




Ask the PEMA Director

September is National Preparedness Month. Snow.  Floods.  Extreme Heat.  With every season, there is always something to prepare for. National Preparedness Month is an opportunity to remind us that we all must prepare ourselves and our families now and throughout the year. Learn more about preparedness from the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) Director Randy Padfield.

Why is preparedness important to you?

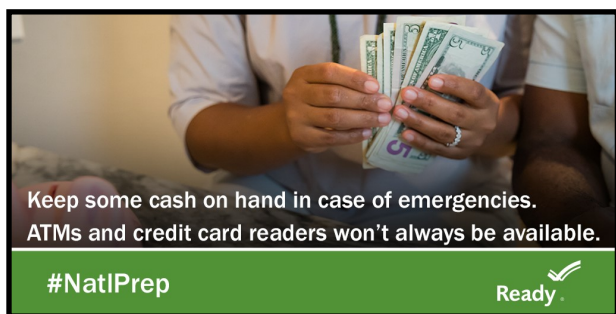
I want to make sure my family is well taken care of, especially in times of emergencies or disasters. It is important to make sure we are prepared for any situation and that our safety and security is taken care of.

What are important things to consider when getting prepared?

Depending on where you live and what you do daily, preparedness is not foremost on every person's mind. A lot of times we think about it when we see disasters occur in other parts of our nation or the world. Preparedness is sometimes just a mindset. You have to think about the things you would need and essentially be able to survive and sustain yourself and your family for up to 72 hours, especially after any significant event.

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People tend to think preparing is overwhelming. It does not have to be. Think about what you have in your home today. Think about the nonperishable food that you may or may not have in your home because having nonperishable food is very important. Think about the situations you may have encountered in the past, but also think of other situations you may encounter in the future.

Use that as a guide for things you wish you would have had during those times of an extended power outage or times you could not go out on the road because of a snow storm. Make sure you have flashlights, extra batteries, and drinkable water.

Do you have a plan? Make a plan. Share your plan with your family members. Make sure your family members understand the plan. If you are displaced from your home or something does happen, make sure you have a family member or a place that you can go.

Are you Ready PA?

Most Pennsylvanians think we will experience a natural disaster within the next five years.

- 1 in 3 people have an emergency plan in place to respond to a natural disaster.
- 2 in 3 people have an emergency kit in their home.
- 1 in 3 people have an emergency kit in their vehicle.
- 1 in 3 people have an emergency kit in their workplace.

Ask the PEMA Director

Why should Pennsylvanians prepare?

Pennsylvanians should prepare because I am sure everyone wants to keep their family safe, especially during disasters or emergencies. There are a number of human-caused and natural disasters that can occur across Pennsylvania. We have extended power outages, snow storms, excessive rain, and flash flooding and they all impact people in different ways. Being prepared for those types of situations are important. People sometimes think preparing is overwhelming. Really it's the little things that you do on a regular basis make the biggest difference when it comes to your own personal preparedness.

How do you help your children learn about preparedness?

I help my children learn how to be prepared in a number of different ways. I try to use real-life examples as opportunities to talk to them about preparedness. If they see emergencies or disasters on tv or hear about them elsewhere, you can talk about that. Ask them what they would do if that occurred here? I also use every day things that we do such as going on road trips or going on vacation. Have them pack their own bags and then talk to them about why they packed certain things. What do we need to have to go on the road trip? Snacks and those types of things. What happens if someone gets injured? Do we have a first aid kit? Because my family likes to camp, it gives us the opportunity to talk about preparedness. If we are going out in the woods for three days, we talk about what we would need to bring with us to sustain ourselves for those three days. Sometimes the smallest things you can do will help your children be better prepared, help them plan ahead, and help them understand how preparedness impacts them in the long-term.

Want to learn more?

Pennsylvanians can learn more about preparedness during the month of September and the rest of the year by going to ready.pa.gov for preparedness tips and information. Visit PEMA's Facebook and Twitter pages and follow and join the social media conversation with #PreparedInPA. If you want more of this interview, check out the [video](#).

9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance

In 2009, legislation was passed that officially recognized September 11th as a National Day of Service and Remembrance. Recognizing the anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks is a way to pay tribute to, and remember the victims and others we wish to honor.



#MOMENTOF SILENCE

On 9/11, pay your respects by going silent on social media. During the times listed below, simply post these hashtags: #MomentofSilence and #911Day. Then, stay silent for just 1 minute.

8:46 AM EDT - AMERICAN AIRLINES FLIGHT #11 CRASHES INTO THE WORLD TRADE CENTER

9:03 AM EDT - UNITED AIRLINES FLIGHT #175 CRASHES INTO THE WORLD TRADE CENTER SOUTH TOWER

9:37 AM EDT - AMERICAN AIRLINES FLIGHT #77 CRASHES INTO THE U.S. PENTAGON

9:59 AM EDT - WORLD TRADE CENTER SOUTH TOWER COLLAPSES

10:03 AM EDT - UNITED AIRLINES FLIGHT #93 CRASHES IN SHANKSVILLE, PA.

