

# September is National Preparedness Month

Every year, in every season, we hear about disasters that take peoples homes and lives. We would like to think that disasters and emergencies don't really happen here, in our area. But they do. Some are predictable, most come with little or no warning. Disasters can strike anywhere; floods, windstorms, tornadoes, earthquakes, chemical spills, even nuclear power accidents and acts of terrorism are real possibilities, for which everyone must prepare. None of us know when or where disaster will strike, but we can be ready, resilient and safe during emergencies by preparing in the following 3 ways.

1. **Make a Plan** - know the hazards in your area, have an evacuation and communication plan with your family and practice it.
2. **Build a Kit** - a minimum 3 days survival kit at home, in each car, at work and at each child's school or daycare, and remember your pets' needs as well. Get started on your emergency kit.
3. **Get Involved** - learn CPR and first aid, talk with your neighbors about responding to emergencies in your neighborhood.

By taking early action, you can minimize the effects of such hardships and create community with your neighbors; a key step to successfully dealing with disasters when they occur. Any challenge is easier to overcome with the right tools, information and know-how.

*National Preparedness Month is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Ready Campaign.*

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Other resources: [ready.gov](http://ready.gov)      [bReadysd.com](http://bReadysd.com)      [oem.sd.gov](http://oem.sd.gov)



**Rapid City-Pennington County Emergency Management (605)394-2185**

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