September Tip: It’s National Preparedness Month

Across the country individuals and organizations of all types—government agencies, schools, businesses, faith-based groups—are observing National Preparedness Month. You can, too! You can’t prevent all bad things from happening, but research shows that people who prepare in advance suffer fewer consequences and get their lives back to normal more quickly.

Tip #1: Be Informed—Know what types of emergencies are most likely in your area. If you have moved recently, learn about the hazards in your area that may be new to you. View the Ready Coast Guard fact sheets about various types of hazards at http://www.uscg.mil/worklife/ready_fact_sheets.asp.

Tip #2: Make a Plan—Gather important documents together, plan how you would evacuate, and record important contact information in a single place. Use the Family Emergency Plan form available at http://www.uscg.mil/worklife/emergency_plan.asp as a guide for your planning.

Tip #3: Build a Kit—Gather food, water, and other essential items to help your family get through at least three days. View the list of recommended emergency kit items at http://www.uscg.mil/worklife/emergency_kit.asp.

Tip #4: Update Your Plan and Kit—If you already have a plan and kit, now is the perfect time to review and update their contents. Has any contact information changed? Are any items in your kit reaching their expiration date?

Tip #5: Practice—Conduct a dry run of your plan to identify any problems or obstacles and resolve them before an emergency occurs.

For more information on how to prepare for emergencies, view the Ready Coast Guard web pages at http://www.uscg.mil/worklife/ready.asp.

Be/stay informed, make a plan, build a kit and pass it on, so all are prepared.

Semper Paratus!