

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott  
Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS  
State Surgeon General & Secretary

**Vision:** To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH**

**PENSACOLA, FL** – The Florida Department of Health in Escambia County recognizes September as National Preparedness Month and encourages households, businesses, and communities to prepare and plan for emergency situations.

Escambia County residents should prepare for an emergency or natural disaster that may create the need to be self-reliant for three days without electricity, water service, access to supermarkets or local services, and even without response from police, fire, or rescue. An emergency preparedness plan can apply to several types of emergencies including natural disasters and terrorism. Preparing starts with four important steps:

1. **Be Informed** – Remember that hurricanes are not the only natural disasters that occur in Escambia County. Knowing what to do before, during and after an emergency or natural disaster is an essential part of being prepared. Remember to consider safety first.
2. **Make a Plan** – Disasters may strike at any time so it is important to make a communications plan in advance. Remember to include how to contact family members and relocate to safe locations, together or apart. Make plans to respond to different situations.
3. **Build a Kit** – A disaster supply kit consists of basic items that a household may need in the event of an emergency including food, water, medications, and other supplies. An emergency or natural disaster may not allow for time to collect these items, and local officials or relief workers may not be able to reach residents for days. Plan to have supplies that will last for at least 72 hours.
4. **Get Involved** – There are many ways to get involved in emergency preparedness, and to learn how to make your family, home and community safer from emergencies or natural disasters. Volunteer for your local Medical Reserve Corps unit or the Community Emergency Response Team, or start a preparedness project within your neighborhood.

For more information on how to prepare for emergencies and natural disasters, visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

Business owners in Escambia County can visit the Business section of the *Ready* website ([www.ready.gov/business](http://www.ready.gov/business)) to create a plan for his or her business and employees. For more information on public health preparedness in Escambia County, visit [www.EscambiaHealth.com](http://www.EscambiaHealth.com).

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