



**DATE:** September 10, 2018  
**TO:** DeKalb County News Media  
**FROM:** DeKalb County Health Department

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
***Disasters Happen. Prepare Now, Learn How.***

The DeKalb County Health Department (DCHD) has launched a month-long initiative designed to raise public awareness for emergency preparedness in September. The theme for National Preparedness Month is Disasters Happen, Prepare Now. Throughout the month, the DCHD Emergency Preparedness Team encourages the community to prepare for emergency events, especially related to severe weather.

DCHD’s public awareness campaign will focus on three key points, as recommended by the Department of Homeland Security:

1. **Build a kit** of emergency supplies.
2. **Make a plan** to know what you will do in an emergency.
3. **Be informed** so you’ll be prepared to react.

For the second year, DCHD will be providing starter preparedness kits to community members throughout the county during scheduled presentations. The starter preparedness kits include a weather alert radio with flashlight and cell phone charging capabilities, first aid kit, and masks. “During times of emergency, it is suggested that all families have a three-day supply of emergency items,” says Lisa Gonzalez, DCHD Public Health Administrator. “We want to give our community a jump-start on preparedness by providing these starter kits and radios. It’s our hope that they will continue to build emergency supplies for every member of their family.”

Kits will be available for distribution at the following locations, as a first come, first serve basis:

- Salem Lutheran Church: September 11, during regular food pantry hours
- Sandwich Library: September 13, 1pm presentation
- Sycamore Library: September 17, 1pm presentation
- Barb Food Mart (DeKalb): September 20, during food pantry hours
- Genoa Library: September 24, 11:30am presentation
- Kirkland Food Pantry: September 25, during food pantry hours

In addition to distributing starter kits, DCHD will be providing information on social media throughout the month of September to provide tips to the community on how to prepare for an emergency. Be sure to visit the DeKalb County Health Department’s social media for additional tips to keep your family safe during an emergency. You can also visit [http://health.dekalbcounty.org/emergency\\_preparedness.html](http://health.dekalbcounty.org/emergency_preparedness.html) for additional tools to help you and your family prepare!



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