



WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
&
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

For Immediate Release

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News media calls to Vic Reato: Media Services Manager at (815)727-5088.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES “GET READY DAY”

JOLIET – How prepared are you for an emergency or disaster?

If you are like most Americans, you're probably not very prepared. That's why the Will County Health Department joins the American Public Health Association (APHA), on September 16, for "Get Ready Day", a community awareness campaign designed to promote emergency preparedness.

No matter where you live, Americans need to be prepared for public health emergencies stemming from tornadoes, infectious disease outbreaks, terrorism, or other sources. The threat is real, but a 2007 poll conducted by APHA discovered that Americans just aren't prepared for a crisis.

According to the poll, 87 percent of Americans would not be prepared if a public health crisis struck their community. While hurricanes and other developments have raised national consciousness about things that could go wrong, the poll found that less than 14 percent of participants indicated they maintained an adequate emergency supply of food, water and essential medications on hand. Health Department Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator Jackie Mansholt hopes campaigns like "Get Ready Day" will motivate area residents to think seriously about preparedness issues.

"Taking a few quick and simple steps now can make a huge difference later," Mansholt said. "A simple plan and a few supplies will help determine how a disaster will impact your family. Being prepared saves lives."

So, what can you do? Experts recommend families develop an emergency plan which includes information about where to meet if a critical event prevents you from going home. You should also know where to access important documents and personal items for an evacuation.

Each home should also have emergency supplies on hand in case of a crisis. Personal Emergency Supply Kit Cards to help you prepare are available at www.willcountyhealth.org <<http://www.willcountyhealth.org/>>. Click on the Bioterrorism Preparedness Section for a wealth of valuable information.

You can also have a Supply Kit Card mailed to you, or learn about joining the Will County Health Department Emergency Preparedness and Response Volunteer Corps by telephoning 815-727-8802.

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