



Cochise Health & Social Services

Mary Gomez, Director

"Building A Healthier Future"

*** MEDIA RELEASE ***

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: National Preparedness Month to Highlight the Importance of Emergency Planning

September is National Preparedness Month

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program, within Cochise Health and Social Services, is participating in National Preparedness Month to increase preparedness throughout Cochise County. National Preparedness Month, founded after 9/11, was initiated to increase preparedness in the United States. It is now in its ninth year and is a month-long effort hosted by the Ready Campaign and Citizen Corps. This Preparedness Campaign encourages individuals, households, businesses, schools and communities to prepare and plan for emergencies.

One of the key messages is: be prepared in the event an emergency causes you to be self-reliant for three days without utilities, electricity, water service, access to a supermarket or local services, or maybe even without response from police, fire or rescue. Preparing can start with four simple steps: build a kit, have a plan, be informed, and get involved in personal preparedness.

Emergencies can happen anytime and anywhere without notice and everyone should be prepared. Cochise Health and Social Services encourages all county residents to be better prepared and invites community members to join us in this effort.

How Can You be Prepared?

It takes a community to be really prepared; everyone must share the responsibility. Here's what you can do to get started on the road to making our county more prepared:

1. Be informed about emergencies that could happen in your community, and identify likely threats so you can plan what to do before, during, and after an emergency.
2. Make a plan for your family on what to do in an emergency.
3. Build an emergency supply kit, one to keep at home and another in the event you have to evacuate.
4. Stay informed, take personal responsibility, and get involved.

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On behalf of the County Board of Supervisors, the Cochise Health and Social Services program has participated in National Preparedness Month since its inception and once again encourages all citizens of the county to be prepared in the event of an emergency. Look for weekly media releases throughout the month of September highlighting how you can be better prepared.

For more information contact the Program Director Elizabeth Lueck at elueck@cochise.az.gov
For more information about the Ready Campaign and National Preparedness Month, visit <http://community.fema.gov/connect.ti/READYNPM> or call 1-800-BE-READY, 1-888-SE-LISTO, and TTY 1-800-462-7585. You may also visit www.Ready.gov for more information on emergency preparedness.

About Cochise Health and Social Services

Cochise Health and Social Services promotes health and quality of life for all Cochise County residents through education, service and leadership. For more information, please visit our website at <http://cochise.az.gov/health>. Recent media releases may be accessed at <http://cochise.az.gov/healthnews>.

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