



For Immediate Release
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SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH
Disaster Preparedness is Every Alaskans Personal Responsibility

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA – Alaska and the nation observe National Preparedness Month each September. The goal is to encourage people to take steps to prepare themselves and their families for a disaster. Individual and family preparedness is critical in Alaska due to the frequency, variety, and magnitude of Alaska’s disasters, as well as reliance on fragile supply lines. Nowhere in the country is it more important for individuals and families to prepare for disasters.

In the lower 48 recommendations are that individuals prepare to be self-sufficient for three days, in Alaska emergency managers recommend that all Alaskans prepare to shelter-in-place for seven days or more. In addition, sub-zero temperatures and the remote nature of our communities require Alaskans have a greater level of preparedness.

“In emergency management we say that all disasters happen at a local level. For a family it does not get much more local than their own homes,” said John Madden, Director of the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM). “When individuals, families and neighborhoods prepare for a disaster it enables emergency managers to focus on caring for those most devastated by the event and to restore the goods, and services that allow a community to operate normally. A prepared community diminishes a disaster’s impact and greatly increases the speed of the response and recovery effort.”

DHS&EM offers a comprehensive emergency preparedness digital tool kit that can be found on <http://ready.alaska.gov/Outreach/Prepare>.

The tool kit will help people identify the threats and hazards that exist in a community, develop a family emergency communication plan, and build an emergency supply kit for themselves, their family, and their pets. The tool kit also contains home mitigation information and neighborhood organization tips.

The Great Alaska ShakeOut will be held on October 16, 2014. During the ShakeOut Alaskans will practice a drop, cover, and hold on earthquake drill. On March 27th of this year over 104,000 Alaskan’s participated in a ShakeOut that occurred on the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Great Alaska Earthquake. The October ShakeOut is nationwide event encouraging earthquake preparedness across all states. To register for the 2014 Great Alaska Shakeout go to www.shakeout.org/Alaska