

The monthly FEMA *Children & Disasters Newsletter* is a resource for youth preparedness practitioners, educators, parents, children, and teens. It shares timely research, examples of successful youth preparedness programs, safety tips, and resources related to youth preparedness. To subscribe to the *Children & Disasters Newsletter*, please visit [www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness](http://www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness).

## CHILDREN & DISASTERS NEWSLETTER



### OCTOBER 2014 - ISSUE 10

Welcome to the October issue of the *Children and Disasters Newsletter*! This month's newsletter highlights an award-winning youth preparedness program, a Youth Preparedness Council member's great work in spreading the preparedness message, a resource for improving newborn screening during emergencies, and a preview of an emergency operations plan webinar for institutions of higher education. We also highlight Fire Prevention Week, tips for staying safe this Halloween, and some sample back-to-school emergency kit items.

---

### FEMA HONORS MISSISSIPPI YOUTH PREPAREDNESS INITIATIVE

A dedicated group of preparedness advocates in Mississippi is making a big difference in youth preparedness. Last month, at a ceremony at the White House, the [Mississippi Youth Preparedness Initiative](#) (MyPI), led by Dr. Ryan Akers, received the prestigious FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Award for Outstanding Achievement in Youth Preparedness.

MyPI teenage students meet every week for 10 weeks and complete a [customized curriculum](#) that includes [Teen Community Emergency Response Team](#) (Teen CERT) training as well as CPR and AED certification, technology-based courses, and career exploration. According to Dr. Akers, "[What] makes [MyPI] truly unique and successful are the large number of partnerships that we have made with state agencies that are contributing to an even more in-depth curriculum and experience for our teenagers across the state. Similarly, we have seen tremendous community and school administration support in addition to instructor and student motivation to engage and complete this program."

A hallmark of the program is the comprehensive service project called "PREP + 6," which requires students to create emergency preparedness kits for their own families and to work with six additional families to get them prepared. "[The] outreach capacity that is created within our capstone service

project, PREP + 6, has been phenomenal in terms of bringing our youth into the preparedness framework, getting them involved in this work, building their knowledge base, and allowing them to see direct impact for their good service back to their families, neighbors, and communities,” Dr. Akers said.

We applaud Dr. Akers and the MyPI team for their outstanding leadership in creating a community of prepared children. For more information about MyPI and a summary of all the Individual and Community Preparedness Award winners, please visit <http://www.ready.gov/citizen-corps/citizen-corps-awards>. Congratulations once again to MyPI!

---

## GET FIRE SAFE IN OCTOBER

A flickering flame inside of a pumpkin may be a symbol of fall, but it also poses a real safety threat. In recognition of the [National Fire Protection Association's](#) (NFPA) annual [Fire Prevention Week](#), which this year took place October 5 through 11, we are sharing a video from the [U.S. Fire Administration](#) that explains why “Fire is Everyone’s Fight.” Check it out and learn some ways to keep yourself and your family safe!



---

## YOUTH PREPAREDNESS COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT: BLOGGING WITH APHA

When disasters occur, Weston Lee, a FEMA Youth Preparedness Council member from Region VIII, wants you to be ready. He recently had the opportunity to write a blog post for the [American Public Health Association's](#) [Get Ready](#) blog, in which he emphasizes the importance of preparedness.

In the blog post, titled "[Breaking Down Obstacles to Preparedness and Becoming Strong in the Face of Disasters](#)," Weston identifies common obstacles to getting prepared and offers encouragement for overcoming them. He also sums up preparedness into just three steps, "...we can become better prepared by making a kit, making a plan and being informed."

For more information about Weston and the FEMA Youth Preparedness Council, please visit <http://www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness-council>.

---

## **INTEGRATING CYBERSECURITY WITH EMERGENCY OPERATION PLANS (EOPs) FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION (IHEs)**

**Date & Time:** Thursday, October 23, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. EDT/1:00 p.m. CDT/12:00 p.m. MDT/11:00 a.m. PDT

**Webinar Description:** The Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) Technical Assistance (TA) Center, on behalf of the U.S. Department of Education (ED) Office of Safe and Healthy Students (OSHS), and in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), is pleased to announce a webinar on cybersecurity and emergency preparedness for IHEs.

As part of the President's plan to make our schools, IHEs, and communities safer, the U.S. Departments of Education, Justice, Homeland Security, and Health and Human Services created the *Guide for Developing High-Quality Emergency Operations Plans for Institutions of Higher Education*. The *Guide* provides IHEs with a recommended approach to emergency operations planning.

This one-hour webinar will provide an overview of the landscape of cyber threats facing IHEs, as well as DHS resources, programs, and tools to help IHEs maintain secure networks and prevent cyber attacks. Immediately following the presentation will be a brief question-and-answer session.

This webinar will be presented on behalf of the REMS TA Center by DeShelle Cleghorn, a Program Analyst for the Industry Engagement and Resilience (IER) Branch within the DHS Office of Cybersecurity and Communications (CS&C). The CS&C is responsible for enhancing the security, resilience, and reliability of the nation's cyber and communications infrastructure. Please register here: <http://remstacenter.org/webinars/WebinarRegistration.aspx?WebinarID=55>

---

## **IMPROVING NEWBORN SCREENING IN EMERGENCIES**

In the midst of an emergency or disaster, the newborn screening process can quickly become disrupted, and cause issues in detecting and treating preventable diseases.

To assist pediatricians and other health professionals, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) worked together to create the [Preparedness for Pediatric Practices: Newborn Screening in Emergencies](#) handout. Additional newborn screening information can be found on the [AAP Newborn Screening during Emergencies web page](#).

