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Get Involved

There are many ways to Get Involved especially before a disaster occurs, the content found on this page will guide you find ways to take action in your community. Community leaders agree the formula for ensuring a safer homeland consists of trained volunteers and informed individual taking action to increase the support of emergency response agencies during disasters. Major disasters can overwhelm first responder agencies, empowering individuals to lend support.

Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Learn first aid, join a Community Emergency Response Team in your community, donate to a reputable organization of your choice, and volunteer to respond to disasters and help your fellow Americans. Visit [NVOAD.org \(https://www.nvoad.org/\)](https://www.nvoad.org/) to learn more.
- **Volunteer and receive training** (<http://www.ready.gov/volunteer>) to support disaster and preparedness efforts in your community.
- **Teach preparedness curriculum** (<https://www.ready.gov/kids/educators>) in your school. Download everything you need for grades K-12 through our Ready Kids program.
- Promote preparedness online by sharing preparedness tips on your social media account with **Ready's online social media toolkit** (<http://www.ready.gov/toolkits>) or **public service announcements** (<https://www.ready.gov/psa-multimedia>)
- Take a free online independent study course through **FEMA's Emergency Management Institute** (<https://training.fema.gov/emi.aspx>) and gain more knowledge to help your community become more prepared.

Support your community by participating in FEMA's individual and community preparedness programs: Citizen Corps, Community Emergency Response Team, Prepareathon, Youth Preparedness

Until Help Arrives

[You Are the Help Until Help Arrives \(Until Help Arrives\) \(/until-help-arrives\)](#), designed by FEMA, are trainings that can be taken online or in-person, where participants learn to take action and, through simple steps, potentially can save a life before professional help arrives. The program encourages the public to take these five steps when there is an emergency.

- Call 9-1-1;
- Protect the injured from harm;
- Stop bleeding;
- Position the injured so they can breathe; and
- Provide comfort.

Citizen Corps

The Citizen Corps mission is accomplished through a national network of state, local, and tribal Citizen Corps Councils. These Councils build on community strengths to implement the Citizen Corps preparedness programs and carry out a local strategy to involve government, community leaders, and citizens in all-hazards preparedness and resilience.

Citizen Corps asks you to embrace the personal responsibility to be prepared; to get training in first aid and emergency skills; and to volunteer to support local emergency responders, disaster relief, and community safety.

- To learn how you can register for Citizen Corps or find a program near you, please contact your local emergency manager or FEMA at FEMA-Prepare@fema.dhs.gov (<mailto:FEMA-Prepare@fema.dhs.gov>)

Community Emergency Response Team

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates individuals about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

- **Register, join or login to your CERT (<http://community.fema.gov/Register>)**
- To learn how you can register for CERT or find a program near you, please contact your local emergency manager or FEMA at **FEMA-Prepare@fema.dhs.gov (<mailto:FEMA-Prepare@fema.dhs.gov>)**

Youth Preparedness

As of May 2014, according to the National Center for Education Statistics there is a total of 69.6 million children in school or child care in the United States. Emergencies and disasters can happen at any time, often without warning, where you may not be together with your children.

Starting or getting involved with a youth preparedness program is a great way to enhance a community's resilience and help develop future generations of prepared adults.

- **Youth Preparedness Fact Sheet (<http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/30518>)**
- **Subscribe to the Children and Disasters Newsletter (<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/128376>)**
- **Learn about FEMA's Youth Preparedness Council (<http://www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness-council>)**

Prepareathon

FEMA's Prepareathon motivates people and communities to take action to prepare for and protect themselves against disasters. Its chief goals are to increase the number of people who:

- Understand which disasters could affect their community
- Know what to do to stay safe
- Take action to increase preparedness
- Improve their ability to recover from a disaster
- [Learn more about Prepareathon \(http://www.ready.gov/prepare\)](http://www.ready.gov/prepare)

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Citizen Corps (/citizen-corps)

Our Partners (/citizen-corps-partner-programs)

Our Affiliates (/citizen-corps-affiliate-programs)

Community Emergency Response Team (/community-emergency-response-team)

Prepareathon (/prepareathon)

Youth Preparedness (/youth-preparedness)

Youth Preparedness Council (/youth-preparedness-council)

Volunteer (/volunteer)

Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (/voluntary-organizations-active-disaster)

Neighbors (/neighbors)

Community Preparedness Toolkit (/community-preparedness-toolkit)

Preparedness Research (/preparedness-research)

National Preparedness Month (NPM) (/september)

Preparedness Messaging Calendar (/calendar)

Social Media Toolkits (/toolkits)

Flood Safety Social Media Toolkit (/flood-toolkit)

Hurricane Seasonal Preparedness Digital Toolkit (/hurricane-toolkit)

Pet Preparedness Social Media Toolkit (/pet-toolkit)

Children and Youth Preparedness Social Media Toolkit (/youth-toolkit)

Wildfire Safety Social Media Toolkit (/wildfire-toolkit)

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Severe Weather Safety Social Media Toolkit (/Severe-Weather-Toolkit)

Extreme Heat Safety Social Media Toolkit (/heat-toolkit)

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Partner Sites






Office of the Inspector General (<https://www.oig.dhs.gov/>)

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