

# SAFETY NEWS

## A Majority of Americans Haven't Practiced Emergency Preparedness *America's PrepareAthon! Campaign Offers Specific Actions To Prepare For A Disaster*

(NAPSA)—A recent survey conducted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) found that nearly 70 percent of Americans have not participated in a preparedness drill or exercise, aside from a fire drill, at their workplace, school or home in the past two years.

Knowing what to do in the event of a disaster or emergency is the message of the America's PrepareAthon!, a nationwide grassroots campaign for action to increase community preparedness and resilience through hazard-specific drills, group discussions, and exercises. The campaign offers easy-to-implement preparedness guides, checklists, and resources to help individuals, organizations, and whole communities practice the simple, specific actions they can take for emergencies and the types of disasters that are relevant to their area. September is National Preparedness Month and a reminder that we must take action to prepare for the types of emergencies that could affect us where we live, work, learn, and worship.

### What You Can Do

1. **Sign up for local text alerts and warnings and download weather apps to your smartphone.** Stay aware of worsening weather conditions. Visit [www.ready.gov/prepare](http://www.ready.gov/prepare) and download Be Smart: Know Your Alerts and Warnings to learn how to search for local alerts and weather apps that are relevant for hazards that affect your area.

2. **Gather important documents and keep them in a safe**



**You and your family can take action now to be prepared in case of an emergency.**

- place. Have all your personal, medical, and legal papers in one place, so you can evacuate without worrying about gathering your family's critical documents at the last minute. Visit [www.ready.gov/prepare](http://www.ready.gov/prepare) and download Be Smart: Protect Your Critical Documents and Valuables for a helpful checklist.

3. **Create an emergency supply kit.** Be prepared for bad weather by creating an emergency supply kit for each member of your family. Visit [www.ready.gov/build-a-kit](http://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit) for ideas of what to include in your kit.

4. **Develop an emergency communication plan for your family.** Come up with a plan so everyone knows how to reach each other and get back together if separated. Visit [www.ready.gov/make-a-plan](http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan) for communication plan resources.

Visit [www.ready.gov/prepare](http://www.ready.gov/prepare) for more information and ways to get involved.

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*Note to Editors: While September is National Preparedness Month, the information in this article can be useful to your readers at any time.*