

Monthly Bulletin

Parish Disaster Ministries

Preparing for National Preparedness Month

This year, my daughter starts Pre-Kindergarten. As a 4-year-old, she feels nervous about her first day at a new school, in a new environment, and with new people. Her teachers know that PK is full of “scary” things for the students. And therefore, they are going to visit each child in their home - to introduce themselves, and to prepare the kids for the new year.

I think this story is a good parable for Disaster Ministries. In September, FEMA will celebrate National Preparedness Month; this year the theme is **Prepared Not Scared**. Just like the preschool students being prepared for their new routines, we can help our communities mitigate the fear associated with disasters by equipping them with tools of preparedness!

There are a couple of concrete actions that we can take ourselves, and encourage our communities to take as well... and these preparations will help everyone to be more resilient during the next disaster.

Financial Preparedness

We know that disasters have a much more devastating effect on low-income families than their wealthier neighbors. Economic resources give people a cushion during times of disaster. How can your Ministry encourage and enable people to save? Setting aside even \$5 per month as part of preparedness can end up making a huge difference. Keep some cash on hand because ATMs and credit cards may not work during a disaster when you need to purchase necessary supplies, fuel or food.

Beyond savings accounts, there are other ways to be financially prepared for disasters.

- Gather financial and critical personal, household, and medical information in a safe & accessible place.
- Obtain property (homeowners or renters), health, and life insurance if you do not have them. Homeowners insurance does not typically cover flooding, so you may need to purchase flood insurance from the National Flood Insurance Program.
- The [Emergency Financial First Aid Kit \(EFFAK\)](#) can help you get started planning today.



PREPARED, NOT SCARED
National Preparedness Month 2019

Week 1: Sept 1-7
Save Early for Disaster Costs

Week 2: Sept 8-14
Make a Plan to Prepare for Disasters

Week 3: Sept 15-21
Teach Youth to Prepare for Disasters

Week 4: Sept 22-30
Get Involved in Your Community's Preparedness

Make a Plan

Answering 4 Simple Questions gives families a huge head start in preparing for a disaster. The links associated with each question will take you to a guide, which will help you answer the question fully.

- How will I receive [emergency alerts and warnings](#)?
- What is my [shelter](#) plan?
- What is my [evacuation](#) route?
- What is my [family/household communication plan](#)?

We've talked about some of these questions before... But if you or some of your community members haven't answered them, today is the day!

Is your community “Prepared Not Scared”?

If the answer is *not yet*, consider what your Parish Disaster Ministry can do to help. We'd love to hear your ideas for getting the word out! Whether it's using your parish's Facebook page, or hosting a Preparedness donut hour after Mass - we can all work together to ensure our communities are as resilient as possible!

Questions? Contact Us!
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