



September is National Preparedness Month and a good reminder that we all have a responsibility to protect ourselves, our families, and our communities.

FKDC and the National Preparedness Month Coalition can help facilities, patients, and staff prepare year round for disasters.

Visit the FKDC website ([www.fkdc.org](http://www.fkdc.org)) and click on the National Preparedness Month banner to access preparedness resources such as:

- ⇒ Instructional videos for older Americans and individuals with disabilities. They can be played in facility lobbies, waiting rooms, break rooms, and at events.
- ⇒ New interactive online tools, including a new online Family Emergency Plan.
- ⇒ A general emergency preparedness PowerPoint presentation to educate employees, patients, or other local organizations and businesses.

## The Florida Kidney Disaster Coalition

### September is National Preparedness Month

This September marks the seventh annual National Preparedness Month (NPM). Led by FEMA's *Ready* Campaign in partnership with Citizen Corps and The Advertising Council, NPM is a nationwide effort encouraging individuals, families, businesses, and communities to work together and take action to prepare for emergencies.

According to the 2009 Citizen Corps National Survey, only 36 percent of individuals believed there was a likelihood of a natural disaster to EVER happen in their community. But disasters happen every day in many different forms—from hurricanes to snowstorms, even localized events such as floods and power outages.

"National Preparedness Month is a great way to get Americans and our communities and businesses to come together in planning and preparing for a disaster," said FEMA



Administrator Craig Fugate. "Disasters can hit any place, any time, so it's essential that we take concrete steps together, now, to ensure a better response later."

This year, NPM focuses on encouraging all Americans to take active steps toward getting involved and becoming prepared. Preparedness is everyone's responsibility. Americans have to work together as a team to ensure that individuals, families and communities are ready. *(continued on page 2)*

### Conditions for Coverage: Emergency Preparedness

The Conditions for Coverage are the minimum health and safety standards that End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) providers must meet in order to be certified under the Medicare program. Emergency preparedness activities required for ESRD providers include:

- ⇒ Providing training and orientation in emergency preparedness to staff and patients, including information on what to do, where to go, and whom to contact.

- ⇒ Evaluating, at least annually, the effectiveness of emergency and disaster plans and updating those plans as necessary.
- ⇒ Having a plan to obtain emergency medical system assistance when needed .
- ⇒ Contacting the local disaster management agency at least annually to ensure that agency is aware of dialysis facility needs in the event of an emergency.

## What Are You Doing To Prepare?

Here are some actions patients and staff should be taking and things they need to know in order to be *Ready*:

- ⇒ Do you have an Emergency Supply Kit in your home/office/car? The best way to prepare is to set aside supplies solely for emergencies or disasters. (Visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for an Emergency Supply Kit checklist.)
- ⇒ What emergencies could occur in your area? How could you prepare for those emergencies specifically? (Visit your local Office of Emergency Management for help with this answer: [www.floridadisaster.org/County\\_EM/county\\_list.htm](http://www.floridadisaster.org/County_EM/county_list.htm))
- ⇒ Does your family have a plan? What if you are separated at the time of the disaster?
- ⇒ Are you prepared to help your neighbor? In most emergencies, the best way to get help more quickly is by working with your close neighbors. Do you know of anyone who might need a little extra help?
- ⇒ What are your local evacuation routes? How would you get out of town from work? How would you get out of town from home? (Visit your local Office of Emergency Management for help with this answer: [www.floridadisaster.org/County\\_EM/county\\_list.htm](http://www.floridadisaster.org/County_EM/county_list.htm))
- ⇒ Does your city/county have a Citizen Corps Council? (If you don't know, visit [www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov))
- ⇒ Does your city/county have an emergency alert system? If so, are you signed up to get alerts? (Visit your local Office of Emergency Management for help with this answer: [www.floridadisaster.org/County\\_EM/county\\_list.htm](http://www.floridadisaster.org/County_EM/county_list.htm))
- ⇒ Do you know the local radio station you would tune into to get emergency information? (Visit your local Office of Emergency Management for help with this answer: [www.floridadisaster.org/County\\_EM/county\\_list.htm](http://www.floridadisaster.org/County_EM/county_list.htm))

For more information on NPM or for help getting your family, business or community prepared, call 1-800-BE-READY, TTY 1-800-462-7585 or visit [ready.gov](http://ready.gov), [listo.gov](http://listo.gov) or [www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov), where you'll find free preparedness resources such as Family Emergency Plan templates, Emergency Supply Kit Checklists, and much more. The *Ready* Web site also has a special section for kids, ages 8-12, (*Ready Kids*) and small- to medium-sized businesses (*Ready Business*).

### Visit us on the web!

For access to continuously updated tools, resources, and links for ESRD providers, patients, and community partners, visit the FKDC website: [www.fkdc.org](http://www.fkdc.org)

- ⇒ Tools for communicating with community partners, patients, and staff
  - ⇒ Individual and family emergency planning resources
  - ⇒ Suggestions for implementing best practices
- ⇒ Helpful links to patient and professional organizations, state resources, and disaster planning and readiness sites
  - ⇒ Free continuing education courses

### Are you interested in becoming involved with FKDC?

**FKDC is looking for both patient and professional volunteers to join our coalition! If you would like more information or would like to attend an FKDC meeting, contact us at [fkdc@nw7.esrd.net](mailto:fkdc@nw7.esrd.net), or call 813-865-3325.**

## September is National Preparedness Month *(continued from page 1)*

Individuals are encouraged to: make a family emergency plan; put together an emergency supply kit; be prepared to help your neighbor; and work as a team to keep everyone safe.

On August 27, President Obama proclaimed September as National Preparedness Month. In his proclamation he stated that, "During National Preparedness Month, we stress the importance of strengthening the security and resiliency of our Nation through systematic preparation for the full range of hazards threatening the United States in the 21st century, including natural disasters, cyber attacks, pandemic disease, and acts of terrorism. This year marks the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, one of the most tragic and destructive disasters in American history. In remembrance of this national tragedy, we must

reaffirm our commitment to readiness and the necessity of preparedness."



National Preparedness Month Coalition membership is open to all public and private sector organizations. Groups can register to become an NPM Coalition Member by visiting [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) and clicking on the NPM banner. In 2009, nearly 2,700 organizations joined the Ready Campaign in promoting the readiness message across the country in homes, schools, businesses, and communities to highlight the importance of individual and community public emergency preparedness throughout September.