



**pennsylvania**  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

# PREPAREDNESS TIP OF THE MONTH

## September is National Preparedness Month and America's PrepareAthon!

**DON'T WAIT. COMMUNICATE.  
MAKE YOUR EMERGENCY PLAN TODAY.**



SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH!



AMERICA'S  
**PrepareAthon!**



When preparing for unexpected events, we cannot tell what situations we may find ourselves in in the future, but we can look to the past and learn from our experience and the experience of others and hopefully find ourselves in a better place after taking steps to prepare if an emergency were to happen.

As we head into National Preparedness Month which begins September 1st, and American's National PrepareAthon! Day, which wraps up National Preparedness Month on September 30<sup>th</sup>, let's stop playing with chance and become ready for almost any disaster or emergency that is thrown at us.

National Preparedness Month starts on September 1! This year's theme is **"Don't Wait. Communicate. Make Your Emergency Plan Today."** Each week will focus on a different type of emergency and how you and your family can prepare. Don't forget to be counted by adding your preparedness activity to the America's PrepareAthon! website [www.ready.gov/prepare](http://www.ready.gov/prepare).

- Week 1: September 1-5 Flood
- Week 2: September 6-12 Wildfire
- Week 3: September 13-19 Hurricane
- Week 4: September 14-26 Power Outage
- Week 5: September 27-30 (Lead up to National PrepareAthon! Day September 30)



### NATIONAL PREPAREATHON! DAY (SEPTEMBER 30)

- Find or host a preparedness discussion, drill or activity in your local area. Find tips, guides, and playbooks on how to plan an event by visiting: [www.ready.gov/prepare](http://www.ready.gov/prepare).
- Be counted and submit your preparedness activity on [www.ready.gov/prepare](http://www.ready.gov/prepare).
- Take action and participate in a preparedness activity on or around the National PrepareAthon! Day on September 30 by visiting: [www.ready.gov/prepare](http://www.ready.gov/prepare).
- Continue to host and support preparedness activities all year long using America's PrepareAthon! Resources.

We need to remember that emergencies don't just happen while we are at home where we may have supplies to help us through those circumstances, they could happen while traveling to work, school, nationally or internationally. We need to keep in mind that our "go bags" may not be readily available. But what we train for will always be with us. That is why practicing drills and exercises is so important.



### FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

- ✓ Twitter: @ReadyPA, @Readygov & @PrepareAthon
- ✓ Facebook/Readypa.org & Facebook/Readygov
- ✓ NPM Official Hashtag: #NatIPrep
- ✓ America's PrepareAthon! hashtag: #PrepareAthon

We have all heard that it's important to have a safety plan, we know that we need to be prepared for emergencies. This is nothing new. But is hearing this over and over again really motivating you to take the actual steps to get a plan together? Have you made that very first step and TALKED to your family/friends/loved ones about what you would do if something were to happen? This month should be that motivation.

This month we are encouraging everyone to take part, make a plan and know what to do during an emergency. This means having an up-to-date contact list for those you may need to reach during a disaster and establishing alternate methods of communication in case traditional means are not available.



### FINANCIAL PREPAREDNESS FOR EMERGENCIES

Are you ready for an emergency? In the wake of disasters like Hurricane Katrina and wildfires, and the events of September 11, 2001, we all know the importance of being prepared for an emergency. You've probably thought about what you might take with you if you had to evacuate, or how you would get in touch with family members. But have you thought about your Financial Preparedness for Emergencies? How would you get cash if you couldn't get to the credit union? If you had to be away from your home for several days – or even weeks – how would you pay your bills or buy needed items? What if a pandemic-related quarantine closed the credit union for a period of time? You may not have thought about these situations, but the staff at Unified People's Federal Credit Union has, and they have some suggestions to help you prepare financially for a disaster.

The Emergency Financial First Aid Kit (EFFAK) is a simple tool to help Americans minimize the financial impact of a natural disaster or emergency. It helps users identify and organize key financial records and serves as a quick reference to their most important financial documents, aiding you in a quicker recovery.

The Emergency Financial First Aid Kit offers easy step-by-step instructions for how to protect personal assets and financial information, and reduce the challenges associated with emergencies and disasters. The Emergency Financial First Aid Kit is the first free emergency financial reconstruction and economic recovery guide for disaster victims.

The Online EFFAK can be found at:

[http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1414082044066-be9af9c879906bce1d8e0e6852ebf739/2522\\_FEMA\\_EFFAK\\_v12\\_508V3\\_Enabled.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1414082044066-be9af9c879906bce1d8e0e6852ebf739/2522_FEMA_EFFAK_v12_508V3_Enabled.pdf)

A Printable EFFAK can be found at:

<https://www.operationhope.org/images/uploads/Files/EFFAK---FEMA-Scanned---Aug-2014.pdf>

*"Every action in the present prepares us for the future, because you never know when the day before...Is the day before. Prepare for tomorrow."*

– Bobby Akart

### Additional Resources

PEMA: <http://www.pema.pa.gov>

America's PrepareAthon!: <http://community.fema.gov>

Print and share emergency preparedness templates and checklists: [www.ready.gov/publications](http://www.ready.gov/publications)

ReadyPA: [www.readypa.org](http://www.readypa.org)

"Emergency Preparedness Plans" FEMA media library: <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/videos/79716>

Operation Hope (EFFAK) <https://www.operationhope.org/>

