



National Environmental Health Association

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The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) represents more than 6,700 governmental, private, academic, and uniformed service sector environmental health professionals in the U.S. and its territories and internationally. NEHA is the profession's strongest advocate for excellence in the practice of environmental health as it delivers on its mission to build, sustain, and empower an effective environmental health workforce.

NEHA Presidential Declaration on National Preparedness Month, September 2020

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) advocates for national, state, and local policies, regulations, research, and resources that enhance environmental health professionals' abilities to contribute to and benefit from emergency preparedness.

[National Preparedness Month](#), sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and held annually in September, promotes family and community disaster planning throughout the year. Considering the current COVID-19 pandemic, this event allows the environmental health profession to recommit itself to preparedness.

Environmental health professionals can use the September 2020 event to find ways or help others understand more about preparing for disasters and reducing risks to health and the environment.

Emergency preparedness is the responsibility of every member of the environmental health profession. All members are urged to make preparedness a priority by taking three simple steps:

1. Make a plan. Talk to your coworkers and family about how you will communicate before, during, and after a disaster. Make sure to update your plan based on the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) recommendations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Make an emergency kit with enough supplies for a minimum of 3 days. Don't forget to consider the unique needs each person or pet may have in case you have to evacuate quickly. Update your kits and supplies based on recommendations by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).
3. Prepare for disasters. Limit the impact that disasters have on you, your coworkers, and the public. Know the risk of disasters in your area. Learn how to make your home

stronger in the face of storms and other common hazards and act fast if you receive a local warning or alert.

4. Become informed about the types of emergencies and related emergency actions that can occur in your community.

FEMA stated that the 2020 theme for National Preparedness Month is [“Disasters Don’t Wait. Make Your Plan Today.”](#)

As NEHA president, I encourage the environmental health community to recommit itself to emergency preparedness and applaud the environmental health profession for its efforts to ensure this country remains ready for any disaster.

Signature:  Date: September 1, 2020

Sandra Long, REHS, RS
President, National Environmental Health Association