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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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City of El Paso Celebrates National Preparedness Month

Residents Reminded to be Prepared for Disasters

EL PASO, Texas—The City of El Paso Department of Public Health’s Emergency Preparedness Program (PHEP), the El Paso Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and El Paso Fire Department’s Community Risk Reduction Program are celebrating National Preparedness Month.

Together they are encouraging residents to have the conversation about creating a family emergency plan in case of a disaster.

“We may not be able to predict every disaster or emergency we experience, but we have the opportunity to be proactive before, during, and after an emergency strikes. Preparedness allows us to reduce the impacts of a disaster to us as individuals but as a whole community as well,” said Chief Jorge Rodriguez, Emergency Management Coordinator for the El Paso Office Emergency Management.

As part of the month-long celebration, the community is invited to visit the Department of Public Health (DPH) website EPHealth.com under the Preparedness tab for tips and information on emergency planning and OEM’s website EIPasoReady.org to review local hazards and ways to prepare for them.

“National Preparedness Month reminds us that we are all prone to face emergencies. It is important for us to know our local hazards and how to prepare for them whether it is flooding, extreme weather, disease outbreaks, or human-caused disasters,” said Sara Cera, Department of Public Health Assistant Director. “It is crucial for every household to have a plan of action in place and practice it with all the members of the family.”

National Preparedness Month is recognized nationwide every September to promote family and community disaster planning now and throughout the year.

This year’s theme, “Start a Conversation,” emphasizes the importance of talking about how to plan for a disaster. Families may think they are protecting the people they love by avoiding difficult conversations, but emergency officials say talking and planning for disaster are critical steps to be ready and stay safe.

Residents are strongly encouraged to talk about their family’s emergency plan and have one ready for everyone in the household including pets!

For more information on National Preparedness Month, including tips and resources visit EPHealth.com under the Emergency Preparedness [National Preparedness Month](#) tab and OEM’s website EIPasoReady.org.

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Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication**
Among All Members of the Community

Media Contact: Soraya Ayub Palacios
Office of Strategic Communications
ayubsx@elpasotexas.gov
915.212.1040