

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

David L. Maack, CEM, CPM, WCEM
Racine County Emergency Management
262-636-3515

September is National Preparedness Month: “Disasters Don’t Plan Ahead. YOU CAN.”

(RACINE) County Executive Jonathan Delagrave has joined in proclaiming September as National Preparedness Month and is urging those who live and work in Racine County to work together toward creating a more prepared community. This year’s theme is “**Disasters Don’t Plan Ahead. YOU CAN.**”

“Racine County is not immune to disasters and we saw that firsthand this past summer,” commented Delagrave. “We should all plan ahead by asking ourselves, what would I do if I was faced with a sudden emergency? What steps do I need to take? Where would I go if I had to leave my home?”

Racine County Emergency Management urges citizens to take the time now to discuss with family, friends and neighbors about what to do in an emergency and then build an emergency kit for your home and vehicles. Simple preparedness steps that families can follow include:

1. MAKE A PLAN FOR YOURSELF, FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Plan for emergencies that could affect us, sign up for **alerts and warnings** in our area, have an evacuation plan and a place to go and make sure you have adequate insurance coverage. In addition, maintain a contact list in both paper copy and electronic with current contact information for those individuals you may need to reach during an emergency. Make sure you keep a paper copy in your wallet and in your emergency kit.

2. PLAN TO HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR AND COMMUNITY

Almost half of Americans expect to rely on their neighbors after a disaster. Therefore, take the time to learn skills you will need to help yourself and others until help can arrive. And don’t forget to check in on your neighbors.



3. PRACTICE AND BUILD OUT YOUR PLANS

Talk about your plan with your family by playing the “what if?” game. What if there was a tornado? What would we do? Where would we go? What would we need? What if there was a fire? Train derailment? Winter storm? Practice your emergency plan by participating in an emergency drill and learn how to access community resources (e.g., shelters, food banks)

4. GET INVOLVED! BE A PART OF SOMETHING LARGER

Get involved and share preparedness info in our community, your faith-based organization & business. Learn CPR and First Aid. And the Red Cross, Racine Fire Bells, Salvation Army and other community groups that help out in times of disaster are always looking for volunteers.

“Disasters don’t plan ahead, but we can!” commented David Maack, Racine County Emergency Management Coordinator, “Take the time now to prepare. You’ll be glad you did. Being prepared can save precious time and save lives.”

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