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Make Sure Everyone is Ready for an Emergency

September is Preparedness Month in Wisconsin

(MADISON) – It doesn't matter if you are a child, an adult or senior, everyone should be ready for a disaster. That's why Governor Scott Walker had proclaimed September as Preparedness Month. The campaign is encouraging Wisconsin families to prepare now before disaster strikes.

"Preparing your family for the unexpected is as simple as having a conversation around the dinner table," says Major General Don Dunbar, Adjutant General and Wisconsin's Homeland Security Advisor. "Make sure you talk about what to do during an emergency and consider special needs of each family member. A senior may need additional assistance walking downstairs to seek shelter in a basement during a tornado warning while young children may need items such as diapers, food and toys when families are asked to evacuate during an emergency and go to a shelter. Also, don't forget your pets. Many shelters do not accept pets during an emergency so have a kennel or friend that is able to take care of them if you need to evacuate your home."

When putting together your family emergency plan, make sure you have a contact list that contains current phone numbers of families and friends who could assist during an emergency. Also have medical information including contact information for your physician and a list of any medications or allergies. Carry a copy of the information in your wallet and have one in your disaster kit.

If you or a family member has allergies, diabetes, cardiac conditions or other serious health issues, consider wearing a medical alert dog tag or bracelet. If you are injured or sick and unable to talk, these tags will alert first responders and medical personnel that you have a condition that they should be aware of.

Also, when putting together your emergency disaster kits for your home and vehicles make sure you include important specialty items for family members. This could include baby food, diapers, certain medications, items for your pets such as food, water and leashes, etc. It may take a while before help arrives so it may be important to have those items available.

This September, ReadyWisconsin will highlight easy and inexpensive ways for you and your family to prepare for emergency situations. You can visit <http://readywisconsin.wi.gov> for more information. You can also follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

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