

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency

Adrian M. Fenty
Mayor



Darrell L. Darnell
Director

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**District of Columbia Plans Month of Activities
in Observance of National Preparedness Month**

City leaders urge residents to prepare for emergencies; Be Ready, Make a Plan

The District of Columbia will kick off its observance of National Preparedness Month with a pep rally at 10 a.m., September 6, at Anne Beers Elementary School, 3600 Alabama Avenue, S.E. Mayor Adrian Fenty will present a proclamation at the rally designating September as Preparedness Month in the District of Columbia and urging citizens to take steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and communities.

Darrell Darnell, director of the District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA), said, "We have an ambitious schedule planned for the month, a combination of city-sponsored events and speaking engagements and fairs sponsored by federal agencies and private companies. We attempted to reach out to as many stakeholders as possible with the goal of empowering them with knowledge so that they are prepared to respond to emergencies of all types," he said.

The District of Columbia is one of more than 625 local and federal government agencies, businesses, non-profit organizations, educational institutions and other entities nationwide that have joined the effort to promote personal, family and business preparedness by pledging to conduct activities during September to promote preparedness. Sponsored annually by the U. S. Department of Homeland Security's Ready campaign, for the first time this year the campaign has a designated theme for each week:

Week one – Children/Back to School

Week two – Business preparedness

Week three – Multicultural preparedness

Week four – General personal preparedness with emphasis on animals, persons with special needs, the elderly.

The District's observance is a multi-agency effort focusing on outreach to each of the targeted populations with a special effort to also include the many federal employees who work in the city as well as the city's business community.

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In addition to the kick-off event, other key District-sponsored Preparedness Month events include:

- **A graduation ceremony on September 11 for approximately 60 District residents who have completed advanced training to prepare them to participate in Neighborhood Corps**, a structure that brings together trained volunteers to work in their communities to educate their families and neighbors about emergency preparedness and respond in their community in the event of an emergency.

As part of the city's 9-11 commemoration, including the One Day's Pay initiative, Serve DC will be hosting the Neighborhood Corps graduation ceremony of approximately 60 DC residents who have taken it upon themselves to make emergency preparedness a priority in their lives. The Neighborhood Corps of the DC Citizen Corps provides a structure for trained volunteers [e.g., CERT (Citizen Emergency Response Team), VIPS, (Volunteers in Police Service), MRC (Medical Reserve Corps), and DAT] to mobilize and respond to emergencies at the neighborhood level. Drawing on their collective knowledge and diverse skill sets, DC Citizen Corps trained volunteers work together to form individual Neighborhood Corps in their communities. The assistance Neighborhood Corps provide at the community level is an integral component of the District government's emergency response.

Neighborhood Corps members have two primary responsibilities: 1) to educate their families and neighbors about emergency preparedness and 2) to be prepared to respond to emergencies in their community if professional first responders cannot reach the scene.

- **An outreach fair targeting the business community on September 14** at Farragut Square Park, featuring information about preparedness in the workplace, including continuity of operations, sheltering-in-place and evacuation routes and procedures.
- **Implementation of Commander Ready curriculum training at District of Columbia public schools during the week of September 24–28.** Serve DC's Commander Ready program is a specialized component of the DC Neighborhood Corps and DC Citizen Corps programs designed to educate and engage children ages 5-13 in emergency preparedness. This program is led by Reggie and Rachel, and their dog, Rodney. The Ready Team is always prepared for the unexpected, and their job is to teach DC children how to prepare for emergencies/disasters and prevent disaster damage. With the Ready Team as their guide, children will learn about what can cause disasters, play games and complete fun activities which help to reinforce the message of preparedness.

A complete calendar of National Preparedness Month events at which District agencies will make presentations, distribute information or play a significant role is attached. Persons seeking more information can call the D.C. Preparedness Month Information Line at (202) 481- 3000.

