

DPS and FEMA encourages citizens, groups and businesses to join in September's National Preparedness Month

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), are encouraging families, businesses and communities to participate in 2011 National Preparedness Month (NPM) during the month of September.

The annual campaign seeks to transform awareness into action by encouraging all Americans to take the necessary steps to ensure that their families, homes, workplaces and communities are prepared for disasters and emergencies of all kinds. The eighth annual NPM will kick-off this September, using the slogan: "A Time to Remember. A Time to Prepare."

"As we move forward with planning for this year's events and activities, we also recognize that this September marks the ten year anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks," said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. "By doing what we can to ensure that our communities, and our nation, are prepared to respond and recover from all types of disasters and hazards, we honor the memory of those who were lost that day."

Community and civic groups, businesses, institutions, local organizations and governments are all strongly encouraged to visit the www.Ready.gov website, click on the NPM banner and register as a member of the NPM coalition.

Once registered, members have access to a toolkit that includes suggestions for activities and events, templates, articles, banners and customizable materials. Coalition members also have access to an events calendar allowing them to post and promote their own preparedness events, share success stories, and participate in national and regional discussion forums to engage with fellow coalition members and FEMA representatives.

By hosting events, promoting volunteer programs and sharing emergency preparedness information, coalition members can help ensure that their communities are prepared for emergencies. Becoming a coalition member is easy and free, so [register now](#) to get started. Nearly 2,000 coalition members have already joined this year's campaign.

While NPM is held each September, FEMA's *Ready* Campaign promotes individual emergency preparedness at home, in the workplace, and throughout America's communities throughout the year. Ready is a national campaign, produced in partnership with The Ad Council, designed to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to all types of emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks.

The www.Ready.gov website provides free emergency preparedness information and resources in English, Spanish and 12 other languages.