

September is National Preparedness Month and the 13th anniversary of 9/11

No one should live in fear of what “could” happen, but we shouldn’t live in denial or become complacent either. While the weather is still pleasant and kids are returning to school, take time to prepare for emergencies in your home, school, organizations, businesses, and communities. Follow these three easy steps for making preparedness a part of your everyday life:



Step 1: Implement simple preparedness activities

Start by learning more about [local hazards](#) and what you can do to plan for them. Then involve your entire family in [making a plan, building a kit, and helping others](#) so that when disasters strike, you'll be ready.

For your kids specifically:

- Share age-appropriate information about what they can do to stay safe in an emergency;
- Keep your emergency contact information up-to-date at your child’s school or day care;
- Find out where children will be taken if they have to evacuate the school;
- Ask if they store enough food, water and other supplies in case they have to “shelter-in-place;”
- Designate a friend or relative to pick up your children in an emergency and make sure the school knows who that person is; and
- Ask how they will communicate with families during a crisis.

Visit FEMA's new [Ready Kids](#) site for valuable tools to help your children and teachers prepare for emergencies.

Step 2: Pledge to prepare

Register as a community preparedness coalition member at [ready.gov/pledge](#). Members have access to the online community, resources, and tools available to help get you and your family prepared for an emergency.

Step 3: Take a free online preparedness course

Developed in partnership with the Emergency Management Institute and in consultation with faith-based and community partners, FEMA's "[Is-909 Community Preparedness: Implementing Simple Activities for Everyone](#)" training course introduces you to a program for promoting individual and community preparedness through simple and engaging activities. The course is free, available online, and is designed for anyone to use in coordination with your local [emergency management office](#).