



FEMA

As FEMA Region II's Preparedness Partners for the States of New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, we encourage your organization, employees, clients and constituents to promote and participate in this September's *National Preparedness Month* activities.

September is recognized as National Preparedness Month (NPM) which serves as a reminder that we all must take action to prepare, now and throughout the year, for the types of emergencies that could affect us where we live and work. We are looking to build a culture in our Region where preparedness is not just the focus of a given month, but is part of everyday life whereby citizens feel empowered each day to respond and mitigate the effects of emergencies and disasters.

"*Don't Wait, Communicate. Make Your Emergency Plan Today,*" is the theme for this September's National Preparedness Month with an emphasis on preparedness for youth, older adults, people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs. Weekly themes and suggested action items can be found at <https://www.ready.gov/september>.

We ask that your agency helps to promote preparedness activities by

1. Ensuring your organization is resilient and has the capacity to perform your essential functions before, during and after a crisis. This includes developing and testing continuity and emergency actions and to ensure that your staff has emergency and communication plans for their families.
2. Partnering with organizations and your network of agencies and partners to help provide community and individual preparedness messaging, outreach and training activities to their constituent communities.

The goal is to increase the number of individuals in our communities that:

- Understand which disasters could happen in their community
- Know what to do to be safe and mitigate damage
- Take action to increase their preparedness
- Participate in family and community resilience planning

Region II will be sending out Preparedness Month *Tips of the Week* and Preparedness Activities geared to organizational staff, families and community groups. To support you in these efforts, we have developed preparedness tools to provide, federal, state, local, non-profit and private sector partners a simple, low-stress opportunity to conduct preparedness activities for their

constituents, employees and families. Many of you aren't sure what types of activities to conduct, so we have taken the guesswork out by developing several scenarios for your use. Each scenario will focus on a different threat or hazard and is intended to be completed by participants at their own pace, in their own space. Participants can choose to partake in one, some, or all of the following scenarios:

- Scenario One: Active Shooter
- Scenario Two: Tornado
- Scenario Three: Wildfire
- Scenario Four: Hurricane/Flooding
- Scenario Five: Extreme Heat
- Scenario Six: Pet Preparedness

These activities can be in English and Spanish found at: <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/116163>

We ask that you spread the preparedness message and distribute these items to your staff and partners.

In addition, I encourage you to host events and use social media to raise awareness and participation in your communities throughout the year. Our website, www.ready.gov, provides other examples of easily achievable preparedness activities.

Through your participation and engagement, we can build a better prepared and more disaster resilient nation.

For more information, please contact:

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