



Be Ready Tip(s) of the Month

February Tip: Be Part of a Prepared Community.

Whether an emergency happens across the country or across town, Americans are known for quickly joining together to help others get back on their feet as soon as possible. With at least one family member already dedicated to public service, Coast Guard families know firsthand what it means to help the community.



Here are tips for additional ways you can get involved in programs and activities to make your communities more resilient when disaster strikes:

- Tip #1:** Through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** program, you can get training in basic response skills to assist others in your neighborhood and workplace during an emergency. Learn more and find your nearby CERT program at <http://www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams>.
- Tip #2** If you have skills in medicine, public health, safety, logistics, or communications, you can put them to work with the **Medical Reserve Corps**. Many other community members—interpreters, office workers, legal advisors—serve in supporting positions. Learn more at <https://medicalreservecorps.gov>.
- Tip #3:** Volunteers constitute 94% of the **American Red Cross** workforce. The organization offers orientation guides and films to help you take the first step in joining their ranks of volunteers. Learn more at <http://www.redcross.org/support/volunteer>.
- Tip #4:** Join the **National Preparedness Community** at <http://community.fema.gov> to learn what preparedness actions people are taking across the country. You can take part in online preparedness discussion groups, connect with others who have similar interests, and access a variety of preparedness resources.
- Tip #5:** Take online **Independent Study Courses** offered by FEMA in topics such as “Are you Ready?: An In-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness,” “Developing and Managing Volunteers,” and “The Role of Volunteer Agencies in Emergency Management.” Go to <http://www.ready.gov/citizen-corpstraining/fema-independent-study-courses> to learn more.

Semper Paratus!