

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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September is National Preparedness Month SWNPHD Distributing Disaster Kits for Homebound Seniors

September is National Preparedness Month and Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) is working with area Senior Centers to distribute disaster kits to homebound seniors. In partnership with the West Central Nebraska Area Agency on Aging, home meal delivery recipients residing within SWNPHD's nine-county health district, will receive a disaster kit through their regular delivery.

"We are excited to provide a kit with food items and emergency preparedness materials to those that may not be able to leave their home in a disaster situation," explains SWNPHD program assistant Joy Trail. "The Senior Centers are great to work with and I appreciate the donations that helped make our project successful."

West Central Nebraska Area Agency on Aging is the major sponsor for this area-wide project. Additional sponsors for this project include: McCook National Bank, Walmart, AmFirst Bank, Pinnacle Bank, Schmick's Market, Ogallala & McCook Rotary Clubs, H & J Grocery, and Safeway.

"We want the residents of southwest Nebraska to be prepared for emergencies," explains Heidi Wheeler, Emergency Response Coordinator at SWNPHD. 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.

"This month is a great reminder for businesses and families to take this opportunity to plan together for emergency situations," states Wheeler. "We are not always going to be in the same place when a disaster occurs and having an emergency communications plan will be essential to connect families together."

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. SWNPHD serves residents in Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Perkins and Red Willow counties.

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