

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

NEWS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bayfield County Emergency Management

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EMERGENCIES DON'T WAIT: PREPARE NOW!

September is National Preparedness Month...a month devoted to increase public awareness of the importance of preparing for emergencies. Following are some simple actions that you can take to increase your personal and family preparedness:

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- Know your address. Your address includes a number and road name and places your location on the county map.
- Make sure your address sign is clearly visible from the roadway whether at the end of your driveway (in the rural areas) or posted on your house. Check for branches or undergrowth that may block the address sign from being seen by responders – from either direction.
- Post the address in your home where visitors/babysitters/grandchildren will see it.
- Dial 9-1-1 when ambulance-fire-police/law enforcement response is needed.

TELL the dispatcher

- WHO you are
- WHAT is needed
- WHERE it is needed (complete address)
- WHY it is needed

STAY ON THE PHONE until told to hang up.

- Maintain a current list of medications and dosages. Keep a copy in your purse or wallet.
- Keep the car fueled 1/2 tank filled during winter to prevent gas line freeze.
- Have some cash available.
- Know your neighbors. Discuss what assistance you may be able to offer one another.
- Maintain working smoke/fire and carbon monoxide alarms. Test them monthly.
- Practice an escape plan in case of fire in the home; include a meeting place away from the house.
- Make sure your driveway has room for ambulance and fire apparatus to access your home.
- Maintain a NOAA all hazards radio. (Provides weather updates (watches/warnings); used by area counties for 9-1-1 outage information, evacuation instructions, and other emergency updates.)
- Become familiar with the Bayfield County website. In a major emergency/disaster ongoing updates and information will be posted at www.bayfieldcounty.org.

For more detailed information, you may contact Jan Victorson at Bayfield County Emergency Management – <u>ivictorson@bayfieldcounty.org</u> or 715.373.6113. If you have internet access check out <u>www.ready.gov</u> and the Bayfield County website for National Preparedness Month information.