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Sent: 9/1/2015 7:33:54 AM
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Cc: tobriant@aikenstandard.com; Haley, Nikki; Stuart Bedenbaugh
Subject: RE: Augusta Chronicle: Georgia officials urge preparation for disaster

Morning Bill-

An excellent idea and we will move forward to get this on the next Council agenda. We are also just about to tape several ½ hour Emergency Preparedness TV Programs on “Aiken This Week” and have emergency preparedness information included in the next water bill mailing.

Your input and suggestions are always appreciated!

Regards,

John

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Sent: Tuesday, September 01, 2015 6:41 AM
To: 0Fred Cavanaugh; 0Gail Bush Diggs; 0Lessie Price; pmerry@cityofaikensc.gov.; 0Steve Homoki; Dick Dewar; reggieebner@bellsouth.net; John Klimm; Chairman7@comcast.net; csmith9728@aol.com; sandyhaskell@yahoo.com; fournapiers@aol.com; brawls01@pbtcomm.net; willarH@bellsouth.net; lmcken7@gmail.com; asiders@aikencountysc.gov
Cc: tobriant@aikenstandard.com; nikkihaley@gov.sc.gov
Subject: Augusta Chronicle: Georgia officials urge preparation for disaster

Our local governments should endorse this for SC.

Bill

Gov. Nathan Deal has proclaimed September to be National Preparedness Month in Georgia and encourages residents to take action and get fully prepared.

State, local officials urge disaster preparations

<http://chronicle.augusta.com/news/metro/2015-08-30/state-local-officials-urge-disaster-preparations?v=1440983925>

By Doug Stutsman <<http://chronicle.augusta.com/authors/doug-stutsman>>

Staff Writer

Sunday, Aug 30, 2015 <<http://chronicle.augusta.com/archive/daily/20150830>>

Georgia encourages residents to take action.

Pam Tucker has a simple philosophy: Be prepared, not overwhelmed.

Before disaster strikes, Tucker – the director of Columbia County’s Emergency and Operations Division – urges residents to have bottled water, canned food and a first-aid kit, while recommending other items such as solar lighting, a flashlight and portable radio.

“I’m not telling our citizens to become survivalists,” Tucker said. “Because when people get overwhelmed, they won’t do anything. But here’s my advice: Make a checklist, and each time you go to the store, purchase another item off the list. Water is most important, then food and a first-aid kit.”

To promote the importance of preparing before disasters strike, **Gov. Nathan Deal has proclaimed September to be National Preparedness Month in Georgia and encourages residents to take action and get fully prepared.**

According to an annual survey, 80 percent of Georgians report being at least somewhat prepared for a large-scale disaster or emergency, a 27 percent increase since the Ready Georgia campaign launched in 2008.

Ready Georgia promotes three key steps to readiness: be informed about potential threats and protective measures to take in emergency situations; make a plan for communicating and reconnecting with family members if you are separated during an emergency; and build a kit of emergency supplies that allows you and your family to be self-sufficient for up to 72 hours after a disaster.

Most Georgians have stocked key emergency supplies at home, including a

flashlight with extra batteries (85 percent), a first-aid kit (71 percent) and a three-day supply of water and nonperishable food (67 percent). However, only 36 percent of Georgians have arranged a family meeting place or reconnection plan, and just 27 percent have purchased a NOAA weather radio, according to a news release from Ready Georgia.

“What we’re stressing is the essentials to survival,” Tucker said. “If you choose to go overboard, that’s fine, too, but my goal is for 100 percent of our residents to at least have a three-day supply of water per person, canned food, a radio and a first-aid kit. If you have pets, please account for water for them as well.”

For Tucker, her disaster preparedness came in handy during the 2014 ice storm. Although Columbia County’s water never shut off, Tucker and her husband were forced to cope with a power outage.

As the temperature in their home plummeted, Tucker turned on her gas fireplace and her husband closed off openings in their den with plastic sheeting.

“This plastic is just another way to stay prepared for emergencies,” Tucker said as she pointed to a box of plastic sheeting. “Our entire house was freezing, but the den stayed 72 degrees. ... The more supplies you have, the more innovative you can be. But please, please do not use candles.”

National Preparedness Month was started after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks to increase awareness and encourage action for emergency preparedness nationwide. Throughout September, the Ready Georgia campaign will join a nationwide coalition of thousands of private, public and nonprofit organizations, each holding local events and initiatives designed to motivate people to prepare their homes, workplaces and communities for emergencies.

“It’s great to see that more Georgians are stocking supplies, but it’s also essential to have a plan,” said Georgia Emergency Management Agency Director Jim Butterworth. “Disasters don’t wait to strike when you’re at home. They may hit when your family is separated at work or school.”

Columbia County will hold a Prepare & Aware Day on Oct. 10 at its emergency operations center on Ronald Reagan Drive. The public is invited to attend, and six disaster kits will be given away as door prizes.

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