

TOGETHER. HELPING IOWANS.

Safeguard Iowa Partners Urge Iowans to Act During Family Preparedness Month



Iowa's Governor proclaims each September as Family Preparedness Month. To help get the message out this year, Safeguard Iowa Partnership (SIP) joined Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HSEMD), Iowa Emergency Management Association (IEMA) and Target in encouraging Iowans to become better prepared for the next emergency or disaster.



Because this year's theme was "Pledge to Prepare," Safeguard Iowa Partnership, HSEMD and IEMA asked Iowans to pledge to take simple actions that would make them more ready to face adverse situations. These actions could be as easy as setting up weather alerts on a mobile phone, assembling an emergency supply kit for a pet, or holding a family meeting to discuss what members should do during an emergency both inside and outside the home.



"Preparedness Month is essential to Iowa because it reminds everyone to take the extra steps to organize themselves, their families, their businesses and their communities for times of trouble," said Safeguard Iowa Partnership's Executive Director Jami Haberl. "By participating in Pledge to Prepare, Iowans take the necessary steps to become better equipped to deal with an emergency and when disaster strikes."



In addition to the evident benefits of being better organized, participants were eligible to win prizes by either submitting a preparedness video or taking the online pledge.

The grand prize winner, Michele Schmidt of Thornton, stated, "The most important thing to me is my family. It's my job as a mother to keep everyone safe and be prepared for the unexpected. That's why I made a video showing how I was utilizing Family Preparedness Month to become better prepared by adding items for my daughter to our existing emergency kit. If anything were to happen to us, she would be taken care of and be surrounded by her favorite things."

Family Preparedness Month was created in response to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in an effort to educate the public on how to prepare for emergencies. Partnering with local agencies is just one more step the Safeguard Iowa Partnership takes to protect Iowans and encourage a whole-community concept.

The Safeguard Iowa Partnership is a 501c3 nonprofit involving government, private-sector, higher education and nonprofit organizations. Our mission is to strengthen the capacity of Iowa to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters through public-private collaboration.

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