

Prepared, Not Scared. Be Ready for Disasters Throughout the Year.

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ATLANTA – Whether it's a hurricane or a house fire, a major flood or a flat tire, emergencies happen every day. As September's [National Preparedness Month](#) comes to a close, the Federal Emergency Management Agency encourages individuals, businesses, and communities in the Southeast and across the nation to prepare for emergencies throughout the year.

“Storms in the Southeast have the potential to affect large areas along the coasts, but can also cause damage to inland communities,” said Gracia Szczech, FEMA’s Regional Administrator in Atlanta. “When people are prepared, they respond better and are more resilient.”

Take these steps now and throughout the year to help you and your community prepare for a disaster:

1. **Keep Non-perishable Supplies on Hand:** Purchase a few supplies during regular trips to the grocery store so you don’t have a big hit on your budget at one time.
2. **Save Early for Disaster Costs:** Set aside money every month in an emergency account—you never know when you may need it. Be sure your property insurance is up to date and consider purchasing flood insurance. Insurance is your most important disaster recovery tool.
3. **Make a Plan to Prepare for Disasters:** Have a place to go in an emergency and a plan to contact your loved ones. Does your family have a designated place to meet if they can’t get home? Do you have a disaster kit with enough bottled water and non-perishable food to last for three days? And don’t forget emergency supplies for your pets. Use this form to create a [Family Emergency Communication Plan](#).
4. **Youth can Help with Preparedness:** Disasters affect everyone, and it’s important to include our children in the preparations. Have a family discussion about what to do in an emergency and where to go for help. Visit www.ready.gov/kids for great ideas on emergency preparedness for children.



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5. Get Involved in Your Community's Preparedness: The real first responders following a disaster are often members of the community. At [Ready.gov/get-involved](https://www.ready.gov/get-involved), you'll find training lessons and learn ways to volunteer to help your community.

Take steps to help make your family and community stronger before the next disaster strikes: save early, make a plan, involve youth, and get involved.

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FEMA's Mission: Helping people before, during, and after disasters.



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