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## **American Red Cross Offers Tips for National Preparedness Month**

**Cleveland, Ohio** – The American Red Cross, Greater Cleveland Chapter recognizes preparedness 365 days per year for members of the region. It's time for you to recognize preparedness, too. September is National Preparedness Month - ensure you and your family are prepared for any emergency.

The goal of National Preparedness Month is to increase public awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies and to encourage individuals to take action. The American Red Cross, Greater Cleveland Chapter wants you to know the simple steps you and your family can take to be better prepared in an emergency.

Do you know where your important papers are right now, and how to get to them quickly? Do you have a plan in place for your family and pets in case you need to evacuate immediately from your home? Do you have extra food, water, clothing or medications for each family member if you need to relocate - or enough to sustain you if you need to shelter in place indefinitely?

The Greater Cleveland Chapter offers tips to prepare yourself so you can answer "yes" to the above questions.

- Make an emergency plan - *what works for your family?*
- Build an emergency kit - *what does your family need to be ready?*
- Understand what you need to do to ensure financial preparedness
- Educate yourself about emergency plans at your children's school and at your workplace
- Educate your family about the need to be prepared for the unexpected

For additional information on preparedness, visit [www.redcross-cleveland.org](http://www.redcross-cleveland.org).

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