



# Chatham County Board of Commissioners

124 Bull Street, Savannah, GA 31401

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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

For Immediate Release

August 31, 2020

### **COVID-19 and National Preparedness Month**

**Chatham County, GA (August 31, 2020)** - COVID-19 has taught us that normalcy can change at any moment; that is why it is important to take the time to prepare for unforeseen emergencies. Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA), along with the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency, are encouraging residents to prepare for disasters during National Preparedness Month in September.

Chatham County will join thousands of private, public and nonprofit organizations nationwide to motivate folks to take the necessary steps to prepare their homes, workplaces and communities for disasters and emergencies.

Residents and their families can prepare now. It only takes a few minutes a week by simply following these tips:

- **Make A Plan:** Learn how to create a communication plan for your family in case a disaster occurs. Review and gather insurance papers and other important documents.
- **Build A Kit:** Stock your emergency kit with supplies that you will need at home and a “GO” kit of things you will need if it is required to evacuate to a safer location. List of suggested items are available on the CEMA website.
- **Prepare for Disasters:** Find out how to limit the impacts of a disaster. One important way is for residents to have the right insurance coverage for their home- whether it is renter’s insurance, homeowners insurance or flood insurance.
- **Teach the Whole Family About Preparedness:** Take the time now to talk with children about the importance of preparedness and their role in family planning.

CEMA Director Dennis Jones is encouraging all residents to take the time to prepare. “September is not only National Preparedness Month, but also the beginning of peak hurricane season. We want our residents to be ready by reviewing their family communication plan, updating their evacuation plan and incorporating specialized items for COVID-19, such as cloth face coverings and hand sanitizer, in their emergency kits,” said Director Jones.

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