

# WARREN COUNTY NEW YORK



September is a fitting month for National Preparedness Month in the Southern Adirondacks. It's not winter, with its life-threatening cold and snowstorms, and we don't see summer's high heat and severe storms.

One of the quieter weather months of the year, absent a tropical storm heading up the East Coast, is the perfect time to prepare for the unexpected, the events that might force you out of your home in a matter of seconds.

In observance of September being designated "National Preparedness Month," U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Warren County Office of Emergency Services have put together an extensive preparedness program that gives Warren County residents plenty of online opportunities to learn to be better equipped for bad weather and other emergencies.

"Having you and your family prepared in advance makes for a better and safer operation if the time comes to react. It will lead to less stress and confusion for all," Warren County Emergency Services Director Brian LaFlure explained. "Please take time to put a simple plan together, and practice its use for all members of the family."

The first step in being ready is to plan your actions for the possible emergencies you may face, such as severe weather, fire or flood.

That includes:

- Determining where to evacuate should you have to leave your home, including designating a meeting place and a location to seek shelter.
- Putting together an emergency kit with water, non-perishable food, medications, first aid kit, flashlight, maps, basic tools, dust mask, battery-powered radio, rechargeable battery for a cellphone, personal wipes and garbage bags.
- Storing your emergency kit items in a "go bag" that can be grabbed at a moment's notice.
- Keeping pets in mind, setting aside food and medications they may need if you have to leave home quickly.
- Preparing the area around your home for bad weather. Trim tree branches, maintain home gutters and identify other possible threats to your home during wind or heavy rain.

- Preparing your vehicle with basic equipment for winter weather, such as a snow shovel, extra clothes and blankets.

For more information on all of these topics, go to [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov), operated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Or check out Warren County Office of Emergency's [website](#) or [social media](#) for more helpful tips.