10:28 AM EDT - WORLD TRADE CENTER NORTH TOWER COLLAPSES

Source: 9/11 Memorial & Museum

We put aside whatever differences we may have at the moment, and work together to help others in need. That is the annual ritual, a fitting and appropriate gift to the many that lost their lives and the countless others who were injured or came to the aid or defense of those in need.

The 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance has grown to become the largest annual day of charitable service in the United States. To locate volunteer opportunities in your community or to register your September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance, visit:

<https://www.nationalservice.gov/serve/september-11th-national-day-service-and-remembrance>.

Impact Based Warnings—What Are They?

Warnings from the National Weather Service have undergone a makeover in recent years. Studies and test products led to a change in how information is presented, so people can make decisions based on their risk for injury or property damage. If a warning is issued for your area, you are at risk. The new warning formats place the hazards and risk in an easier to identify format. This format is currently used for severe weather and tornado warnings and will expand to flash flood warnings by the end of 2019.

How to Read an Impact Based Warning

BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED
Tornado Warning
National Weather Service State College PA
311 PM EDT Thu Aug 15 2019

The National Weather Service in State College PA has issued a

* Tornado Warning for...
Southern Bedford County in south central Pennsylvania...

* Until 400 PM EDT.

* At 311 PM EDT, a severe thunderstorm capable of producing a tornado was located near Lake Gordon, moving east at 15 mph.

HAZARD...Tornado and quarter size hail.

SOURCE...Radar indicated rotation.

IMPACT...Tree damage will occur. Damage to roofs, windows, and vehicles is likely. Flying debris will be dangerous to those caught without shelter. Mobile homes will be damaged or destroyed.

* This dangerous storm will be near...
Inglesmith and Barnes Gap around 400 PM EDT.

Other locations impacted by this tornadic thunderstorm include Rainsburg.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

TAKE COVER NOW! Move to a basement or an interior room on the lowest floor of a sturdy building. Avoid windows. If you are outdoors, in a mobile home, or in a vehicle, move to the closest substantial shelter and protect yourself from flying debris.

&&

LAT...LON 3975 7852 3983 7873 3992 7869 3989 7827
3975 7835 3972 7838
TIME...MOT...LOC 1911Z 277DEG 10KT 3984 7862

TORNADO...RADAR INDICATED
HAIL...1.00IN

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After identifying your **location** and **warning time** at the top to verify you are included, review the impacts.

HAZARD: Look here first. Tornado, hail, flash flooding, etc. The severity may also be listed to initiate rapid action. You may see phrases like "Life-threatening flash flooding" or "A deadly tornado."

SOURCE: This tells you from where the information originates. Are meteorologists seeing signs on radar, did a police officer or emergency manager spot it? This space can further justify a need for you to take immediate action.

IMPACT: Details are the potential things that can happen within the warned area. Downed trees, home damage, flooding, etc. These should allow you to visualize what to expect from the hazard.

The remaining portions of the warning will aid you in decision making, especially if you are unfamiliar with the hazard. Read the **Precautionary/Preparedness Actions** section for safe action recommendations. If you do not receive severe warning alerts via text or email, you can sign up today through [Alert PA](#).

PEMA is Social!

Find Us, Visit Us, Follow Us, Retweet Us!



Twitter

<https://twitter.com/ReadyPA>

<https://twitter.com/PEMAdirector>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/BeReadyPA>

PEMA Can Be Found on the Web!

Be Informed, Be Prepared, and Be Involved!



www.ready.pa.gov



pennsylvania

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

www.pema.pa.gov

Preparedness Events in September

30 Days/30 Ways

Sign up for a month of tips to Be Informed, Be Prepared, and Be Involved!

(<https://www.ready.pa.gov/BeInvolved/Pages/30-Days-30-Ways.aspx>)

National Preparedness Month

(www.Ready.PA.gov or www.ready.gov/september)

9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance

(www.nationalservice.gov/special-initiatives/days-service/september-11th-national-day-service-and-remembrance)

Additional Resources

Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency: www.pema.pa.gov

ReadyPA: www.ready.pa.gov

SERVPA: www.serv.pa.gov

Federal Emergency Management Agency: www.fema.gov

Office of the State Fire Commissioner: www.osfc.pa.gov

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources: www.dcnr.pa.gov

Pennsylvania Department of Health: www.health.pa.gov

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services: www.dhs.pa.gov

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation: www.penndot.gov

Pennsylvania State Animal Response Team: www.pasart.us

Pennsylvania State Police: www.psp.pa.gov

PA511Connect: www.511pa.com

Are you ReadyPA?

