



WILLIAMSON COUNTY AND CITIES HEALTH DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Williamson County and Cities Health District Encourages Personal Preparedness during National Preparedness Month (September)

September 9, 2011 (Williamson County) –

September is National Preparedness Month. Williamson County and Cities Health District encourages all Williamson County residents to take a few simple steps to increase their emergency preparedness. These steps can be summarized as follows: 1) **Get A Kit** of emergency supplies, 2) **Make A Plan** for what you and your family will do in an emergency, 3) **Be Informed** about what might happen in your area, and 4) **Get Involved** in preparing your community. Knowing what to do and being prepared is your best source of protection for emergencies of all kinds.

In the last 12 months alone, Texas has experienced a wide range of natural disasters including devastating floods, ice storms, record snowfalls, tornados, the worst drought in recorded history, and numerous wildfires that have consumed well over 2.5 million acres across the state. Great strides have been made in the field of Emergency Preparedness in the past 10 years, but these things are vivid reminders that emergencies and disasters, whether natural or human caused, can strike quickly and can change lives in a matter of minutes. Unexpected events could compel us to rapidly evacuate our neighborhoods to seek shelter, or we could become confined to our homes for extended periods of time in the wake of a disaster. Personal preparedness has never been more important.

During September, consider whether you are truly “Ready or Not?” and take a few simple steps designed to help you become better prepared to cope with a variety of disaster situations in our homes, businesses, and communities. Valuable planning resources, such as checklists and templates to help you implement these steps, can be found at www.texasprepares.org. At this website, you will also find a compelling new video series titled *Surviving Disaster: How Texans Prepare* which features real Texans talking about their experiences during real disasters. You can also help your community by volunteering with an organization poised to assist during emergencies, such as the Williamson County Medical Reserve Corps (WilcoMRC).

For more information on emergency preparedness topics, or to learn more about volunteer opportunities with the Williamson County Medical Reserve Corps (WilcoMRC), contact Mike Caudle (mcaudle@wcchd.org) or call Williamson County and Cities Health District at 943-3600 and ask to speak with an Emergency Preparedness & Response Coordinator.

For more information on *your public health department* visit, <http://www.wcchd.org>