the event of an emergency ensures you will be self-reliant for three days without utilities and electricity, water service, access to a supermarket or local services, or maybe even without response from police, fire or rescue. Preparing can start with four important steps:

- 1. Be informed about emergencies that could happen in your community, and identify sources of information in your community that will be helpful before, during and after an emergency.
- 2. Make a plan for what to do in an emergency.
- 3. Build an emergency supply kit.
- 4. Get involved.

Preparedness is a shared responsibility; it takes a whole community. This year's National Preparedness Month focuses on turning awareness into action by encouraging all individuals and all communities nationwide to make an emergency preparedness plan. Preparedness information and events will be posted to http://community.fema.gov/connect.ti/READYNPM

For more information about the *Ready* Campaign and National Preparedness Month, visit http://community.fema.gov/connect.ti/READYNPM or call 1-800-BE-READY, 1-888-SE-LISTO, and TTY 1-800-462-7585.



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