



## Kingman County Commission

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### Preparedness is focus in September

The theme for this year's National Preparedness Month – "Don't Wait. Communicate. Make Your Emergency Plan Today." – emphasizes the importance of deciding how you and your family will react to a disaster or emergency.



Throughout the month of September, the Federal Emergency Management Agency urges the public to prepare a disaster kit and devise emergency plans for every family member. Kingman County Emergency Manager Fred Simon said everyone needs to remember that individuals likely will be on their own in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. Be prepared to take care of yourself and your family.

#### Disaster kit

Assembling a disaster kit for you and your pets is critical. Information about what should be in a kit – from food to flashlights – is posted on the county's website, [kingmancoks.com](http://kingmancoks.com) (go to the Emergency Management page), or by visiting [ready.gov](http://ready.gov). Once you create a kit, keep it current. Check supplies regularly and update them.

"If you have a generator, make sure you have kept the fuel supply for it rotated and fresh," said Simon. "Stored gasoline can go bad and lead to generator failure. Make sure you are testing and running your backup power supplies on a regular basis. Never run a generator inside an enclosed area."

In case of a disaster, think about how you will power devices you use every day, including mobile phones, laptop computers and powered health equipment. Store extra batteries and make sure you have the correct cord to safely connect a generator. It's also a good idea to keep a half tank or more of fuel in vehicles in case you need to evacuate to your pre-planned shelter or out of the area.

#### Disaster plan

When thinking through your plan, think big picture down to everyday detail. [Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov) and the county website also contain helpful information on making a disaster plan. A plan should include each family

member and answer questions such as “How will each get to your safe place?” and “How will you contact one another?”

Gather and make sure everyone has contact information for medical and dental care, insurance, school and work. Text messages often go through even when most lines of communication are out, so be sure everyone knows how to use this feature on a mobile phone.

Tailor your plan to your needs and responsibilities. Consider working with others to create networks of neighbors, relatives, friends and co-workers who will assist each other with communication, day-to-day needs and child or pet care.

Above all, don't just make plans on paper. Put them to work by practicing them and refining them regularly.

“Remember to make sure everyone in your family knows your plan and how it works,” Simon said. “Practicing it is the best way to ensure they do.”

Kingman County will post preparedness tips throughout September on its Facebook page, which can be found at [www.facebook.com/KingmanCountyGovernment](http://www.facebook.com/KingmanCountyGovernment). Do you have questions about disaster preparedness? Go to [ready.gov](http://ready.gov) or contact Simon at 620-532-5081.

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