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# Are You Ready?

A Preparedness Newsletter for Residents of Montgomery County, MD

## Making Preparedness A Year-Round Activity

National Preparedness Month comes to a close on September 30th. Have you taken the opportunity to get your family and community ready for a disaster?

If you haven't, it's not too late. Before the next disaster strikes, resolve to do the following:

- [Sign up for Alert Montgomery](#) to receive emergency notifications on your phone or e-mail.
- Make sure you have a **battery-operated or crank radio** so you can stay informed of the latest news - even if you don't have power.
- Assemble an **emergency kit** with food, water, a flashlight, a first-aid kit, and other items to ensure you can survive for up to three days. For a complete list, visit [our website](#).
- Make sure your **family has a plan** that includes alternate meeting locations and out of town contacts.

Remember that National Preparedness Month does not mark the end of your preparedness efforts. Montgomery County residents should take steps throughout the year to ensure they are ready for emergencies.

A disaster can occur at any time. Include these activities throughout the year to make sure your family continually prepares for the unexpected emergency:

- **Check your emergency kit at least twice during the year** to make sure batteries are fresh and food and water has not expired. *Tip:* Check your emergency kit when you check your smoke detectors during the time change.
- During meals with family, quiz your family members about what they should do in an emergency.
- Keep aware of opportunities in the community to reinforce preparedness through training or community exercises.

## October's Preparedness Tip

**Take Advantage of Opportunities Like CERT to Improve your Individual and Community Preparedness**



The Community Emergency Response Training Program (CERT) educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them

in basic disaster response skills, such as light search and rescue, disaster medical operations, team organization and fire safety. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members learn to assist their family, their neighbors and their coworkers following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help.

To learn more about CERT, visit the [Montgomery CERT website](#).

### **About Montgomery County OEMHS**

The Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (OEMHS) coordinates disaster response activities, offers preparedness education for residents, develops and maintains response plans, coordinates exercises and mitigation activities, and runs the hazardous materials permitting program.

**Learn about Hazards and Preparedness**

Visit [MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/OEMHS](http://MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/OEMHS)

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