

## SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH



*Franklin County Emergency Management & Homeland Security (FCEM&HS) Encourages Franklin County Residents to Participate in National PrepareAthon Day on September 30<sup>th</sup>*

September is National Preparedness Month (NPM). You are encouraged to plan and prepare for all hazards and emergencies before they happen. Emergencies can occur anytime and anywhere without advance notice.

This year's theme is **"Don't Wait. Communicate. Make Your Emergency Plan Today"**. The campaign reminds residents to take part, make a plan, and know what to do during an emergency. This means having an updated contact list for people to reach during a disaster and establishing alternative methods of communication if traditional ones are unavailable. Plan how to stay safe and communicate if a disaster would strike Franklin County.

Residents are encouraged to prepare by following these important steps:

- Be informed about the risks facing Franklin County.
- Develop a plan for your family, community and for your pets.
- Build an emergency supply kit
- Get involved and register for ALERT Franklin County at [www.alertfranklincounty.org](http://www.alertfranklincounty.org) to receive important information and weather alerts.

Everyone is urged to participate in America's PrepareAthon! and National PrepareAthon Day on September 30, 2015. America's PrepareAthon! is a national grassroots campaign designed to make individuals more aware of which disasters could happen in their community, know what to do to be safe and how to take action to increase their preparedness. To participate, simply register at [www.ready.gov/prepare](http://www.ready.gov/prepare). By joining America's PrepareAthon!, participants commit to taking one concrete step to prepare for a hazard Franklin County may face.

National Preparedness Month was founded after 9/11 to increase preparedness across the United States. The month is sponsored by FEMA's Ready Campaign in partnership with the Citizen Corps, FEMA's grassroots strategy to bring together government and community leaders to involve all citizens in emergency preparedness planning.

For more information on emergency preparation efforts in Franklin County, visit [www.fcemhs.org](http://www.fcemhs.org). To receive a copy of "Prepare For Emergencies Now: Information for Older Americans" call the Franklin County Office on Aging at (614) 525-5230.