

News Release



For Immediate Release
December 29, 2016

Resolve to be Ready!

“Make family preparedness your 2017 New Year’s Resolution!” said Dale Lane, Director, Shelby County Office of Preparedness. “Our goals are attainable, realistic - and can save your life and property. The more you prepare the less stress and worry you’ll experience during a disaster. Meet with your family to review these preparedness goals. And have a happy and safe 2017!”



- ✓ **Know your risks!** Our most common hazards include: earthquake, severe weather (thunderstorms, flooding, tornado, extreme heat and cold), outages, hazardous materials releases, fires, epidemics, and active shooter / terrorism events.
- ✓ **Create emergency kits.** Have one kit for your home to sustain you and your pets for 7 days. Have an emergency kit for the workplace and an auto kit for travel emergencies.
- ✓ **Make a plan!** Write down how you will respond to disasters. Download an emergency plan at: https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/Family_Emergency_Plan.pdf
 - Identify a “**safe place**” for severe thunderstorms or hazardous materials releases.
 - Practice **sheltering-in-place** or **evacuating** with family and pets.
 - Have **smoke and carbon monoxide detectors** on every floor and outside sleeping areas. Have two ways out of every room in case of a fire. Practice your escape plan.
 - Create a **family communications plan**. Designate an out-of-state relative to notify if the family gets separated. Program emergency numbers in cell phones. Learn to text. Keep cell phones charged and ready. Have wallet cards with emergency phone numbers.
 - Have a **designated meeting place** outside the home and in the community if separated.
 - **Plan for pets.** Create a “buddy system” with neighbors in case you can’t get home.
- ✓ **Stay informed!** Listen to local authorities on TV, radio, or social media. Have a NOAA all-hazards radio with battery back-up. Download FREE emergency apps, such as ReadyTN, to mobile devices. Respond quickly and safely to authorities’ instructions.
- ✓ **Be a buddy!** Take care of yourself first. Then, please assist our most vulnerable citizens during emergencies. They include our seniors, single parents, and those with medical, mental, and transportation challenges.

Resources:

- ✓ Federal Emergency Management Agency: www.fema.gov and www.ready.gov
- ✓ ReadyTN (free) mobile app: <http://www.tnema.org/ReadyTN/mobile-app.html>

End Release