

September is . . .
NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

"It is vital that Americans take steps to prepare for emergencies at home, work and/or school. Personal preparedness is paramount to effectively reacting to the effects of a disaster. By preparing yourself, your family, and your business, you allow first responders to prioritize efforts and aid."

. . . Michael Chertoff, Homeland Security Secretary

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH is a nationwide effort to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, business & schools. Throughout September, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will work with a wide variety of organizations to highlight the importance of emergency preparedness and promote individual involvement through events and activities throughout the nation. **THE GOAL** is to increase public awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies and to encourage individuals to take action. What can **YOU** do to prepare for the unexpected?

- ⇒ **ASSEMBLE A KIT** of emergency supplies which will allow you and your family to survive on your own for at least 72 hours (3 days) in the event of an emergency. Visit www.cityofhubbard.org for ideas on suggested items to include in your kit. **Remember to adjust your kit to accommodate any personal/special needs your family may have. Some items will need to be rotated on a regular basis to ensure they are not past their usable date.**
- ⇒ **MAKE A PLAN** in advance of what you and your family will do in an emergency. Your plan should include both a communications plan and also focus on both sheltering-in-place and evacuation possibilities.
- ⇒ **BE INFORMED** about the different types of threats which could affect our community, and what the appropriate response to each of them is.

WATER — THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY: Stocking water reserves should be a top priority. Drinking water in emergency situations should **not** have to be rationed — therefore it is critical to store adequate amounts of water for your household!

- ⇒ A normally active person needs a minimum of two quarts of water daily just for drinking. Children, nursing mothers, and ill people need more. Hot temperatures can double the amount of drinking water needed. You will also need water for sanitary purposes and, possibly for cooking. A minimum of one gallon per person per day should be stored. **Remember to consider your pets' needs when planning how much water to store!**
- ⇒ Store water in thoroughly washed plastic, fiberglass or enamel-lined metal containers. Sound plastic containers such as soft drink bottles are best. You can also purchase food-grade plastic buckets or drums.
- ⇒ Seal your water containers tightly, label them & store them with your other kit items, preferably in a cool, dark place.
- ⇒ It is recommended to rotate stored water every six months.

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY stay calm, be patient and think before you act. Be prepared to adapt any and all information to your own personal circumstances. Local officials and relief workers will be on scene following a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone right away. With planning and preparation — you can be ready for the unexpected — which could save your life or the life of a family member, friend or neighbor! Once authorities arrive on scene — make every effort to follow their instructions.

Knowledge and preparation are your best defense and are your responsibility! For more information on EMERGENCY PLANNING, call 503.982.9429, or visit our website at www.cityofhubbard.org.

