



**Santa Barbara County
Aware & Prepare Initiative
1283 Coast Village Circle
Santa Barbara, CA 93110**

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PRESS RELEASE

September 17, 2013

September is National Preparedness Month: You Can Be a Hero

(Santa Barbara, CA) – September is National Preparedness Month (NPM). The County of Santa Barbara Office of Emergency Management and its cities have committed to participate in this year's National Preparedness to increase preparedness throughout the United States.

The event, now in its ninth year, is a nationwide, month-long effort hosted by the Ready Campaign and Citizen Corps, encouraging households, business, and communities to prepare and plan for emergencies.

Being prepared in the event of an emergency causes you to be self-reliant for three to five days without utilities, water service, sewer services, access to supermarkets or local services, or maybe even without response from police, fire or rescue. Preparing can start with four important steps:

- Be informed about emergencies that could happen in your community and neighborhood
- Identify where you can get sources of information in your community that will be helpful before, during and after an emergency
- Make a plan for what you will do in an emergency
- Build an emergency supply kit for your home, car and work
- Make sure your child has a comfort kit for school
- Get involved

Preparedness is shared responsibility; it takes a whole community. This year the County is focusing on turning awareness into action by encouraging all individuals in all communities in Santa Barbara County to make an emergency preparedness plan. Then share that plan with your family, friends and those outside of the area.

This year be a Hero and be prepared for any type of event. For more information you can contact your local office of emergency services.



[Be a Hero and Create a Plan](#)

Add the following tag line in your email signature and share it with your neighbors. Click on the links below for more information.



Don't be Scared; Be Prepared Have a Family Plan
[Ready.gov – Plan to Protect Yourself and Your Family](#)
[Family Emergency Response Plan Template](#)
www.AwareandPrepare.org

News Media Contact:

Duty Officer, Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management
(805) 681-5526

oem@sbcoem.org

The Aware & Prepare Initiative is a public-private partnership to enhance the capabilities of non-profit organizations and government agencies to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters within the Santa Barbara County Operational Area. The Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management manages the Initiative in cooperation with the local emergency management community.

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