



**Gadsden / Etowah County**  
***Emergency Management Agency***  
P.O. Box 267 \* Gadsden, Alabama 35902

**NEWS RELEASE**

**DATE:** September 9, 2019

**TIME:** 2:30 p.m.

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**National Preparedness Month**

The month of September has been declared National Preparedness Month by the federal government and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The Gadsden/Etowah County Emergency Management Agency encourages citizens to take this opportunity to better prepare for emergencies that may affect our community.

GECEMA Director, Deborah Gaither, states... *“Being prepared for any disaster is your own responsibility. What will it take for you to prepare now? Within the last 2 years we have had two no-notice tornadoes within Etowah County. Prepare now for yourself, your family, your friends, your pets, and your neighbors. Create a plan, practice the plan, and review the plan every six months for any needed changes. The time is NOW!”*

According to Ready.gov, the theme for this September is *“Prepared, Not Scared.”* Follow along on social media using the hashtags #BeReady and #PreparedNotScared. Follow our campaign on Facebook and Twitter @GECEMA. The weekly themes for September 2019 are as follows:

- **Week 1 – Save Early for Disaster Costs**
  - ✓ Check your insurance coverage
  - ✓ Plan financially for the possibility of disaster
  - ✓ Know what documents should you have for an emergency
  
- **Week 2 – Make a Plan to Prepare for Disasters**
  - ✓ Make and practice your Emergency Plan
  - ✓ Sign up for alerts and warnings in your area. Visit <http://gecema.com/everbridge/> to sign up for alerts in Etowah County.
  - ✓ Learn your evacuation zone and have an evacuation plan

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- **Week 3 – Teach Youth to Prepare for Disasters**
  - ✓ Teach children what to do in an emergency if they are at home or away from home
  - ✓ Update school records and discuss emergency contact numbers with kids before they go
  - ✓ Review your family emergency communications plan with kids at your next household meeting
  - ✓ Speak up! Ask your child’s teacher about the plans the school has in place for emergencies
  
- **Week 4 – Get Involved in Your Community’s Preparedness**
  - ✓ Learn about the hazards most likely to affect your community and their appropriate responses
  - ✓ Check in with neighbors to see how you can help each other out before and after an emergency
  - ✓ Every community has voluntary organizations that work during disasters. Visit <http://gecema.com/voad/> to learn about Etowah County VOAD
  - ✓ Take classes in lifesaving skills, such as CPR/AED and first aid, or in emergency response, such as Etowah County CERT. Visit <http://gecema.com/cert/> for more information

For more information, contact the Gadsden/Etowah EMA at 256-549-4575

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