



Greene County Public Health

Melissa Howell, MS, MBA, MPH, RN, REHS, Health Commissioner

Kevin L. Sharrett, MD, Medical Director

Press Release

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Contact: Laurie Fox, Public Information Officer
937-374-5669 office / 937-283-5178 cell / lfox@gcph.info

National Preparedness Month 2025 Reminds Families that “Preparedness Starts at Home”

GREENE COUNTY, OHIO – September is National Preparedness Month, and this year’s theme is “**Preparedness Starts at Home.**” This campaign reminds everyone that getting ready for emergencies and disasters can help protect you, your family, and your community.

Talking about emergencies like storms, power outages, or other disasters isn’t always easy. Sometimes we avoid the topic because it feels scary. But being prepared is one of the best ways to keep the people you love safe.

Four Key Steps Families Can Take

1. **Learn about emergencies** – Know the kinds of disasters that can happen where you live and what to do if they happen.
2. **Make a family emergency plan** – Decide ahead of time how you will stay in touch and where you will go.
3. **Build an emergency supply kit** – Collect items you might need if you can’t leave home or if you must leave quickly.
4. **Get involved in your community** – Help others get prepared, too.

Family Discussion Topics

- How you will communicate with each other if phones don’t work.
- Food, water, and supplies for your family and pets. Identify pet-friendly shelters.
- Transportation if you need help leaving your home.
- Special items you may need, such as medicines, medical supplies, batteries, and chargers.
- How to safely turn off water, gas, and electricity in your home.
- How you will take assistive devices with you if you need to evacuate.
- Copies of important documents like insurance or Medicaid/Medicare cards.

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Make a Plan

- Build a support network of family and friends who can help you during an emergency. Practice your plan together.
- Give at least one trusted person an extra house key, and make sure they know where your emergency supplies are and how to use them.
- If you get regular medical treatments, ask your doctor or hospital what their emergency plans are, and find backup providers just in case.
- Don't forget pets and service animals. Not all shelters take animals, so make a plan for where they can go.

Get Your Benefits Electronically

Disasters can stop mail delivery for days or weeks. If you rely on Social Security or other benefits, sign up for electronic payments to avoid delays or stolen checks. The U.S. Department of the Treasury suggests two safe options:

- **Direct deposit** into your bank account (call 800-333-1795 or sign up online).
- **Direct Express® prepaid debit card** – a safe and easy way to get benefits without paper checks.

For more information about preparing for emergencies, visit www.Ready.gov or www.Ready.gov/September.

Greene County Public Health also has a free emergency preparedness booklet for families. You can view it online here: [Emergency Preparedness Guide](#). To request a paper copy, email lfox@greenecophoh.gov or call **937-374-5669**.

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