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Recognizing September as National Emergency Preparedness Month

Residents are reminded to prepare themselves and their families for an emergency or disaster

During their public meeting on Sept. 19, Delaware County Council joined the Director of Delaware County Emergency Services, Timothy Boyce and members of Delaware County Emergency Services to declare September as National Emergency Preparedness Month.

In Delaware County, our first responders, police dispatchers, and staff at Delaware County Emergency Services Center are tested every day as they manage the response for hundreds of calls. Throughout the year, Delaware County Council works with the Department of Emergency Services, the Department of Intercommunity Health, Regional Emergency Medical Services and partners in the community with one main goal: to keep residents safe.

Each September, Council reinforces the need for all citizens to be prepared during National Emergency Preparedness Month. Council uses this national recognition as a way to stress how important it is for individuals and families to be prepared and simple steps they can take to prepare themselves and their families for an emergency or disaster. The theme for this year's National Emergency Preparedness Month is "Disasters Happen. Prepare Now. Learn How."

Residents are reminded of several ways to prepare:

The County's **Emergency Preparedness Guide** is available to all residents, free of charge. The guide has information on how to evacuate or shelter-in-place, what supplies to keep on hand, how to assess damage after an emergency, how to create a family emergency plan and how to handle pets during an emergency. The guides have been distributed to local libraries and municipalities and are given out at various community events. The guide can also be found on the county's website: www.co.delaware.pa.us/depts/18EmergencyPreparednessGuide.pdf

Residents are reminded to register for **DelcoAlert**, the County's emergency communication system. This system provides notifications about emergencies and impending disasters in the community. Residents can register here: <https://member.everbridge.net/index/453003085612334#/signup>

All residents, whether they have a medical background or not, can volunteer for the **Medical Reserve Corps** (MRC) More information is available here: www.delcocitizencorps.com

Residents can also attend an **Emergency Preparedness Education** or request a presentation for their own community, faith, or business organization at no cost by contacting the Department of Emergency Services at 610-565-8700.