

September is National Preparedness Month



More than 1,150 public and private sector organizations representing every state in the nation are promoting emergency preparedness through hundreds of events and activities in communities across the country in September. National organizations such as Boy Scouts of America, The Council of Better Business Bureaus, National Volunteer Fire Council, Home Depot, ASPCA and the American Red Cross and many smaller regional, state and local groups are taking part in this important effort. Throughout September, DHS and coalition members are highlighting the importance of individual emergency preparedness and encouraging Americans to get

an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan and be informed about the different types of emergencies that may affect them.

"This is not a time to be complacent. Every family should take the time to prepare for emergencies. Each household should develop family disaster plans and compile kits with necessary supplies to last three days," FEMA Director David Paulison said. "They also should stay informed about local weather conditions and pay attention to emergency information from local and state officials."

For those that have already put together family kits then use this time to check expiration dates, batteries and restock used items.

Here are some useful resources to assist activates/programs for the students/staff and parents in your schools.

www.ready.gov/kids/Index.html This website has all kinds of games, checklist and other information geared for children.

www.coughsafe.com/media.html This site shows a wonderful DVD segment on cough etiquette. Worth purchasing.

www.mass.gov/DPH/flu Plenty of fact sheets, flyers etc. to order or download.

www.cdc.gov/flu Same as our DPH site.

<http://www.globright.com/handwashing.html> Good site for hand washing education/games.

<http://www.glogerm.com/worksheet.html> Another great site.

Remember: September is a good time to get students, parents and staff on board in preparation for all emergencies, including the flu.

Provide fact sheets on Flu symptoms, information on the importance of not going to school with flu-like symptoms, and emergency "To-Go Kits".

If anyone needs additional information or assistance they can contact me.

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