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*EDWARD G. RENDELL, Governor*

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## **GOVERNOR RENDELL PROCLAIMS SEPTEMBER 'NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH' IN PENNSYLVANIA** *READY PA PROVIDES TOOLS TO MOBILIZE CITIZENS TO PREPARE FOR DISASTER*

**HARRISBURG** – In recognition of National Preparedness Month, Governor Edward G. Rendell today encouraged all Pennsylvanians to take the time to prepare for a potential emergency or disaster and ensure that they and their families know how to respond before, during and after such a scenario.

The Rendell administration unveiled the Ready PA Web site in September 2008. The site, [www.ReadyPA.org](http://www.ReadyPA.org), offers comprehensive information on steps people can take before emergencies happen, what to do once a disaster has occurred, and tips for recovering after the event. ReadyPA encourages all Pennsylvanians to “Be Informed, Be Prepared and Be Involved.”

“A disaster or emergency situation can happen anywhere at any time and often with little warning,” said Governor Rendell. “What that happens, the comfort and routine nature of our daily lives—which can easily be taken for granted—can be thrown into total disarray. To minimize any possible disruption, it’ll pay to take the time now and prepare.

“National Preparedness Month is an opportunity for each of us to learn more about ways to prepare for all types of emergencies,” said Governor Rendell. “Emergency preparedness is the responsibility of every Pennsylvanian and it only takes a few simple steps: creating a disaster supply kit, making a family disaster plan and staying informed. Doing so will help keep more of our citizens safe and help ensure any areas affected by an emergency will be able to recover sooner.”

The Governor noted that families and individuals should make preparations for a minimum of 72 hours after an emergency. They should have a plan to communicate with loved ones and to

reunite if separated during a disaster, know when to evacuate or stay in their home or building, and have a disaster kit with essential necessities for every person and pet in their household.

Pennsylvanians are encouraged to consider becoming members of their Community Emergency Response Team or Citizen Corps council. More information regarding Citizen Corps is available at [www.ReadyPA.org](http://www.ReadyPA.org) by clicking “Get Involved” on the left side of the page.

Also, training is available by contacting county emergency management agencies or a local American Red Cross chapter, which may teach a variety of preparedness courses.

“History has shown that Pennsylvanians step up and help each other in a time of need during natural disasters and other emergencies,” said Governor Rendell. “Being involved through ReadyPA takes that commitment of helping others one step further with formal training before a disaster occurs.”

Downloadable materials, including home and car emergency kit checklists and emergency plan templates, are available at [www.ReadyPA.org](http://www.ReadyPA.org) and also through 1-888-9-READYPA. Citizens can find information about getting involved in local emergency response efforts and other volunteer opportunities through the Web site or the toll-free line.

Since the ReadyPA Web site was unveiled, more than 58,000 visitors have checked out information on current emergencies, personal preparedness and more.

For more information about preparing for an emergency, review the Pennsylvania emergency preparedness guide by visiting [www.pema.state.pa.us](http://www.pema.state.pa.us) or [www.health.state.pa.us](http://www.health.state.pa.us) or by calling 1-877-PA-HEALTH.

Information about National Preparedness Month is also available from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

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*The Rendell administration is committed to creating a first-rate public education system, protecting our most vulnerable citizens and continuing economic investment to support our communities and businesses. To find out more about Governor Rendell's initiatives and to sign up for his newsletter, visit [www.governor.state.pa.us](http://www.governor.state.pa.us)*