

National Preparedness Month



September 2007 marks the fourth annual National Preparedness Month, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. This initiative is launched each year in September to raise awareness about the nation's hazard risks, and to promote behavior that fosters public preparedness for emergencies and disasters.

As recognized leaders in helping people and communities prepare for disasters, the Corporation for National and Community Service, State Commissions and Citizen Corps partners are participating in programs, distributing literature, and sponsoring activities to coincide with National Preparedness Month. There are 1,700 partner organizations in the governmental, private, and nonprofit sectors taking part.

We wanted to provide you with some examples of how people are celebrating National Preparedness Month and to remind all of us that we don't need to wait until September to prepare. We should take every opportunity to be prepared as individuals, families, Members, organizations and communities.

Here are some examples of preparedness activities taking place around the country. Further examples can be found at The Resource Center, <http://nationalserviceresources.org>, and a complete calendar can be found at www.ready.gov. We hope you find these suggestions useful in designing your own preparedness events, at any time of year:



- ☼ Serve DC and DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management are sponsoring a **National Preparedness Month kickoff pep rally** to be held at a city elementary school. Mayor Adrian Fenty will issue a proclamation designating September as Preparedness Month in the District of Columbia, and urge citizens to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and communities.
<http://newsroom.dc.gov/show.aspx/agency/cncs/section/2/release/11762>

- ☼ The Alabama Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, Department of Homeland Security, Emergency Management Agency, FedEx, Toyota, and EMS Innovations are sponsoring **Be Ready Camp**. This is a free, week-long program that will provide participating Alabama youth with emergency health, safety, and Citizen Corps training. The purpose of the camp is to increase the number of school-aged youth who are prepared and ready to respond in an emergency. The camp session culminates with a mock disaster exercise, where campers work side-by-side with first responders.
<http://www.readyalabama.org/npm/nationalpreparednessmonth.html>

- ☀ In Arkansas, Wal-Mart, Benton County Emergency Management, and Washington County Emergency Management have teamed up to create a **4-page personal preparedness newspaper insert** that will be distributed to all residents of Benton and Washington Counties to mark National Preparedness Month.
- ☀ The Orlando, Florida Office of Emergency Management and Orlando Citizen Corps will dedicate the “Frequently Asked Questions” section of their official newsletter, **“Notice of the Day”**, to National Preparedness Month. The city hopes to encourage all of their 3,500 employees to learn more about emergency preparedness.



- ☀ In West Virginia, the Hampshire County Community Action/VISTA Volunteer and Hampshire County Health Department have set up a **Be Prepared Library** display table, brochures & other educational information at the Hampshire County Public Library.

- ☀ The United Way of Whitley County, Indiana, and Citizens Corps will host **Day of Caring breakfasts** where participants will receive a bag of preparedness information regarding pandemic flu preparations, preparing pets for emergencies, becoming a CERT volunteer, and preparing your family for emergencies.
- ☀ The Fresno Fire Department in Fresno, California, will distribute the **"Every Business Should Have a Plan"** brochure to all businesses during their annual fire inspections. Program will continue all year and is expected to reach up to 13,000 small and large businesses.
- ☀ The City of Paterson, New Jersey will hold a **3-day festival** at the historic Paterson Great Falls. They utilize their CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) to distribute disaster related publications in English and Spanish and encourage the attendees to create a Plan and get a supply kit. This year their focus will be on disaster awareness for youth

