



National Environmental Health Association

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The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) represents more than 6,600 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 2021

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) advocates for national, state, and local policies, regulations, research, and resources that enhance the abilities of environmental health professionals 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 2021 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 four 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 coronavirus.
2. Build 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. Low-cost, no-cost preparedness. 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 and community stronger in the face of storms and other common hazards. Act fast if you receive a local warning or alert.
4. Teach youth about preparedness. Talk to children and young adults about preparing for emergencies and what to do in case families are separated. Reassure them by providing information about how they can get involved.

The theme for this year's National Preparedness Month is, "[Prepare to Protect. Preparing for disasters is protecting everyone you love.](#)" As NEHA president, I encourage the environmental health community to recommit itself to emergency preparedness. I applaud the environmental health profession for its efforts to ensure this country remains ready for any disaster.

Signature:  Date: September 1, 2021

Roy Kroeger, REHS, RS
President, National Environmental Health Association