



# READY TO RESPOND

## NEWSLETTER



CITY OF CHARLESTON

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CHARLESTON FIRE DEPT

### Know What to Do in Case of Emergency

Find important tips from the Red Cross on what to do in emergencies

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## National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) aims to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to all types of emergencies including natural disasters and terrorist attacks. This is an opportunity for friends and family to make plans for emergencies and share them with each other. Having a plan and being prepared for different emergencies can make the difference between life and death.

### Know What to Do in Case of Emergency

It is important to make sure that the entire family is prepared and informed in the event of a disaster or emergency. You may not always be together when these events take place and should have plans for making sure you are able to contact and find one another.

**The American Red Cross suggests some basic steps to make sure you remain safe:**

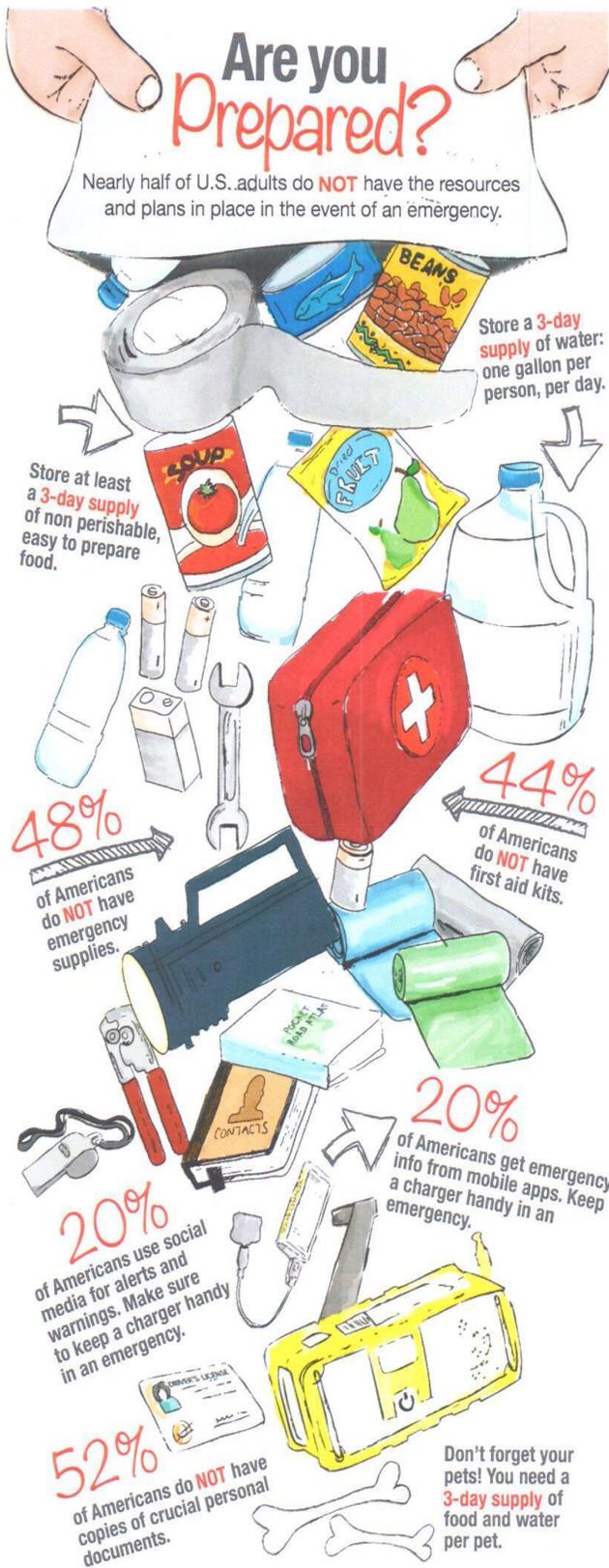
- Meet with your family or household members.
- Discuss how to prepare and respond to emergencies that are most likely to happen where you live, learn, work and play.
- Identify responsibilities for each member of your household and plan to work together as a team.
- If a family member is in the military, plan how you would respond if they were deployed

## National Preparedness Month

### Additional Information on Preparedness

- [FEMA.gov](http://FEMA.gov)
- [Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov)
- [Redcross.org](http://Redcross.org)
- [Illionis.gov/iema](http://Illionis.gov/iema)
- [cdc.gov/preparedness](http://cdc.gov/preparedness)





**Prepare supplies for home, work, and vehicles.  
Emergencies can happen anywhere.**

For more information visit: [emergency.cdc.gov](http://emergency.cdc.gov)



## September: National Preparedness Month



### Plan what to do in case you are separated during an emergency

- Choose two places to meet:
  - Right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, such as a fire
  - Outside your neighborhood, in case you cannot return home or are asked to evacuate
- Choose an out-of-area emergency contact person. It may be easier to text or call long distance if local phone lines are overloaded or out of service. Everyone should have emergency contact information in writing or saved on their cell phones.

### Plan what to do if you have to evacuate

- Decide where you would go and what route you would take to get there. You may choose to go to a hotel/motel, stay with friends or relatives in a safe location or go to an evacuation shelter if necessary.
- Practice evacuating your home twice a year. Drive your planned evacuation route and plot alternate routes on your map in case roads are impassable.
- Plan ahead for your pets. Keep a phone list of pet-friendly hotels/motels and animal shelters that are along your evacuation routes.

Know what to Do in Case of Emergency provided by <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/plan>



## Illinois Emergency Management Agency Press Release

### **IEMA Joins Nationwide Campaign to Encourage Disaster Preparedness**

#### ***‘Don’t Wait. Communicate. Make Your Emergency Plan Today’ is Theme for National Preparedness Month in September***

SPRINGFIELD – September is National Preparedness Month and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) is joining with emergency management agencies throughout the state and across the U.S. to encourage people to spend a few moments during the month on disaster preparedness.

The campaign’s theme, *‘Don’t Wait. Communicate. Make Your Emergency Plan Today’*, urges people to set aside time to discuss emergency plans with family members and develop a plan to stay safe when disaster strikes. The month-long preparedness drive will conclude on September 30 with ‘American’s PrepareAthon,’ a national day of action.

“Severe weather and other disasters can’t be prevented, and many occur without much warning,” said IEMA Director James K. Joseph. “We saw that happen last December with heavy rains and widespread flooding that claimed 10 lives and drove many people from their homes with little notice. Taking a few minutes now on your emergency plan could be a true life saver during an emergency.”

Throughout September, IEMA will offer tips and information on how to develop a family emergency communication plan, assemble an emergency supply kit, as well as ways to receive critical emergency warnings.

IEMA offers disaster preparedness information on the Ready Illinois website ([www.Ready.Illinois.gov](http://www.Ready.Illinois.gov)), a one-stop resource for detailed information about what to do before, during and after disasters.

In addition, throughout September IEMA will post daily preparedness tips on the Ready Illinois Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/ReadyIllinois](http://www.facebook.com/ReadyIllinois)) and Twitter (@ReadyIllinois).

During disasters, IEMA uses the Ready Illinois website, Facebook and Twitter pages to provide critical information about the incident, including shelter locations, road closures, safety information, photos and more.