

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:**

Kelli Engen, RN  
Public Health Emergency Preparedness Specialist  
[Kelli.engen@co.eau-claire.wi.us](mailto:Kelli.engen@co.eau-claire.wi.us)  
715-271-0425

**Emergency Preparedness can be as simple as downloading an app**  
*September is National Preparedness Month*

**Eau Claire, Wisconsin – September 12th, 2016.**

National Preparedness Month serves as a yearly reminder to encourage people to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities. Preparing for an emergency can be as simple as having a conversation about what to do in an emergency with your family over dinner to downloading an app to stay safe and up-to-date with weather alerts.



In the City and County of Eau Claire, public health, emergency management, hospitals, emergency medical services, businesses, schools, non-profit organizations and many other community response partners work closely together to plan and coordinate responses for all types of disasters, hazards, and other emergencies. This year, the Health Department and community partners participated in preparedness exercises that focused on protecting our teenagers from communicable diseases by giving them immunizations, and learning/planning to respond to infections like Ebola, and Zika. “Our community partners have a long tradition of meeting to plan, and prepare to any type of disaster,” said Lieske Giese, Eau Claire City -County Director/Health Officer. “Keeping that conversation going helps us to respond and recover from disasters that may occur.”

What you can do:

- [Download the FEMA app](#) to get weather alerts, safety reminders, and more.
- Assemble an [emergency supply kit](#) which includes supplies such as: water, food, flashlight, first aid kit and cell phone charger.
- [Make a family emergency communication plan](#) so that all family members are aware of what to do in an emergency.
- Be aware of specific needs you may have if an emergency strikes like: medication, power needs, eye classes, devices that you may count on, pet needs, etc.
- Learn more about serving as a volunteer as through the [Eau Claire County Medical Reserve Corps](#)

Additional resources to help you and your family prepare for emergencies can be found at <https://www.ready.gov/>. For questions about emergency preparedness, contact the Health Department at 715-839-4718 or visit us online at [www.ehealthdepartment.org](http://www.ehealthdepartment.org).

###