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National Preparedness Month Calendar of Events
September 2007

✚ Indicates a District-sponsored event

Wednesday, September 5

- U.S. Office of Personnel Management National Preparedness Month Kick off Ceremony; 11 a.m.; Rawlins Park, E Street, N.W., between 18th and 19th Streets (rain date, September 6, 2007)

Thursday, September 6

- ✚ District of Columbia National Preparedness Month Kick off Ceremony; 10 a.m.; Anne Beers Elementary School, 3600 Alabama Avenue, S.E.
- ✚ Elderfest, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Freedom Plaza, 14th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue Ave., N.W.
- D. C. Neighborhood College classroom session on preparedness; 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.; George Washington University Center

Saturday, September 8

- ✚ 10th Annual D.C. Water and Sewer Authority Employee Appreciation Day; 12 p.m. – 5 p.m., Turkey Thicket Playground, 1100 Michigan Avenue, N.E. (*provide demonstration of the Mobile Command bus and distribute preparedness literature*)

Monday, September 10

- ✚ Hospitality Alliance Tabletop Exercise; 9 a.m.; Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place, N.W.
- U. S. Senate First National Preparedness Fair; 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.; Hart Senate Office Building, Room 902, Constitution Avenue between 1st and 2nd Streets, N.E.
- ✚ Nautical Shield 07 (Coast Guard Exercise); Anacostia Riverfront and HSEMA EOC

Tuesday, September 11

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Emergency Preparedness Fair; 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.; 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Aerial North Bldg., Rooms 4530 and 5530.
- ✚ Neighborhood Corps Academy graduation/One Day's Pay observance; 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.; Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place, N.W.

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- ✚ The September 11th Heroes Memorial Tribute, hosted by the Fireman's Fund Insurance Corporation in recognition of D.C. Fire and Emergency Medical Services employees who served at the Pentagon on September 11. The event will honor the memories of the fallen and recognize the contributions and dedication of those in the Fire Service. (*not open to the public*)

Wednesday, September 12

- Second Annual EPA "Preparedness Now" Speaker Series; 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.; EPA East, Room 1117A, 1201 Constitution Avenue, N. W.
- U.S. Department of Energy National Preparedness Month Presentation (information on DC and NCR preparedness efforts); 10 a.m.; US DOE headquarters; Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.

Friday, September 14

- ✚ Farragut Park Outreach Fair; 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.; Farragut Square Park, 17th and K Streets, N.W. (rain date – September 20)

Saturday, September 15

- ✚ SAVU (Smoke Alarm Verification and Utilization program) #3, a program in which fire fighters and fire inspectors go door to door to ensure the presence of a working smoke alarm. If no smoke alarm is present, a device is installed free of charge. Time and location – TBA.

Tuesday, September 18

- ✚ Fire and Emergency Medical Services Night with the Nationals. Game time is 7:05 p.m.

Wednesday, September 19

- ✚ Full-field and Command Post Exercise – "VIP Parade"; 10 a.m.; U.S. Marine Corps Barracks, 8th and I Streets, S.E., DC HSEMA Emergency Operations Center, 2720 MLK Avenue, S.E., D.C. Department of Health, 64 New York Avenue, N.E.

- Preparedness Presentation; 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.; Canaan Baptist Church, 1607 Monroe Street, N. W.

Monday, September 24 -- Friday, September 28

- ✚ Implementation of Commander Ready Curriculum training; various D.C. Public School locations [call (202) 727-7931 for specific times and locations]

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Monday, September 24

- American Red Cross National Headquarters Preparedness Fair; 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.; 2025 E Street, N.W.

Wednesday, September 26

- McGraw Hill Emergency Preparedness Lunch and Learn; 12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m.; 1200 G Street, N.W., 10th floor conference room

Thursday, September 27

- American Red Cross of the National Capital Area Partners in Preparedness Symposium; 4 p.m. – 8 p.m., National Press Club Ballroom, 529 14th Street, N. W.
- Preparedness Presentation for the S.W. Chapter of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE), 1 p.m.; Southwest Library, 900 Wesley Place, S.W. (at K Street).

Friday, September 28

- Preparedness Presentation; 10:30 a.m.; Washington Senior Wellness Center, 3001 Alabama Avenue, S.E.

Saturday, September 29

-  Animal licensing, micro-chipping and vaccinations; [*Licensing* - \$13 for sterilized pets, \$46 for unsterilized pets; *Micro-chipping* - \$35; vaccinations – free]; 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.; 1201 New York Avenue, N.E.

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