



Latah County Idaho  
latahcert.us  
contact@latahcert.us

# SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

## **CERT MEETINGS:**

**Latah CERT** – No more meetings this year. Our next meeting will be in January 2026.

**Whitman CERT** – Future meetings to be determined. Information will be provided when available.

## ***PREPAREDNESS STARTS AT HOME***

FEMA's Ready Campaign has observed National Preparedness Month since 2004 to encourage Americans to prepare for emergencies. The month is a great time to take small steps to make a big difference in being prepared. *Preparedness Starts at Home*, the 2025 theme, focuses on getting back to the essentials of preparedness.

There are four key actions you can take to prepare for any disaster or emergency you and your household may face.

## ***Know Your Risk***

- ☑ Know what could happen where you and your family or household live. This helps you figure out what you need to do to stay safe. You can explore various disasters and emergencies on Ready.gov. Also, our January 2025 newsletter covered several hazards and the protection actions you can take. For the Latah County area, our hazards include wildfires, floods, storms, and man-made hazards like hazardous material or chemical spills and active shooters.



## ***Make A Plan***

- ☑ Make a plan today. Your household may not be together if a disaster strikes, so it is important to know which types of disasters could affect your area. **Know how you'll contact one another and reconnect if separated. Establish a family meeting place that's familiar and easy to find.**

Making a plan early helps you reduce stress and save time and money. Follow the four easy steps below and create a family emergency plan quickly and easily with the FEMA fillable form detailed in step 3. Taking time to prepare now can help save you thousands of dollars and give you peace of mind when the next disaster or emergency occurs. There is also information on low and no-cost preparedness at <https://www.ready.gov/low-and-no-cost>.

### ➤ **Step 1: Put a plan together by discussing these questions with your family, household, or friends.**

- How will I receive emergency alerts and warnings?
- What is my shelter plan?
- What is my evacuation route?
- What is my family/household communication plan?
- Do I need to update my emergency preparedness kit?

## ***Make A Plan continued...***

- **Step 2: Consider specific needs in your household.** Tailor your plans and supplies to your specific daily living needs and responsibilities. Here are some things to keep in mind: ages of household members, locations frequented, dietary needs, medical needs (prescriptions and equipment), disabilities and access or functional needs, languages spoken, cultural and religious considerations, and pets or service animals.
- **Step 3: Create a Family Emergency Plan.** Ready.Gov has a quick and easily fillable form online that you can use to record your plan and then email it to yourself as a PDF file once complete. The link is <https://www.ready.gov/plan-form>.
- **Step 4: Practice your plan with your family/household.**

## ***Build An Emergency Supply Kit***

- ☑ Having enough food, water and medicine can help you stay safe and comfortable until help arrives. Having what you need can also prevent injury and damage to your home.
- ☑ Build a go-bag with all the essentials you might need, so you don't need to scramble in an evacuation situation. Find a list of supplies at <https://www.ready.gov/kit>.

## ***Get Involved in Your Community by Taking Action to Prepare for Emergencies***

- ☑ **Volunteer & Donate.** During disaster response, affected communities depend heavily on local and national volunteers and much-needed donated supplies. Emergencies can happen fast, and emergency responders aren't always nearby. You can learn these steps when you take a first aid class through many organizations in your community. You can also get involved today by donating to or volunteering with a reputable organization.
- ☑ **Train & Educate.** You could help save countless lives by taking simple actions to prepare your community or organization for a disaster before one strikes. FEMA offers free training and education tools to train yourself and others on the best ways to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a disaster or emergency. You can take a free online independent study course through FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (<https://training.fema.gov/is/>) or take a CPR course through the American Red Cross or other accredited organization.



### **Maintaining Your Kit**

After assembling your kit remember to maintain it so it's ready when needed:

- Keep canned food in a cool, dry place.
- Store boxed food in tightly closed plastic or metal containers.
- Replace expired items as needed.
- Re-think your needs every year and update your kit as your family's needs change.



### **Kit Storage Locations**

Since you do not know where you will be when an emergency occurs, prepare supplies for home, work and cars.

- **Home:** Keep this kit in a designated place and have it ready in case you have to leave your home quickly. Make sure all family members know where the kit is kept.
- **Work:** Be prepared to shelter at work for at least 24 hours. Your work kit should include food, water, and other necessities like medicines and comfortable walking shoes which can be stored in a "grab and go" case/bag/tub.
- **Car:** In case you are stranded, keep a kit of emergency supplies in your car.