

Okaloosa County News Release

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Kathy Newby, 850.651.7515, knewby@co.okaloosa.fl.us

September is National Preparedness Month *Okaloosa invites you to join the conversation: Don't Wait. Communicate*

The theme for National Preparedness Month is "Don't Wait. Communicate." Businesses and families are encouraged to make an emergency plan today. Creating a plan starts with one simple question – "What if?" Does your family know what to do in a disaster, and what if you aren't together when an emergency occurs? Create an emergency plan now; here is how.

- It is easy to connect with Okaloosa County Department of Public Safety:
 - Get the FREE Ready Okaloosa APP
 - Register for Ready Okaloosa and Alert Okaloosa at www.okaloosafl.com or follow this link: <http://www.co.okaloosa.fl.us/ps/home>
 - Get shelter information, evacuation zones and routes, emergency planning information, supply list and how to stay connected in an emergency: <http://www.co.okaloosa.fl.us/ps/emergency-management>
- Include family members in the planning process: <http://www.kidsgetaplan.com/>
- Join the national conversation: #NatlPrep to share ideas or if you need help creating a plan.

Our new 311 Citizens Information Line will also have updates in an emergency and you can reach all county departments as well as elected officials. For more information, please contact the Okaloosa County Public Safety Department at 850-651-7150, connect with our **Facebook page (Okaloosa County Department of Public Safety)** or **twitter @OKALOOSAEOC**.

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*The Okaloosa County Department of Public Safety mission is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of our community with pride and professionalism and consists of the following divisions: 911 Communications, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Emergency Management and Beach Safety. Since 2002, Okaloosa County has been an official **Storm Ready County**, and meets several emergency management criteria: the 24 hour Warning Point, the six different means of receiving National Weather Service warnings, the ability to monitor real time data at both the Emergency Operations Center in south Okaloosa and the 24 hour Warning Point in the north.*