



Loudoun County, Virginia

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NEWS RELEASE

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September is National Preparedness Month: Create a ‘Lasting Legacy’

Loudoun County officials encourage residents and businesses to take time during September to prepare for emergencies. September is National Preparedness Month, which promotes family and community disaster planning. This year’s theme is “A Lasting Legacy,” highlighting how families can prepare now for disasters to protect their loved ones and create a lasting legacy for the future.

“We want people to take action to prepare themselves and their families for the many types of hazards that could affect Loudoun County. Preparing now for the future will help build a legacy of preparedness so that family members know what to do in case of a disaster,” said Loudoun County Coordinator of Emergency Management Kevin Johnson.

Like many communities, Loudoun has the potential to experience many types of hazards, such as blizzards, flooding, high winds, power outages, tornadoes and even terrorist events. National Preparedness Month comes in the middle of hurricane season and is a reminder that even though Loudoun is inland, the county is vulnerable to the effects of hurricanes, which can produce extensive flooding hundreds of miles from the coast.

There are many local, state, regional and national resources available to help individuals and families with the process of being prepared for emergencies, including loudoun.gov/ready, Ready.gov, ReadyNOVA and the [Virginia Department of Emergency Management](http://VirginiaDepartmentofEmergencyManagement.gov).

In addition to online resources, the [Loudoun County Office of Emergency Management](http://LoudounCountyOfficeofEmergencyManagement.org) will have preparedness information available through displays at the county’s community centers, senior centers, the Loudoun County Government Center and Loudoun County Public Library branches throughout September.

Emergency Preparedness: Step by Step

By taking a few simple steps today, you can become better prepared to face a range of emergencies that could occur anytime and anywhere.

- **Step 1: Make a Plan:** Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to plan ahead for how to get to a safe place, contact loved ones and reunite once the emergency is over. Online planning tools for families, businesses and places of worship can be found at ReadyNOVA.
- **Step 2: Build a Kit.** Being prepared means having your own food, water and other supplies to last for at least 72 hours. A disaster supplies kit is a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency, including items that can protect against COVID-19, including hand sanitizer, soap, disinfectant wipes and face coverings. If pets are part of your family, include items such as a selfie with your pet in case you get

separated, medicine and grooming items as well as a collar and leash. Find out more at loudoun.gov/makeakit.

- **Step 3: Be Informed:** Know the types of [hazards](#) that may occur and how you will receive information before, during and after an emergency. Sign up for [Alert Loudoun](#) to get emergency information and other Loudoun County news and information. Monitor local weather forecasts from the [National Weather Service](#).

Throughout National Preparedness Month, follow Loudoun County Government on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for tips on preparing yourself and your family for all types of hazards. For more information and resources on preparing for emergencies, visit loudoun.gov/ready.

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