



Jackson County Department of Public Health

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September is National Preparedness Month

National Preparedness Month is an observance each September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time. This year's theme is A Lasting Legacy: The life you've built is worth protecting. Prepare for disasters to create a lasting legacy for you and your family.

Disasters disrupt thousands of lives every year and leave behind lasting effects on people and property. It is not a matter of if, but when. There are many benefits to planning ahead for disasters. The most important benefit is staying safe and helping yourself and your community recover. There are simple actions one can take to protect against disasters. To prepare yourself and your family for a disaster you should: know your risks, make a plan, and take action.

Understanding the risks, you and your family face is the first step. It is important to learn the risks specific to your home and the ways to assess your risk if you are away from home. Know how and when to act before, during, and after different hazards.

Next, make a communications plan and prepare for both evacuating and sheltering. Plans should be customized to meet the unique needs of your family. Gather emergency supplies and secure the information and important documents you will need to start your recovery. For help with creating a readiness plan for you and your family, visit www.ready.gov.

Finally, put your plan into action. Be ready and able to face disasters, no matter where you are and when they occur. Practice your disaster plan, take advantage of existing alert and warning systems, and explore ways to serve your community. In Jackson County CodeRED is used by Emergency Management officials to deliver prerecorded messages/notifications concerning manmade or natural emergencies.

To sign up for CodeRED visit <https://www.jacksonnc.org/emergency-management/codered>
Required information for CodeRED is first and last name, physical street address (no P.O. boxes), city, state, zip code and primary telephone number to be used.

We all have the power to protect. Make it a priority this month to prepare yourself and your family for a disaster.



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