



## DISASTER Preparedness

The Disaster Preparedness column explores and discusses issues relevant to disaster relief and emergency preparedness.

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# National Preparedness Month

## Prepare, Plan, Stay Informed

NSNA® and the Disaster Preparedness Committee invite members and chapters to participate in the sixth annual National Preparedness Month during September, 2009. National Preparedness Month (NPM) is a nationwide coordinated effort sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) **Ready** Campaign. NSNA® is proud to be a 2009 Coalition Member of the **Ready** Campaign. NPM is held each September to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools.

NPM 2009 will focus on changing perceptions about emergency preparedness and will help Americans understand what it truly means to be **Ready**. This year's campaign illustrates how preparedness goes beyond fire alarms, smoke detectors, dead-bolt locks and extra food in the pantry and will help individuals communicate important preparedness messages with a new series of customizable materials.

The month provides Americans and NSNA® members with a variety of opportunities to learn more about emergency preparedness. NPM information, video clips, and fun activities for families are now available on Program Activities page of the NSNA® website at [www.nсна.org](http://www.nсна.org), and Disaster Preparedness will be a featured session during the MidYear Conference in Phoenix, AZ and Annual Convention in Orlando, FL next April.

NSNA® encourages all members to assemble their Emergency Supply Kit and make a Family Emergency Plan during September. Become informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur and appropriate responses, and help prepare yourself, your school chapter, state association, and community to be **Ready**. Throughout the year, DHS and NSNA® will promote individual emergency preparedness through the **Ready** Campaign. **Ready** is a national public service advertising campaign produced by The Advertising Council that is designed to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks. The campaign's Web sites ([www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) and [www.listo.gov](http://www.listo.gov)) and toll-free numbers (1-800-BE-READY and 1-888-SE-LISTO) provide Americans with free preparedness information.

## Disaster Certification: Become NIMS Certified

The most helpful volunteer in a disaster situation is a trained volunteer who is expected and knows his/her role in the situation. Spontaneous Unanticipated Volunteers (SUV's) can mean well, but actually end up disrupting an organized disaster response network. Being a trained volunteer means getting informed, educated, connected to a local disaster team, and **Ready**.

The 2009-2010 Disaster Preparedness Committee is challenging all NSNA® members to complete the National Incident Management System (NIMS) for health care and schools: 100.HC, 100.SCa, 200.HC, and 700.a certifications. These certifications are free and can be found at: [training.fema.gov/IS/NIMS.asp](http://training.fema.gov/IS/NIMS.asp) under NIMS Courses. Please print and keep your FEMA Certificate of Completion at the end of each online course.

Bring a print copy of all four certifications with you to the 2009 MidYear Conference in Phoenix, AZ, and when you pick up your registration packet you will receive a special ribbon indicating your NIMS certification. I hope that all of you will take the time to be proactive in this challenge. Some NSNA® chapters are holding events through their school or state organization where attendees can receive Red Cross disaster relief certification by attending on-site classes ([www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)). Other chapters have gathered students in their computer lab to complete online NIMS (National Incident Management System) Certification as a chapter challenge. NSNA® and the Disaster Preparedness Committee would love to hear from you - please email me at [vicepresident@nsna.org](mailto:vicepresident@nsna.org) with any questions or ideas that you might have as you have worked to get your family, your chapter, your school, or your community **Ready**. ∞