



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Emergency Services

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Emergency Services Urges Residents To Be Disaster Ready

FAYETTEVILLE – Gov. Pat McCrory has proclaimed September as Emergency Preparedness Month in North Carolina, which coincides with National Preparedness Month, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. September is in the midst of peak hurricane season and Cumberland County Emergency Services officials are reminding citizens now is a good time to plan and prepare for emergencies and disasters.

“Disasters can occur at any time, any place, so it is better to plan ahead,” said Emergency Services Director Randy Beeman. “I urge residents to make a family emergency plan and put together a preparedness kit before a disaster strikes. It could be hours or even days without water or power, so being ready ahead of time helps determine how well you fare after a disaster.”

Beeman encourages citizens, schools and business owners to make a plan and routinely test it with other household members and staff. An emergency plan is a list of details about where to meet, how to get in touch with one another, evacuation plans, what to do with pets and how to notify employees after an emergency. The next step, Beeman said, is to put together an emergency supplies kit.

“Having the kit in place will help you during the emergency and make the recovery process a bit easier. For example, including copies of insurance policies in your kit will enable you to more quickly process claims. Most of the items needed for the kit can be found around your house,” Beeman said.

Other basic items that should be in an emergency kit are:

- Water – 1 gallon per person, per day for three to seven days
- Food – non-perishable and canned food supply for three to seven days
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and National oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio with extra batteries
- Cell phone with charger
- First-aid kit and first-aid book
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Manual can opener for food
- Anti-bacterial hand wipes or gel
- Wrench or pliers to turn off water
- Blanket or sleeping bag – one per person
- Prescription medications and glasses
- Seasonal change of clothing, including sturdy shoes
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, feminine supplies

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- Extra house and car keys
- Important documents – insurance policies, copy of driver’s license, Social Security card, bank account records
- Fire extinguisher
- Cash and change
- Books, games or cards

For more information on how to ensure your family is disaster ready, go to ReadyNC.org or download the free ReadyNC app. The app is available for both iPhone and Android devices and features real time weather, traffic and shelter information.

Beeman also encourages citizens to sign up for CodeRED, an emergency notification service that can send severe weather warnings or other emergency alerts to county residents and businesses by telephone, cell phone, text message or email. The Cumberland County homepage has a link to a CodeRED registration form you can fill out online. Go to co.cumberland.nc.us and click the CodeRED link. You can also call 910-321-6676.