

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 2, 2015

## PEMA Urges Citizens to Utilize Free Smartphone App to Prepare for Emergencies

*Free ReadyPA app available to help citizens prepare*

**Harrisburg, PA** – Pennsylvanians can use free tools available from the ReadyPA app to take simple steps to make sure they're ready for any type of incident. September is National Preparedness Month, a nationwide month-long effort to encourage households, businesses, and communities to prepare and plan for emergencies.

This year's theme is "Don't Wait. Communicate. Make Your Emergency Plan Today."

"It is important to get people to think about preparedness now, before an emergency," said Pennsylvania Emergency Management Director Richard D. Flinn, Jr. "The steps you take now can make a big difference for you and your loved ones when an emergency occurs, and knowing how to communicate with loved ones provides an immeasurable sense of relief during a very stressful time."

PEMA emphasizes that simple steps can be taken now to prepare a family, school, workplace or community for any type of incident that would disrupt the day-to-day routine. Citizens are encouraged to download the free ReadyPA app for Apple or Android or visit [www.ReadyPA.org](http://www.ReadyPA.org) to find sample checklists, contact lists and other preparedness tools to take advantage of before an emergency.

"An all-hazards approach is the best way to prepare your family, rather than a specific plan for specific incident," said Flinn. "Supplies like food, water, medication and a first aid kit are a good foundation. You should also create a communications plan in the event that an emergency happens while the family is separated at work, school or different activities. Knowing how to reach each other, where to meet, and who to call to report that you're safe can eliminate a lot of the fear and uncertainty you could otherwise face in a crisis."

PEMA reminds everyone that they should be prepared to sustain themselves without any assistance for 72 hours in the event of an emergency. In particular, people should think about those in their family who may have special needs that could inhibit their ability to help themselves. Families should include their pets in their preparedness planning as well.

**Media contact:**

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