

## **Idaho Office of Emergency Management**

# **News Release**

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **September is National Preparedness Month**

Prepare, plan, protect: IOEM encourages Idahoans to develop a plan, build a kit, stay informed, and get involved this National Preparedness Month.

**BOISE, ID** – Disasters in recent years, both in Idaho and across the country, are a reminder of the importance of being prepared. Idaho Office of Emergency Management (IOEM) is recognizing September as National Preparedness Month, which provides an opportunity for individuals and families to ensure they are aware of the threats and hazards in their communities. Whether you're at home, at work, in school, on vacation, or on the road, having a plan in place is crucial.

"Something as simple as an emergency preparedness kit for your vehicle and home is crucial," said IOEM Director Brad Richy. "Emergency managers, firefighters, law enforcement officers, paramedics, and other emergency responders do an outstanding job of keeping us safe, but they cannot do it alone. We encourage all Idahoans to discuss their family's emergency plan should a disaster occur."

Throughout September, IOEM will share important preparedness information and tips on Facebook, X, and LinkedIn to help Idahoans prepare for the unexpected. Each week, IOEM will focus on different themes to guide Idahoans in taking essential steps towards readiness.

- Week 1 (Sept. 1 7): <u>Creating Emergency Plans</u>
   Idahoans are encouraged to discuss and document how they will communicate during an emergency, where they will go, and what steps they will take in different scenarios. Whether you're at home, work, or school, having a well-thought-out plan makes sure that every member of your household knows what to do in case of an emergency.
- Week 2 (Sept. 8 14): <u>Building Emergency Kits</u>
   Idahoans should gather essential items such as water, non-perishable food, medications, flashlights, batteries, and important documents. Kits should be prepared for both the home and vehicle for readiness in various situations.
- Week 3 (Sept. 15 21): <u>Staying Informed</u>
   Idahoans are encouraged to learn or review how they receive alerts and warnings, understand the types of emergencies that could affect your area, and having a reliable communication strategy.
- Week 4 (Sept. 22 28): <u>Community Involvement and Volunteering</u>
   The final week of September encourages Idahoans to get involved and volunteer in their communities.

For more information on National Preparedness Month, please visit <u>IOEM's National</u> <u>Preparedness Month webpage</u>.

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The Idaho Office of Emergency Management is a Division of the Idaho Military Division. The services we provide are to facilitate emergency management in Idaho, and to assist neighboring states. The women and men of this Division are dedicated to their mission of protecting the lives and property of the people of Idaho, as well as preserving the environmental and the economic health of Idaho.