Consider viewing the archived AAP/CDC "[From Hurricanes to Pandemics: Helping Practices Prepare for the Worst](#)" webinar that offers general preparedness strategies and ideas for how pediatricians, health professionals, and their office staff can prepare for disasters. This webinar also includes information to help take concrete steps to strengthen office practices related to newborn screening and contingency planning.

For additional information on office preparedness, view the [AAP/CDC Preparedness Checklist for Pediatric Practices](#). To order complimentary copies of the *Newborn Screening during Emergencies*

handout or Preparedness Checklist for Pediatric Practices, email [DisasterReady@aap.org](mailto:DisasterReady@aap.org).

---

## TRICK OR TREAT: STAYING SAFE THIS HALLOWEEN

Halloween is a time for scary costumes, colorful leaves, and sweet treats. While Halloween is generally a playful occasion, the holiday presents some very real hazards such as walking through dimly lit streets, using sharp objects to carve pumpkins, and encountering strangers.

Before you go trick-or-treating this month, check out some Halloween health and safety tips from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#). Happy Halloween!

---

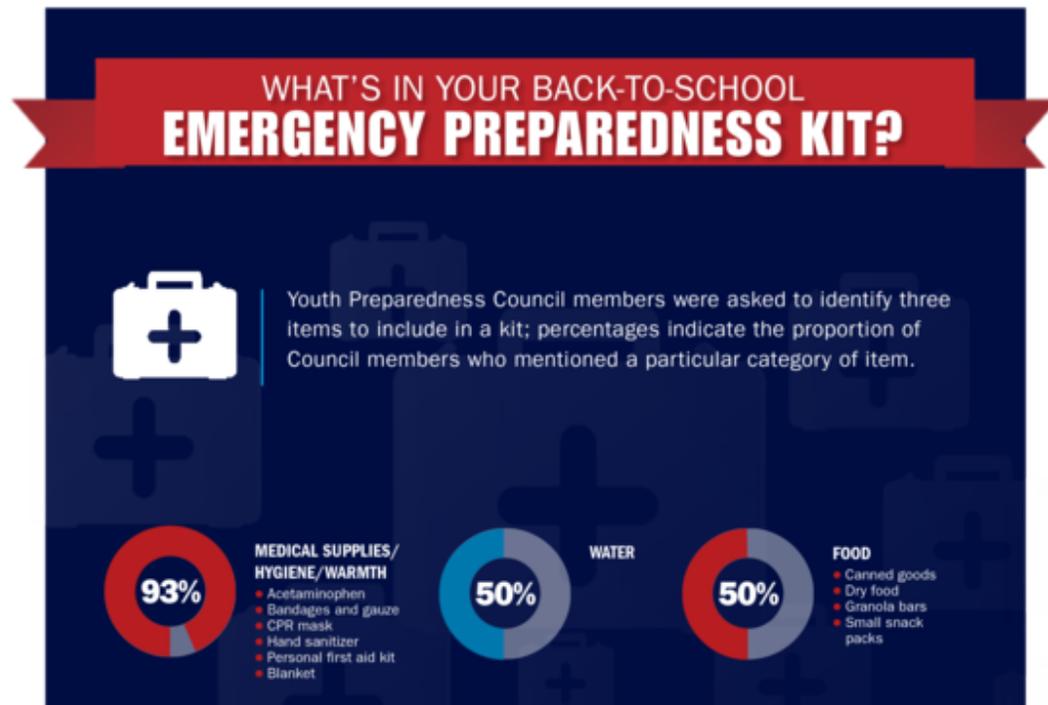
## WHAT'S IN YOUR BACK-TO-SCHOOL EMERGENCY KIT?

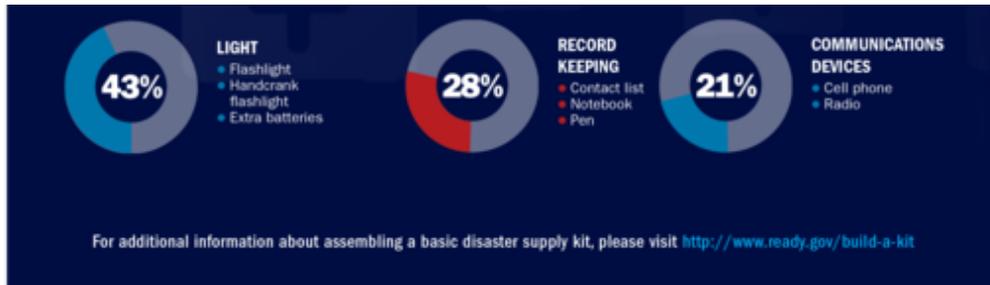
It's first period in Ms. Johnson's geometry class. As she explains the characteristics of a right angle, the lights go out, the windows rattle, and the floor shakes.

During the school year, students and teachers must be prepared to deal with unexpected emergencies and disasters. A fully stocked emergency kit can help mitigate risks and keep individuals safe.

In fact, last week more than 10,800 K-12 schools and districts in the United States and across the globe participated in [Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills](#) to practice their plans for an earthquake.

We recently asked the [2014 FEMA Youth Preparedness Council](#) members what three items they would include in a back-to-school emergency preparedness kit. The following graphic outlines their responses.





---

## CONTACT US

Email: [FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@FEMA.DHS.gov](mailto:FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@FEMA.DHS.gov)

Website: <http://www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness>

---

Disclaimer: The reader recognizes that the federal government provides links and informational data on various disaster preparedness resources and events and does not endorse any non-federal events, entities, organizations, services or products. Please let us know about other events and services related to youth preparedness that could be included in future newsletters by contacting [FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov).

Disclaimer: [Privacy Policy](#) | GovDelivery is providing this information on behalf of U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and may not use the information for any other purposes