

September 2018



Monthly Newsletter

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September is National Preparedness Month

National Preparedness Month is recognized each September and reminds us that we all must prepare ourselves and our families now and throughout the year. **Disasters Happen. Prepare Now. Learn How.**

Take time to learn lifesaving skills – such as CPR and first aid, check your insurance coverage for the hazards you may face, such as fire, flood, and earthquakes. Also, know how to take practical safety steps like shutting off water and gas.

This year's devastating wildfires remind us of the importance of preparing for disasters. Often, we as individuals are the first ones in our communities to take action after a disaster strikes and before first responders arrive, so it is important to prepare in advance to help yourself and your community.

(Source: www.ready.gov)

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH 2018

**Disasters
Happen**

PREPARE NOW

LEARN HOW



FEMA

Ready.

MAKE A PLAN

Step 1: Discuss 3 Questions to Start Your Emergency Plan

Your family may not be together if a disaster strikes, so it is important to know which types of disasters could affect your area. Know how you'll contact one another and reconnect if separated. Establish a family meeting place that's familiar and easy to find. Discuss these three questions to start your emergency plan:

- How will I receive [emergency alerts and warnings](#)?
- What are my [shelter and evacuation plans](#)?
- What is my [family/household communication plan](#)?

Step 2: Consider Specific Needs of Your Household

As you prepare your plan, tailor it to your specific daily living needs and responsibilities. Discuss those needs and responsibilities and how people in the network can assist each other with communication, care of children, business, pets, or specific needs like the operation of durable medical equipment. Keep in mind some these factors when developing your plan:

- Different ages of members within your household
- Responsibilities for assisting others
- Dietary needs
- Medical needs including prescriptions and equipment
- Disabilities or access/functional needs including equipment
- Languages spoken
- Pets or service animals
- Households with school-aged children

Step 3: Fill Out a Family Emergency Plan

Download and fill out a [family emergency plan](#) or use it as a guide to create your own.

Step 4: Practice Your Plan with Your Family

2018 Fire Season Update



While there were no major wildfires in Delta County this fire season, we experienced quite a bit of smoke, not only from the lightning-caused Buttermilk Fire (748 acres north of the Black Canyon) and Bull Draw Fire (30,580 acres on the Uncompahgre Plateau), but also from other wildfires across the western U.S. While the fire season is slowly coming to an end, four large active fires continue to burn in Colorado, and 84 large active fires are still burning in the U.S. as of September 11. See <http://www.westslopefireinfo.com/> for up-to-date fire information around our region.

While most fire restrictions in western Colorado have been lifted, including unincorporated Delta County, everyone is urged to use caution when burning. If you are planning an agricultural or ditch burn, you are required to call Dispatch (399-2955) first, and remember that no burning is allowed on Red Flag Fire Days.

Jeffrey Wright, the Delta County Emergency Manager, gained vital experience this summer while assisting in the emergency response for both the Spring Fire near Alamosa and the 416 Fire north of Durango.



Like us on Facebook to stay informed about happenings around our area:

[Facebook.com/deltacountyemergencymanagement](https://www.facebook.com/deltacountyemergencymanagement)



If you no longer use a land line and rely upon your cell phone exclusively, it is important that you register your cell phone to be notified of any life threatening information in a timely manner. The easiest way to register your cell phone is through the Delta County website:

www.deltacounty.com/codered

The Delta County Office of Emergency Management is available to citizens, governments and businesses throughout Delta County to provide options and resources to assist in emergency preparedness, mitigation, response, recovery and hazard identification. This monthly newsletter provides updated information on what you can do to be better prepared for the next local incident or disaster, large or small. The Delta County Office of Emergency Management is directed by Jeffrey Wright and is located in the Delta County Sheriff's Office, phone 970-874-2004.