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## Residents Encouraged to Make a Plan

*-September serves as National Preparedness Month and city residents should get prepared-*

Harrisonburg, Va. – With hurricane season in full swing and some approaching the east coast, the city of Harrisonburg encourages all residents to get prepared and stay prepared.

September is National Preparedness Month and this year's theme is, "Disasters Don't Plan Ahead. You Can." This serves as an opportunity to remind residents of the importance of taking the time to make a plan and get prepared in advance of an emergency or natural disaster.

"It is important for members of the community to get prepared and stay prepared," explained Lieutenant Erin Stehle, public education officer with the Harrisonburg Fire Department (HFD). "Once a disaster strikes, it is too late to begin formulating a plan for yourself and your family."

Tips to make a plan for yourself, family, and friends:

- Make an emergency plan.
- Sign up for alerts and warnings in your area.
- Learn your evacuation zone and have an evacuation plan.
- Check your insurance coverage and review the document and insure property guide.
- Plan financially for the possibility of disaster.

Residents are always reminded to follow the city through its [social media channels](#) and the local news for the latest information and updates.

Additional information, sample toolkits, and preparedness tips for businesses, college students, and faith-based organizations can be found at [www.ready.gov/september](http://www.ready.gov/september).

**The City of Harrisonburg** is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to almost 55,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov).



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