

National Preparedness Month

FEMA often reminds us that preparedness is an essential component of the disaster cycle (see April 2018 bulletin). What does it mean to be prepared?

Each September, FEMA sponsors National Preparedness Month. This year, 2018, there are four themes associated with this month.



1. Make and Practice Your Plan

As the leadership for your parish's Disaster Ministry, it's worth thinking about offering guidance for families to create and implement a plan for the household. There is no need to reinvent the wheel; simply passing along information contained on www.Ready.gov could be an important and effective way to encourage preparedness within households.

Another consideration is a plan for the parish. Just as there are already resources developed for families, there are resources available for organizations. Try www.Ready.gov/business to get more information.

2. Learn Life Saving Skills

Life saving skills can be as simple as knowing how to turn off the gas or water line. Knowing where to install smoke detectors, and keeping CPR and First Aid

certifications up-to-date are other examples of skills that can have a tremendous (and positive) impact on a family and community in the event of a disaster.

3. Check Your Coverage

As we pointed out in the June 2018 bulletin, Insurance is the first line of defence when a disaster strikes. Whether the disaster is contained to one family (like a house fire) or wide-spread, the first question is whether the property is insured. (Please note: Help can still be available, regardless of insurance status, as long as funding is available.)



4. Save for An Emergency

This is another excellent question that individuals and families, as well as the parish should consider: **How will you pay your bills if a disaster strikes?** According to the Federal Reserve, 40% of American households have less than \$400 in savings. Do your parishioners fall into this category? How can you minister to them? Disasters have a larger impact on people experiencing poverty.

Questions? Contact Us!

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