



Spring Ahead To Prepare For Disasters

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SEATTLE, Wash. -- Daylight Savings Time in the United States starts on the second Sunday in March of each year and the Federal Emergency Management Agency encourages all Americans to use the change to daylight savings time to update emergency preparedness plans. For years, firefighters and safety professionals at every level have asked the public to change smoke alarm batteries throughout their homes, as they move their clocks ahead. According to FEMA Acting Regional Administrator Dennis Hunsinger, the March ritual of making homes safer from fire is also a great opportunity to review disaster response plans and restock disaster kits.

"Here in the Pacific Northwest, spring signals increased risks for flash flooding, thunderstorms and wildfires. Daylight Savings Time is a great time to inventory and restock emergency kits and rehearse disaster plans," said Hunsinger. "No matter how busy or hectic our daily routine, we all need to take the time to think about what to do in the event of severe weather, earthquake - or any other major disaster. Our 'Are You Ready? In-depth guide to Citizens' is a great resource for those interested in building or enhancing their readiness."

The Are You Ready citizens' guide is available at www.fema.gov and www.ready.gov and is also available from FEMA's publications warehouse by calling (800) 480-2520.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

The Office of Emergency Management also has information and copies of preparedness brochures on our website www.oem.kcgov.us to assist you in creating your emergency plans and emergency kits. We also have a Speakers Bureau for preparedness presentations available that can be scheduled to show your agency or group. Please call to schedule a presentation or if you need any assistance in creating your emergency plans.

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