

# News Release



For Immediate Release  
September 1, 2016

## September is National Preparedness Month!



“What if... without warning, Shelby County experienced a catastrophic earthquake, a major flood, extreme terrorism, a hazardous materials accident, or a severe thunderstorm? What if you didn't know what to do? What if you get separated from your family?” asked Dale Lane, Shelby County Office of Preparedness Director. “If you have a plan – knowing who to call, where to meet, and what to pack – the odds your family will survive are substantially increased.”

Please take the month of **September, National Preparedness Month**, to follow our 2016 theme, “Don't Wait. Communicate. Make Your Emergency Plan Today!”

Writing down your emergency plans will help you remember them and carry them out. To assist you, FEMA offers free emergency plan templates for parents, kids, businesses, and transit commuters. Please visit [www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/108887](http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/108887) or [www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/34330](http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/34330) to create your plan in 3 easy steps:

1. **COLLECT** information. Include emergency contacts, an out-of-town contact, a neighborhood meeting place, and a household inventory with photos. Don't forget financial, medical, work, pet, school, and service provider information. Create a group emergency contact list for your mobile phones.
2. **SHARE** information with your family. Save the information for updates. Share mobile emergency apps with family. Make sure everyone knows how to text.
3. **PRACTICE** your plans! Have regular household meetings to review and practice your plans.

Additionally, each week of September is dedicated to a specific theme. They include:

**Week 1:** August 28 – September 3: National Preparedness Month kickoff

**Week 2:** September 4 – 10: Preparing Family and Friends

**Week 3:** September 11 – 17: Preparing Through Service

**Week 4:** September 18 – 24: Individual Preparedness

**Week 5:** September 25 – 30: Lead up to National PrepareAthon Day!

Explore disaster preparedness and National Preparedness Month resources at:

[www.ready.gov/september](http://www.ready.gov/september)

[www.staysafeshelby.us](http://www.staysafeshelby.us)

[www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)

Follow the conversation at #NatlPrep.

View the “Don't Wait” PSA at: <https://youtu.be/INEadTX6zBY>.

**End Release**