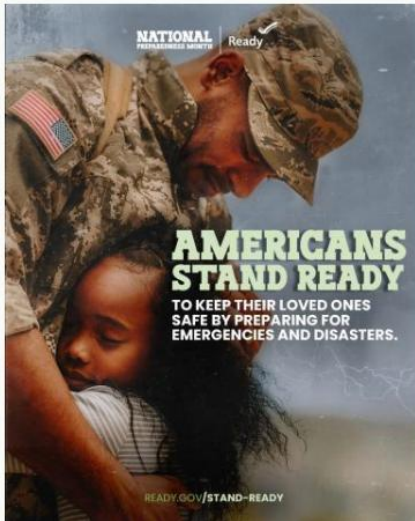




Latah County Idaho
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SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

CERT MEETING: September 2nd (Wednesday) at 6:00 pm at the Latah County Courthouse at 522 S. Adams Street, Moscow in basement room 2B. Speakers: Mark Lincoln, Latah Noxious Weeds Superintendent, and Dr. Timothy Prather, Professor & Senior Associate Director of Rangeland Center. Topic: Impacts of annual grasses and increased wildfire risks.



SEPTEMBER 2026 – NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Are you ready? It's not a question of if, but when. Every U.S. state and territory is at risk of disasters. Disasters disrupt thousands of lives every year, leaving behind lasting effects on people and property. After a disaster, many others in your community need help as well. For this reason, local first responders and other assistance may not be able to reach you right away. You and your family can take steps now to prepare for emergencies. By doing so, you **take back control** – even in the uncertainty of disaster. The most important benefits of planning ahead are staying safe and helping yourself and your community recover. For more information, see Ready.gov.

To prepare yourself and your family for a disaster, you should:

- ✓ **Create a Family Emergency Communication Plan.**
- ✓ **Know Local Plans and Resources.**
- ✓ **Make an Evacuation and Shelter Plan.**
- ✓ **Gather Emergency Supplies.**
- ✓ **Prepare your Critical Documents.**

The **2026 National Preparedness Month** theme is **Americans Stand Ready**. When Americans take steps to prepare for disasters and keep their families safe, every neighborhood and community is more resilient. The themes include Americans stand ready (1) to uphold our patriotic duty by being prepared and self-reliant to bolster first responders, (2) to protect our family and friends as we know best how to keep them safe when things go wrong, and (3) to help our communities by taking a proactive approach to getting our community ready.



1. Know Your Risks: Understand the risks you and your family may face. It is important to learn the risks specific to your home and the ways to assess your risks if you are away from home. Know how and when to take action before, during, and after different hazards.

2. Make a Plan: Make a communications plan and prepare for both evacuating and sheltering. Prepare for your family's unique needs with customized plans and supplies. You should gather emergency supplies and secure the information and important documents you will need to start your recovery.



3. Take Action! Put your plan into action and protect yourself, your property, and manage risk. Be ready and able to face disasters, no matter where you are and when they occur. It is important to get the insurance you need and understand your coverage options. You should make a list of your personal property and its condition and protect your property by considering how to minimize damage. Practice, practice, and practice your disaster plans, take advantage of existing alert and warning systems (coming soon to Latah County), and explore ways to serve your community.

Building a Prepared Home



Create a family communication plan.



Test your evacuation and shelter plans.



Sign up for emergency alert notifications.



Save for emergencies



Safeguard your important documents.



Check your insurance policy.



Keep a stocked emergency supply kit.



Install a backup generator.

You Are the Help Until Help Arrives

Life-threatening emergencies can happen fast, and emergency responders aren't always nearby. You may be able to save a life by taking simple actions immediately. You are the help until help arrives! According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), trauma is the leading cause of death for Americans under age 45. Life-threatening injuries require immediate action to prevent an injured person from dying. Those nearest are best positioned to provide first care. **First care focuses on five essential actions:**

Call 9-1-1	Stay Safe	Stop the Bleeding	Position the Injured	Provide Comfort
○ Don't assume someone else has already done so. ○ 911 operators are highly trained and will help you. ○ Let them coach you through the life-threatening situation.	● Assess the situation: pause and use all available senses. ● Decide whether to stay and help, grab the injured and get to safety, or get yourself to safety.	➤ Apply steady, firm pressure on the source of the bleeding until first responders arrive. ➤ If you can't control the bleeding with manual pressure, consider a tourniquet.	▪ Lay the injured on their side, legs slightly bent, with bottom hand reached outward and head resting near hand. ▪ Raise the chin forward with mouth pointed downward.	✓ Share names and ask basic questions. ✓ Tell them what you know happened, but do not speculate. ✓ Keep them warm and offer a hand to hold.

Sources: "Are you Ready?" and "Until Help Arrives Web Tutorial" at Ready.gov. Information on this newsletter is excerpts from the Tutorial.

Prepared by VLawrence – Latah CERT