



Latah County Idaho
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SEPTEMBER 2023
NEWSLETTER

2023 CALENDAR

October 4th:
Deployment Processes and Procedures at 6:30 pm at the Latah County Fairgrounds – Classroom.

October 7th:
Disaster Tabletop Exercise at 09:00 am at the Latah County Fairgrounds.

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

This September marks the 20th annual National Preparedness Month; a time for everyone to recognize the importance of preparedness and take steps that protect themselves and their loved ones. The Ready Campaign’s 2023 theme is “**Take Control in 1, 2, 3**”. The campaign focuses on preparing older adults for disasters, specifically older adults from communities that are disproportionately impacted by the all-hazard events, which continue to threaten the nation. We know older adults can face greater risks when it comes to the multitude of extreme weather events and emergencies we now face, especially if they are living alone, are low-income, have a disability, or live in rural areas. By 2035, the U.S. Census Bureau project that there will be more Americans over the age of 65 than under the age 18.

It’s important to realize that though our emphasis this month is on older adults, these guidelines apply to EVERYONE when it comes to emergency preparedness. Its important that we all become more aware of our risks and better prepare for them.

GET
PREPARED TODAY
in three
SIMPLE and
straightforward
STEPS!



Remember!

If you have medications that need refrigeration, rely on mobility or assistive devices, or have a pet, you’ll need to understand how these variables will factor into what you’ll need to stay safe in a disaster or emergency.

The FEMA Take Control in 1, 2, 3 – Disaster Preparedness Guide for Older Adults has more detailed guidelines and issues to consider.



STEP 1 – ASSESS YOUR NEEDS



An important first step in preparedness is understanding the risks you may encounter—big and small. While it may seem daunting, there are many ways to learn about common disasters in your community. Knowing what you may face will help you assess your needs and get you started on your preparedness journey.

KNOW YOUR RISKS AND GET INFORMED

- ✓ Learn about the types of disasters that could happen in your community. • Ask friends and family who have lived in the area about past disasters and their impact. • Read local newspapers or community message boards to learn more about your area. • Once you understand the types of disasters you may face in your community, learn more about how to prepare through FEMA’s Ready.gov Hazard Information Sheets.
- ✓ Sign up for alerts and warnings to receive information during an emergency.

LATAH COUNTY RESIDENTS: Sign up for county-wide citizen emergency alerts on <https://MEMBER.EVERBRIDGE.NET/2590178812100610/new>

STEP 2 MAKE A PLAN



Now that you have assessed your needs, it is time to make a plan and build a kit. Sometimes disasters strike with little to no warning, so it is important to have a plan and be prepared for a sudden emergency. Be sure to review your plan regularly and share it with neighbors, friends, family, and caregivers. Follow the steps below to create your plan and build your emergency preparedness kit:

STEPS FOR CREATING YOUR PLAN

1. Create a support network of family, friends, caregivers, and others who can assist you during an emergency. Make an emergency plan and practice it with them.
2. Make sure at least one person in your support network has an extra key to your home, knows where you keep your emergency supplies, and knows how to use lifesaving equipment or administer medicine.
3. If you undergo routine treatments administered by a clinic or hospital, find out their emergency plans and work with them to identify backup service providers.
4. Don't forget your pets or service animals. Not all shelters accept pets, so plan for alternatives. Consider asking loved ones or friends outside of your immediate area if they can help with your animals.

STEP 3 ENGAGE YOUR SUPPORT NETWORK



Now that you know your needs, made your plan, and built your preparedness kit, it is time to engage your support network. It is crucial that you create a support network of family, friends, caregivers, neighbors, and others who can assist you during an emergency and engage them in your preparedness planning.

USE THIS CHECKLIST TO ENGAGE YOUR SUPPORT NETWORK

- ❖ Create a support network of family, friends, caregivers, fellow congregants at your place of worship, and others who can assist you during an emergency.
- ❖ Share and practice your emergency plan with your support network. Make sure the support network is aware of any specific needs you have. Someone in your support network has an extra key to your home, knows where you keep your emergency supplies, and knows how to use lifesaving equipment and administer medicine.
- ❖ Know your clinic/hospital's emergency plans and have identified backup service providers. Your support network and you are informed about local emergency alerts and updates. You have or will try to participate in a community preparedness event or initiative.

HELPFUL HINT: Get Your Benefits Electronically

If you depend on Social Security or other regular benefits, switching to electronic payments is a simple, important way to protect yourself financially before disaster strikes. The U.S. Department of the Treasury recommends two safer ways to get federal benefits including direct deposit to a checking or savings account or you can sign up by calling 800-333-1795 or [sign up online](#). Secondly, the **Direct Express**® prepaid debit card is designed as a safe and easy alternative to paper.