



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Emergency Services

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Emergency Services Urges Residents To Be Disaster Ready

FAYETTEVILLE – As hurricane season nears, Cumberland County Emergency Services officials are reminding citizens that now is the 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.”

Governor Pat McCrory has proclaimed September as Emergency Preparedness Month, which coincides with National Preparedness Month, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The designation is made each September to encourage Americans to prepare for emergencies.

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.

Items that should be included in an emergency kit are:

- Water, 1 gallon per person, per day, for three to seven days
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio with extra batteries.
- Cell phone with charger
- First-aid kit and first-aid book
- Manual can opener for food
- Anti-bacterial hand wipes or gel
- Wrench or pliers to turn off water
- Blanket or sleeping bag
- Prescription medication and glasses
- Seasonal change of clothing including sturdy shoes
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, feminine supplies
- Extra house and car keys
- Copies of important document: insurance policies, 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 e-mail. The system is capable of sending messages only to specific neighborhoods or the entire community.

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 on the CodeRED link. If you do not have internet and want to sign up for CodeRED, call 910-321-6676.

Cumberland County Emergency Services is located in the Law Enforcement Center, 131 Dick St. Call 910-321-6736 for more information.