



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR FIRE CHIEF, MIKE SUHY

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

BE READY BEFORE AN EMERGENCY HAPPENS

September is National Preparedness Month, a reminder that emergencies can happen at any time. Whether it's a severe thunderstorm, tornado, house fire, extended power outage, or another unexpected event, being prepared can help keep your family safe. Taking a few simple steps now can reduce stress and help you respond quickly when every minute counts.



BUILD AN EMERGENCY KIT

Every household should have an emergency kit that can support family members for at least three days (72 hours). Store supplies in an easily accessible container and review your kit once a year to replace expired items.



EMERGENCY KIT CHECKLIST

- ☐ Water (one gallon per person, per day)
- ☐ Non-perishable food
- ☐ Manual can opener
- ☐ Flashlights
- ☐ Extra batteries
- ☐ Battery-powered or hand-crank weather radio
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Prescription medications
- ☐ Cell phone chargers and portable battery packs
- ☐ Personal hygiene items
- ☐ Blankets or sleeping bags
- ☐ Extra clothing
- ☐ Cash in small bills
- ☐ Copies of important documents in a waterproof container
- ☐ Infant, child, or senior care supplies (if needed)
- ☐ Pet food, water, medications, leash, and carrier

CREATE A FAMILY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION PLAN

If family members are separated during an emergency, everyone should know how to reconnect.

Your Family Plan should include the following information:

- Emergency Meeting Place Near Home
- Emergency Meeting Place Outside the Neighborhood
- Out-of-Town Emergency Contact
- Important Phone Numbers: Fire/EMS: 911, Poison Center, Family Doctor, Utility Company, Insurance Company
- Additional Emergency Contact

Keep a printed copy of this information in your emergency kit and make sure each family member knows where it is.

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES

Power outages can occur without warning and may last from several hours to several days.



Before an outage:

- Charge phones and backup battery packs
- Keep flashlights in easy-to-find locations
- Stock extra batteries
- Freeze containers of water to help keep food cold longer
- Fuel vehicles before severe weather arrives

During an outage:

- Never use generators inside your home, garage, or enclosed spaces
- Never use charcoal grills indoors
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible
- Use flashlights instead of candles whenever possible to reduce fire risk
- Check on neighbors who may need assistance



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PLANNING FOR OLDER ADULTS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Emergency plans should account for anyone who has medical, mobility, communication, or transportation needs.

Consider preparing:

- A current medication list
- Copies of medical information
- Extra prescriptions and medical supplies
- Backup power plans for essential medical equipment
- Emergency contact information
- A trusted neighbor, family member, or caregiver who knows your emergency plan



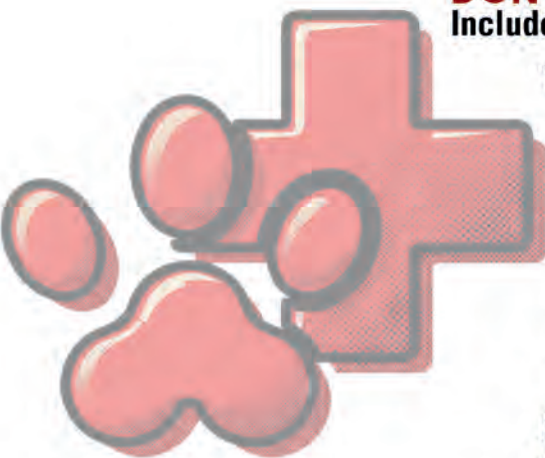
DON'T FORGET YOUR PETS

Include your pets in your family's emergency planning.

Your pet emergency kit should contain:

- Food and water for at least three days.
- Medications.
- Vaccination records.
- Leash, harness, or carrier.
- Waste bags or litter supplies.
- Identification tags.
- Recent photos in case you become separated.

Remember that not every emergency shelter accepts pets.
Know where you can safely take the before an emergency occurs.



FIVE MINUTES TODAY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Preparedness doesn't have to happen all at once. Choose one task today:

- Build or refresh your emergency kit.
- Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.
- Review your family's communication plan.
- Update emergency phone numbers.
- Talk with your children about what to do during an emergency.

Small steps taken today can make a big difference when an emergency happens tomorrow.



PREPAREDNESS TIP OF THE MONTH

Ask yourself these three questions:

1. If I had to leave my home in five minutes, what would I take?
2. If the power was out for 72 hours, would my family have what we need?
3. Does everyone in my household know where to meet and who to call during an emergency?

If you answered "no" to any of these questions,
September is the perfect time to make a plan!





Employee *Spotlight*

Kyle Scotten
Full-time Fireman

Kyle Scotten was officially sworn in on June 12, 2025, and quickly embraced the opportunities and challenges of the fire service. Since joining the department, he has participated in several multi-department training sessions, including work with the SERT team, hazmat team, and active shooter response training. These experiences have provided valuable hands-on learning and have contributed to his ongoing growth and development.



Kyle appreciates the strong culture within the department and values the camaraderie shared among its members. He takes pride in working alongside a group of dedicated individuals he not only respects as colleagues but is also proud to call friends. He looks forward to continuing to learn, serve, and contribute to the team.