

PREPAREDNESS IS CRITICAL IN CRISIS, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT HAS THE TOOLS



When an emergency happens, will you and your family be prepared? We are all surrounded by potential hazards and threats year round. Being prepared and knowing what to do in these critical moments has a huge impact on the outcome and makes any crisis more manageable. That is why the Air Force's Office of Emergency Management conducts the "Be Ready" campaign. Their mission is to spread awareness of the hazards and threats you may encounter at your installation, or when traveling to other installations, so you can be prepared.

September is National Preparedness Month, but Emergency Management strongly encourages everyone to "Be Ready" all of the time.

"I don't want September to be the only time that people are prepared," said Kathryn Moses, Air Force Civil Engineer Center emergency management support analyst. "It should be a continuous effort on everybody's part."

It is important to actively seek out information on a regular basis because threat possibilities and procedures are being updated continuously.

While some threats are seasonal, such as hurricanes, there are many other natural, man-made and technological hazards that can occur without notice and



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your installation has the knowledge you need to be prepared.

The Air Force's "Be Ready" campaign provides an abundance of pertinent information for coping with multiple different types of emergencies as they occur, as well as what to expect afterwards. Hazards and threats covered under the program range from droughts, floods, wildfires, tsunamis, earthquakes, hurricanes and typhoons, thunderstorms and lighting, tornadoes, extreme heat or cold, and volcanoes to active shooters, terrorism, hazardous material incidents, home fires, power outages, and nuclear power plants. Don't wonder what to prepare for, there are experts on the base who can educate and help you "Be Ready."

"We have created a toolbox of new products for 2019 in a variety of different formats," said Robert Genova, EM operations support section manager.

Materials include tear sheets, table tents, checklists, brochures and handouts, small posters and flyers, a program guide booklet which encompasses all of the emergency preparedness information, DVDs and the "Be Ready" Mobile App. The app is available as a free download from both Android and Apple app stores. It enables you to access hazard and threat information, maintain a checklist, family plan, emergency phone numbers, and upload insurance policy information so you always have it on hand. There are also items specifically for kids including two versions of "Be Ready Kids" coloring and activity books, for ages 4-7 or 8-12, and additional single activity sheets that can either be printed from the website www.BeReady.af.mil or picked up from your installation's Office of Emergency Management.

All of the products contain pertinent preparedness information, but allow the flexibility to consume that information in whichever format works best for you. And remember, "there is an entity at your local installation that can help you be ready, as an individual or family," Genova said.

