

September Is National Preparedness Month

From Doug Parker, County Emergency Manager

It's great that our national focus should be on preparedness this September. I believe that anything which reminds us to prepare for the unexpected is a good thing.

However, preparedness isn't something to think about one month each year. It's something which should become a part of our daily lives.

How much time do you spend planning for that Caribbean cruise? Got the sunscreen, flip-flops, Panama hat? When you head up to Haycamp Mesa on your fall deer hunt, do you double-check your gear to make sure you have everything you need? Socks, frying pan, solar-powered microwave?

In one-tenth the time we spend preparing for these trips, we can assemble a bare-bones family evacuation kit, plan the emergency routes out of our home in case of fire, and make a list of out-of-state contacts we can call if we *are* displaced in an emergency.

And once these chores are finished, you can settle in and plan your *next* vacation!

Being prepared also means looking out for your neighbor. It's visiting your friend up the road who takes daily medication for her heart, and making sure that she has a few extra doses on hand, *just in case*. It's helping your next door neighbor inspect their home for hazards which could start a fire.

Preparedness isn't a matter of dialing 9-1-1 and waiting for help to arrive. It's being aware, having a plan, and watching out for each other.

Preparedness is good citizenship.

Have a great September!