



## News Release

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### **September is National Preparedness Month: Are You *Ready Lowcountry?***

Each September is declared [National Preparedness Month](#) to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for all types of emergencies in their homes, businesses, communities and schools.

[Charleston County Government's Emergency Management Department](#) has joined the diverse group of national, state and local partners in highlighting the importance of emergency preparedness and promoting community involvement through a wide variety of events and activities.

Sponsored by the [national Ready campaign](#) and [Citizen Corps](#), the goal of the month is to increase public awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies of all kinds and to encourage individuals to take action.

September 2009 is the sixth annual National Preparedness Month. This year's focus will be on changing perceptions about emergency preparedness and helping Americans understand what it truly means to be *Ready*.

[Ready Lowcountry](#) was developed as a local National Preparedness Month Resource Center to provide tools, resources and education, which citizens can utilize to help prepare their homes, businesses and communities for all types of hazards. Everyone is encouraged to utilize these resources during National Preparedness Month and throughout the year to help keep the community prepared.

Being *Ready* for emergencies goes beyond fire alarms, smoke detectors and dead-bolt locks. Being *Ready* includes making an emergency kit, forming a plan, being informed, and getting involved in community efforts.

Emergency preparedness is everyone's responsibility; everyone should have a family emergency plan and be prepared to take care of themselves for at least the first 72 hours after a disaster.

Residents can visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) to learn how to prepare their family, home and business for all types of emergencies including natural and man-made disasters. The Web site offers free

downloadable resources, including family emergency plan templates and sample business continuity plans.

For more information about the *Ready* Campaign and National Preparedness Month, visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

**Ready Lowcountry Partners include:**

- [American Red Cross, Lowcountry Chapter](#)
- [Atlantic Business Continuity Services](#)
- [Berkeley County Government](#)
- [Business Continuity Planning Council](#)
- [Charleston County Area Project Impact](#)
- [Charleston County Government](#)
- [Charleston County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad](#)
- [Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [City of Charleston](#)
- [City of North Charleston](#)
- [Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy](#)
- [Coastal Facial Plastic Surgery](#)
- [Disability Resource Center](#)
- [Dorchester County Government](#)
- [East Cooper Community Outreach](#)
- [Lowcountry CERT \(Community Emergency Response Team\)](#)
- [Lowcountry Food Bank](#)
- [Lowcountry Medical Reserve Corps](#)
- [North Charleston and American LaFrance Fire Museum](#)
- [ProPac, Inc.](#)
- [SC Earthquake Education and Preparedness \(College of Charleston Geology Department\)](#)
- [South Carolina DTV Help Center](#)
- [South Carolina Emergency Management Division](#)
- [Town of Mount Pleasant](#)
- [Trident United Way](#)
- [U.S. Coast Guard Sector Charleston](#)