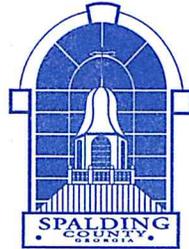


# SPALDING COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### GEORGIANS URGED TO 'GET READY' DURING NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH IN SEPTEMBER

*Gov. Deal announces state's participation in month-long observation; Ready Georgia offers creative ways to get involved.*

To promote the importance of preparing before disasters strike, Gov. Nathan Deal – in cooperation with the Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security's *Ready Georgia* campaign – is encouraging statewide participation in National Preparedness Month this September. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's *Ready America* campaign, National Preparedness Month was founded after 9/11 to increase awareness and encourage action for emergency preparedness nationwide. Throughout the month, *Ready Georgia* will join a nationwide coalition of thousands of private, public and nonprofit organizations, each hosting local events and initiatives designed to motivate people to prepare their homes, workplaces and communities for emergencies of all kinds.

"To borrow a line from our latest public service announcements, "Today is the day before," said Charley English, director of GEMA/Homeland Security. "Disasters can strike quickly, often with no warning. That means we need to treat today as if it is the day before a disaster, and we need to take steps to prepare ourselves now. That's a tough message, but it's critical. It helps to have an occasion, a point on the calendar that reminds us to take action. That's the idea behind National Preparedness Month and the activities that *Ready Georgia* and emergency management agencies across the state are organizing in September."

#### **About Ready Georgia**

*Ready Georgia* is a statewide campaign designed to educate and empower Georgians to prepare for and respond to natural disasters, pandemic outbreaks, potential terrorist attacks and other large-scale emergencies. The campaign is a project of GEMA and provides a local dimension to *Ready America*, a broader national campaign. *Ready Georgia* aims to prepare citizens for maintaining self-sufficiency for at least 72 hours following an emergency, and uses an interactive [website](#), free [mobile app](#), broadcast and print advertising and public awareness media messaging to reach its audiences. *Ready Georgia* is also on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

**To obtain any additional information please contact Spalding County Homeland Security's Deputy Director(s) Jamie Clark or Glenn Polk at (770) 228-2129.**

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