



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Denise Garey at educate@swhealth.ne.gov – 308-345-4223
Joanna Le Moine wcnmrc@gmail.com - 308-532-7383

September is National Preparedness Month

West Central Nebraska Medical Reserve Corps & Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department

Don't Wait. Communicate. Make your Emergency Plan today!

This is the theme for National Preparedness Month and two organizations are joining forces in September to promote emergency planning. Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) and West Central Nebraska Medical Reserve Corps (WCNMRC) are encouraging area residents to complete their communication plan for emergency situations.

“We want the residents of southwest Nebraska to be prepared for emergencies,” explains Heidi Wheeler, Emergency Response Coordinator at SWNPHD. “This month is a great reminder for businesses and families to take this opportunity to plan together for emergency situations.”

Residents can find a sample emergency communication plan under “Hot Topics” at the SWNPHD website: www.swhealth.ne.gov. FEMA also has a plan available at www.ready.gov/september.

“WCNMRC is a group of medical and non-medical volunteers trained to assist during disasters,” shares new WCNMRC Coordinator, Joanna Le Moine, of North Platte. “We are always recruiting new volunteers that may be involved in a variety of emergency situations.” Examples include: triage during a hospital surge, mass vaccinations in public health incidents, medical roles in shelters, and providing pet and livestock assistance during disasters, just to name a few.

National Preparedness Month promotes emergency preparedness efforts such as those of SWNPHD and WCNMRC. “We have excellent volunteers, but we want to increase our impact to help in emergencies,” explains Le Moine. “We are currently recruiting physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, veterinarians, mental health professionals, EMS, respiratory therapists and non-medical volunteers.” WCNMRC covers the following counties: Arthur, Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Grant, Hayes, Hitchcock, Hooker, Keith, Lincoln, Logan, McPherson, Perkins, Red Willow and Thomas.

For more information on becoming a volunteer for the West Central Nebraska Medical Reserve Corps contact Le Moine at wcnmrc@gmail.com or call 308-532-7383. WCNMRC also has Facebook and Twitter: <https://www.facebook.com/WCNMRC> and @WCNMRC. Joanna also serves as Deputy Director of Lincoln County Emergency Management.

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department serves Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Perkins and Red Willow counties. For more information on emergency planning call Heidi Wheeler at 308-345-4223. SWNPHD is located at 404 West 10th Street, McCook – one block north of Arby's. You can also follow us on Facebook.com/swnphd and Twitter@swpublichealth.

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