

NEWS RELEASE

August 27, 2014

For Immediate Release

Contact: Heidi Wheeler, Emergency Response Coordinator – 308-345-4223

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department Announces Contest for National Preparedness Month

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) is preparing for National Preparedness Month in September with a new contest. Youth (ages 18 & under) in our eight-county district can participate by creating a communications disaster plan and map for their family, submitting a copy to SWNPHD along with a photo of themselves with their family. Two winners will be selected to receive an iTunes gift card. Deadline is Friday, September 26th.

“We want the residents of southwest Nebraska to be prepared for emergencies,” explains Heidi Wheeler, Emergency Response Coordinator at SWNPHD. “This contest is a fun opportunity for youth and their families to plan together for emergency situations and share their success with others.” Winning entries will be posted on the SWNPHD website, Twitter and Facebook page.

Youth and their families can find the contest rules and entry form under “Hot Topics” at the SWNPHD website: www.swhealth.ne.gov. They can mail a copy of their family disaster plan & map, photo, and completed entry form to SWNPHD 404 West 10th Street, PO Box 1235, McCook NE 69001 or email to info@swhealth.ne.gov. A sample plan and map will also be available on the SWNPHD website.

National Preparedness Month promotes emergency preparedness efforts such as those of SWNPHD. Wheeler recommends that families and businesses develop disaster plans, gather emergency supplies, learn how to shelter in place and get involved through community volunteering and training. “We have excellent volunteers throughout southwest Nebraska, but we all need to take care of our families first,” explains Wheeler. “Planning is the key for disaster preparedness.”

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department serves Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Perkins and Red Willow counties. For more information call Heidi Wheeler or Helena Janousek 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.

####