



STATE SAFETY OFFICE
HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
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LATHAM, NEW YORK 12110



SAFETY MESSAGE 18-10

**September is
National Preparedness Month
This year's theme is –
Disasters Happen, Prepare Now, Learn How**



NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH 2018


**Disasters
Happen**

PREPARE NOW **LEARN HOW**

Being Prepared is Important!



National Preparedness Month (NPM), recognized each September, provides an opportunity to remind us that we all must prepare ourselves and our families now and throughout the year. This NPM will focus on planning, with an overarching theme: Disasters Happen. Prepare Now. Learn How.

Take time to learn lifesaving skills – such as CPR and first aid, check your insurance policies and coverage for the hazards you may face, such as flood, earthquakes, and tornados. Make sure to consider the costs associated with disasters and save for an emergency. Also, know how to take practical safety steps like shutting off water and gas.

The devastating hurricanes and wildfires of 2017 reminded the nation of the importance of preparing for disasters. Often, we will be the first ones in our communities to take action after a disaster strikes and before first responders arrive, so it is important to prepare in advance to help yourself and your community.

For more information on National Preparedness Month, visit:

<https://www.ready.gov/september>

Taking time now to prepare a travel emergency kit to carry in your vehicle, practicing home fire drills, replacing worn tires, having your home heating system checked will provide peace of mind if a disaster occurs and the New York Army National Guard is called to respond. Knowing your family is safe and prepared lets Soldiers focus on the job at hand – not worry about the home front.

2018 was a busy year for Civil Support Operations in New York. Heavy snow and ice, flooding, hurricane activity, providing support for Hurricane Maria victims in Puerto Rico all took Soldiers away from their homes and families. Providing support to local communities is part of the state mission of the National Guard. Having an effective plan to keep families and homes safe becomes imperative and enables quicker mobilization to provide better support to our neighbors.

To find previously published Safety Messages go to our NYARNG Safety Website:

<http://dmna.ny.gov/safety/>

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