



## MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL

### Department of Communications

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## City of Laurel Urges Residents to Prepare During National Preparedness Month

**(September 4, 2025)** Whether it's severe weather or an emergency, being ready is essential to protecting our families and neighborhoods. This September, in recognition of National Preparedness Month, the City of Laurel is calling on residents to see preparedness as more than a personal task—it's a shared responsibility that strengthens the safety of our entire community. The 2025 theme, "*Preparedness Starts at Home*", underscores the importance of focusing on the basics—safeguarding your loved ones, your property, and your well-being.

"Preparedness is not about fear—it's about building peace of mind," said Mayor Keith R. Sydnor. "Emergencies can be unpredictable, but how we respond is within our control. By taking the time now to think ahead, talk with your family, and know where to turn for reliable information, we're not only protecting our own households—we're strengthening the resilience of our entire city."

Getting your household prepared is simpler than you might expect. Start with these four practical steps:

1. **Stay Informed – Sign Up for Alerts:** Stay a step ahead by knowing your risks and getting notified quickly. Sign up for emergency notifications at <https://www.cityoflaurel.org/230/Stay-Informed> to receive free, real-time updates on severe weather, road closures, public safety emergencies, and more—right to your phone or email.
2. **Make a Plan – Be Ready to Act:** Create a household emergency plan that outlines evacuation routes, communication methods, and family meeting points. Practice it with your loved ones so everyone knows exactly what to do when an emergency happens.
3. **Build a Kit – Have What You Need:** Assemble an emergency supply kit with water, non-perishable food, medications, first aid supplies, flashlights, and important documents. Don't forget to include items for pets, infants, and household members with special needs.
4. **Get Involved:** Take steps to help your neighborhood. Learn lifesaving skills or consider joining the City's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) to support your community during emergencies. You can learn more about CERT at <https://www.cityoflaurel.org/1614/Community-Emergency-Response-Team>.

For more resources on how to prepare during National Preparedness Month, visit <https://www.cityoflaurel.org/221/Emergency-Management> and follow the Department of Emergency Management on social media at [@#LaurelCityOEM](#) for tips and updates.