

Non-Profit News

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Welcome to National Preparedness Month!

September is National Preparedness month and I am happy to report that here in Lee County we are embracing it whole-heartedly. On September 10, Mayor Ham, Mayor Fuller, Mayor Dellinger and Probate Judge English will all sign proclamations making it Preparedness Month locally and recognizing Ready Lee County, a coalition developed to prepare and protect our citizens. What does this mean to us, you ask? It means we live in communities where our health and safety are of the utmost importance to our leaders. We act proactively to protect our citizens. In the event of a disaster, we won't wait for the cavalry to come; we are training ourselves now to be the cavalry!

Here are some facts that re-enforce why we should all be prepared:

- Every region of our country is vulnerable to disasters of some type like flooding, severe storms, high winds, power outages, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, or wildfires. In fact, just last year the American Red Cross responded to almost 75,000 disasters.
- Having children is an important reason to plan for an emergency. In situations where care may be delayed, families will want to make sure they have the necessary supplies and a plan that the entire family knows about and has practiced.
- Only seven percent of Americans are considered ready for a disaster, meaning they have a disaster supplies kit, a communication plan and are prepared to respond to disasters and everyday emergencies.
- 64% of Americans have no evacuation plan, even though 27% have had to leave home for at least one night because of a disaster or other emergency.
- 69% of Americans living in hurricane-prone states don't have a disaster supplies kit, and sixty percent don't have an evacuation plan.
- 60% of American households have a pet, yet only 37% have a plan to care for their pets in case of a disaster.
- 90% of Americans who have a disaster kit feel prepared, but only 28% have one.

Ready Lee County is a coalition of local businesses, government and non-profit groups who have come together to offer education, training and preparedness information to our

citizens. The best part of Ready Lee County is that the training and information are all provided free! Many events are scheduled for September including:

Proclamation Signing: Monday, September 10 at 2:00 p.m. at the Lee County EMA office on Avenue B in Opelika.

Tuesday Talk: Tuesday, September 11 at 7:30 at the Auburn Chamber of Commerce. Come hear a presentation about “Ready Lee County” and how you can protect your business and your family.

Plan to Prepare Event: Saturday, September 22 at Home Depot in Tiger Town from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Attend preparedness clinics on topics such as building your disaster supplies kit; developing a family preparedness plan; and generator safety. You can also register for give-aways and build your disaster supplies kit.

Long Term Care & Residential Provider Emergency Planning Session: Wednesday, September 26 from 11:30 – 1:00 at the Health Resource Center in Opelika. If you work in these types of industries you have a special responsibility to be prepared to protect those in your care. Lunch is provided!

If you would like more information on any of these events, training opportunities or on the “Ready Lee County” initiative, visit the website at www.readyleecounty.org or call Leigh Warren at 334-749-9981.

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