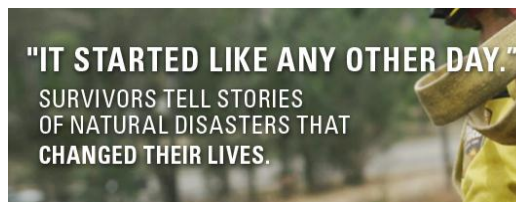


News Release



Please take 4 minutes and 12 seconds to view the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) video, "It Started Like Any Other Day," at https://youtu.be/w_omgt3MEBs. It dramatically emphasizes the uncertainty, fear, and stress we face when disaster strikes.

"Disasters will happen, any time, any place. But, the good news is that you can prepare to survive," said Director Dale Lane at the Shelby County Office of Preparedness. Today, the Office of Preparedness, in partnership with FEMA, invites you to join the 7.5 million citizens who have registered for America's PrepareAthon! This grassroots campaign encourages and empowers citizens to prepare, share ideas, and get involved in these three easy steps.

1. Take Action! Learn which disasters occur in Shelby County and how to prepare for them. Create a plan for earthquake, flooding, tornado, hazardous materials accident, ice storm, power outage, pandemic, terrorism, and major fire. Make disaster kits for home, work, and auto with enough supplies to sustain you and your pets for at least 7 days. Learn how to shelter-in-place or evacuate at a moment's notice. Practice your plans! Take the free Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) preparedness training from Shelby County.

2. Be Counted! Create an account and register your activities and suggestions by visiting <http://www.community.fema.gov/connect.ti/AmericasPrepareathon/register>.

3. Spread the Word! Meet with family, friends, co-workers, and your pets and start a preparedness conversation. Make sure everyone knows what they will do and where they will go during a disaster. Then widen your circle by getting to know your neighbors. Access alerts and warnings by adding free emergency apps from ALERTFM, FEMA, NOAA, and the American Red Cross to your mobile device.

To find out more about America's PrepareAthon, visit www.ready.gov/prepare. Email: prepareathon@fema.gov. Follow the conversation on Twitter @PrepareAthon, #PrepareAthon. To find out more about the Shelby County Office of Preparedness or register for the free CERT training, visit www.staysafeshelby.us or call the Office of Preparedness at 901.222.6700.

End of Release

