



*External Affairs*  
Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency

# Press Release

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## **RIEMA Reminds Rhode Islanders to Be Prepared For All-Hazards During National Preparedness Month**

Cranston, RI—The Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) reminds Rhode Islanders that National Preparedness Month runs through the month of September and the theme of this year’s Preparedness Month is “Don’t wait, communicate. Make your emergency plan today.”

“While I urge the citizens of Rhode Island to gather the necessary emergency supplies before an emergency or disaster, it’s also essential for families and businesses to have an emergency communications plan,” said Governor Gina M. Raimondo. “Disasters don’t wait to strike when you’re at home. They may occur when family members are at work or at school. In September, we’re all getting used to the new school year routine, which makes for the perfect time for every family to develop an emergency communications plan and figure out how you will remain in contact during an emergency.”

National Preparedness Month is a FEMA initiative that was founded after 9/11 in an effort to increase awareness and encourage action for emergency preparedness nationwide. National Preparedness Month aims to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to all types of emergencies, including natural, man-made, and technical disasters.

“Historically, September is one of the most active months in terms of tropical storm and hurricane activity along the Atlantic coast,” said Director Peter Gaynor. “Therefore, we are taking part in this national initiative to urge Rhode Islanders to prepare their families and businesses for not just a hurricane, but all hazards that may pose a threat to the State of Rhode Island. In-line with this year’s theme, we encourage everyone to Make a Kit, Make a Plan, and Stay Informed. Remember, all it takes is one hurricane, storm, or other natural or man-made event to create major issues for Rhode Island citizens.”

Below are some tips on how individuals, families, and businesses can be prepared by making a disaster-supply kit, making an emergency communications plan, and staying informed:

### Make a Kit:

A disaster-supply kit should provide a collection of basic items that household members may need in the event of a disaster. A disaster-supply kit can be used in your home if there is an extended power outage or it could be

used if you have to leave your home and go to a shelter. During an emergency, you will probably not have time to shop or search for the items you need.

A basic disaster-supply kit should include at least the following recommended items:

- Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and/or a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Can opener for food
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger

#### Make a Plan:

Emergency plans can help to make sure you keep in contact with important family and friends.

- Create and practice a family communications plan in case you are separated during an emergency.
- Select a family meeting spot where everyone can go in case you are separated.
- Make sure all family members have an emergency contact list. The contact list should include a friend or family member that lives out of state as it may be easier to make a non-local call after an emergency.
- Learn where your city or town's shelter is located and how to get there.

#### Stay Informed:

Reliable, accurate information is an essential resource before, during, and after an emergency or disaster.

- Visit [www.riema.ri.gov](http://www.riema.ri.gov) to Register with CodeRed and receive free emergency notifications from local and state officials
- Ask officials about your city or town's emergency plan
- Know your local emergency evacuation routes by visiting the RIEMA website at [www.riema.ri.gov/prepare/evacuation](http://www.riema.ri.gov/prepare/evacuation)
- Learn about potential hazards in your own community
- Follow Governor Gina Raimondo on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)
- Follow RIEMA [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)
- For additional preparedness information, visit RIEMA's website at [www.riema.ri.gov/prepare](http://www.riema.ri.gov/prepare)

If you have any questions contact RIEMA at (401) 946-9996.

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