FLASH FLOOD WARNING



Impact-based warnings contain hazard, source, impact, and additional threat tags. On the right is a sample impact-based warning.

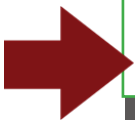
Hazard, Source, and Impact Information

Each Flash Flood Warning (FFW) will contain individual lines that clearly state hazard, source, and impact information.



Tags

Tags will appear at the bottom of FFWs and in Flash Flood Statements (FFSs), which provide supplemental information on active FFWs.



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...FLASH FLOOD EMERGENCY FOR LIFE-THREATENING CATASTROPHIC FLOODING...

The National Weather Service in League City has issued a

* Flash Flood Warning for...
  Northeastern Austin County in southeastern Texas...

* Until 715 PM CDT.

* At 119 PM CDT, Doppler radar indicated continued bands of rain and
  thunderstorms across the area. Emergency management reported ongoing
  water rescues. Rainfall rates of 2 to 3 inches per hour will persist
  across the warned area.

This is a FLASH FLOOD EMERGENCY FOR LIFE-THREATENING CATASTROPHIC
FLOODING. This is a PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS SITUATION. SEEK HIGHER
GROUND NOW!

HAZARD...Life-threatening flash flooding caused by thunderstorms.

SOURCE...Emergency management.

IMPACT...Widespread, life-threatening flooding will continue and
  perhaps worsen at some locations. Historic flooding is
  expected to continue in the Houston metropolitan area through
  the foreseeable future.

* Some locations that will experience flooding include...
  Pasadena, Pearland, League City, and Humble.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

Move to higher ground now. This is an extremely dangerous and
life-threatening situation. Do not attempt to travel unless you are
fleeing an area subject to flooding or under an evacuation order.

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LAT...LON 2904 9515 2905 9527 2932 9536 2916 9543

FLASH FLOOD...OBSERVED
FLASH FLOOD DAMAGE THREAT...CATASTROPHIC
EXPECTED RAINFALL...2-3 INCHES PER HOUR
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Flash Flood Damage Threat Tag	Explanation
"Base" (No Tag)	Use most of the time, when flash flood impact damage is possible.
CONSIDERABLE*	Use rarely, when there are indications flash flooding capable of unusual severity or impact is imminent or ongoing and urgent action is needed to protect lives and property.
CATASTROPHIC*+	Use exceedingly rarely, when a flash flood threat to life and catastrophic damage is occurring or is imminent, and floodwaters have risen or will rise to levels rarely if ever seen.
Flash Flooding Source Information Tag	
FLASH FLOOD...RADAR INDICATED	Evidence on radar and near storm environment is supportive, but no confirmation.
FLASH FLOOD...OBSERVED	Flash flood impacts confirmed by trained spotters, law enforcement, media, other credible human observers, etc.
Flash Flooding Causative Event Tag	
EXPECTED RAINFALL... [## ## INCHES PER HOUR] [## INCHES in ## MINUTES]	Use to identify rainfall rate leading to potential or observed flash flooding, including rain falling on a burn scar.
[DAM or LEVEE]FAILURE... [IMMINENT or OCCURRING]	Use to provide additional information about the status of the failing dam or levee, whether it is "imminent" or "occurring".

*Category utilized for a Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA).

+Catastrophic equates to a headline and additional language for a "Flash Flood Emergency."






Information provided by the National Weather Service (NWS)

Be Informed. Be Prepared. Be Involved.



SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Snow.  Floods.  Extreme Heat.  With every season, there is always something to prepare for. **Prepared, Not Scared. Be Ready for Disasters.**

If you've seen the news recently, you know that emergencies happen unexpectedly in communities just like ours, to people like us. The theme for National Preparedness Month this year is "**Prepared, Not Scared. Be Ready for Disasters**" and challenges you to take action now.

Preparing goes beyond just making a kit and building a plan. Make time to learn lifesaving skills – such as CPR and first aid. Check your insurance policies and coverage for the hazards you may face; including flooding and tornados.



LEARN EASY WAYS TO BE READY

We know how important it is to prepare and how daunting it may seem to get started. The **30 Days/30 Ways Program** can help! Sign up, and you will receive weekly emails that include easy tips and tools that can help you be ready.

It's free to participate and you could win a wind up radio/charger!

Here's how to participate:

1. Sign up: <https://www.ready.pa.gov/Pages/AlertDetails.aspx>
2. You will receive an email with tips and tools each week. At the end of the month, you will receive a very short survey to help us learn the tips that were most helpful for you.
3. When you submit your survey, you will receive a customized ReadyPA team 30 Days/30 Ways printable certificate.
4. You will also be entered into our random drawing for a wind up radio/ flashlight/ phone charger!



Thank you for being part of the **Ready PA 30 Days/30 Ways Program.**