



Board of Chosen Freeholders

County of Hunterdon
71 Main Street, Building #1
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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hunterdon Freeholders Proclaim September As National Preparedness Month To Raise Public Awareness

The Hunterdon County Freeholder Board proclaimed September as National Preparedness Month, at the September 3rd Freeholder meeting, supporting the national effort to raise awareness about the importance of emergency preparedness, in homes and communities.

Hunterdon County's Emergency Management Team encourages citizens to make plans with and for their family members for shelter and to have 72 hours' worth of supplies for each family member should life supporting services be disrupted.

The national campaign for this year is "Prepared, Not Scared," and FEMA is promoting weekly actions:

- Week 1: September 1-7 – save early for disaster costs
- Week 2: September 8-14 – make a plan to prepare for disasters
- Week 3: September 15-21 – teach youth to prepare for disasters
- Week 4: September 22-30 – get involved in your community's preparedness

For more information on how to prepare each week, go to <https://www.ready.gov/>.

Brayden Fahey, Emergency Management Coordinator reported to the Freeholders at the meeting, "With much of the East Coast recently monitoring Hurricane Dorian, it is timely that we consider how we can prepare for and be more resilient when faced with a disaster or crisis. We have seen time and again that it only takes one weather event to deliver significant impacts and disruption. The time to prepare is during calm conditions, not when a storm or other traumatic event has placed the community in its crosshairs."

The Hunterdon County Freeholder's Proclamation said that National Preparedness Month is also an opportunity to pay tribute to America's first responders who put themselves at risk for the safety of their fellow citizens. These brave law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency service personnel exemplify the compassion and commitment that help strengthen our country. As the Country is reminded of the attacks of 9/11 and the importance of being prepared, September is the perfect month to plan and prepare.

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Fahey continued, "On the heels of assisting our communities in preparing for several mass gatherings this summer, we are participating in several trainings to better prepare our staff and other partners. We have also recently formalized a Core Advisory Group whose mission is to aid individuals with access and functional needs through identifying planning gaps, resources and other opportunities."

The Hunterdon County Freeholders encourage all citizens and organizations to act to become prepared for any disaster or emergency. Please visit the County's website, <http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/oem.html> for local resources.