

## NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Disasters don't wait- make your plan today!

September 9, 2020- If nothing else, COVID-19 has taught us to expect the unexpected.

Disasters and emergency situations can happen to anyone at any time and they don't wait for us to feel prepared. It's important to ensure safety and protect your loved ones by preparing for disasters and emergencies throughout the year.

This September, District Health Department #10 (DHD#10) is encouraging people to take the time to plan ahead for possible worst-case scenarios. As the world continues to respond to COVID-19, there is no better time to make sure you're prepared.

"Everyone should have plans and supplies in place to care for their families for at least 72 hours, but preferably two weeks. As an example, many residents in Michigan could go without power for more than a week during winter weather," said Bret Haner, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for DHD#10.

[Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov), the official website of the Department of Homeland Security, has put together a "Disasters Don't Wait, Make Your Plan Today" theme for Emergency Preparedness Month this year. Each week in September has a special theme with suggestions for disaster and emergency related activities:

- **Week 1: September 1-5. Make A Plan.** Talk to your friends and family about how you will communicate before, during, and after a disaster. Make sure to update your Emergency Plan based on the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations due to COVID-19.
- **Week 2: September 6-12. Build A Kit.** Gather supplies that will last for several days after a disaster for everyone living in your home. Don't forget to consider the unique needs of each person or pet. Update your kits and supplies based on CDC recommendations.
- **Week 3: September 13-19. Prepare for Disasters.** Limit the impacts that disasters have on you and your family. Know the risk of disasters in your area and check your insurance coverage. Learn how to make your home stronger in the face of storms and other common hazards and act fast if you receive a local warning or alert.
- **Week 4: September 20-26. Teach Youth About Preparedness.** Talk to your kids about preparing for emergencies and what to do in case you are separated. Reassure them by providing information about how they can get involved.

For more information about National Preparedness Month and emergency preparedness visit <https://www.ready.gov/september> or <http://www.dhd10.org/men-women/mw-emergency-preparedness/>

###



### MEDIA CONTACT

Jeannine Taylor  
Public Information Officer  
O: 231-876-3823  
C: 231-920-4998  
E: [jtaylor@dhd10.org](mailto:jtaylor@dhd10.org)



### COUNTIES SERVED:

Crawford  
Kalkaska  
Lake  
Manistee  
Mason  
Mecosta  
Missaukee  
Newaygo  
Oceana  
Wexford



[www.dhd10.org](http://www.dhd10.org)



[www.facebook.com/DHD10](https://www.facebook.com/DHD10)