



Kingman County Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Sept. 4, 2014

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Planning helps mitigate impact of disasters

September is National Preparedness Month

Disasters are equal opportunity trouble makers. They don't stop to consider who is in the way. But there is a weapon to combat them: preparedness.

September is National Preparedness Month and this year's theme is "Be Disaster Aware, Take Action to Prepare."

"Any amount of planning will help, but the more we do, the better chance we have of lessening the effects the disaster will have on us," said Fred Simon, Kingman County emergency manager.

If your household includes children, call a family meeting and make a plan. You may not be in the same place when a disaster strikes, so decide now where you will meet (away from your home) and practice getting there. Designate one person as your contact, preferably someone who lives in another community. Plan to check in via text message. Text messages often go through when phone calls don't.

Write down your plan, including your family's contact information and meeting spot, and keep a copy in backpacks, wallets and cell phones. A worksheet for this purpose is posted on the county's website, kingmancoks.com (Emergency Management page).

Senior citizens should be sure your plans include a list of all medications and necessary medical supplies. Keep a copy of your prescriptions and preferably a week's supply of medicines in your emergency kit. Your kit also should include copies of important documents, such as family records, deeds, financial information, powers of attorney, etc. You can keep paper copies in a waterproof container or better yet, keep electronic copies on a computer flash drive. If you don't have a computer, someone in your family probably does and can help you.

Share your emergency plan with your personal support network. Tell them where you will go if you must evacuate and how you can be contacted. It's a good idea to give a second flash drive to someone who lives outside your immediate area. More tips for disaster planning for older Americans and an emergency supply checklist are posted on the county's website.

Kingman County urges all its citizens to make a plan, build a kit, know the facts about potential hazards and be prepared. More information is available by calling Simon at (620) 532-5081 or by visiting ready.gov.

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