



Austin/Travis County Emergency Operations Center Media Advisory



September 1, 2016

Make an emergency plan and register for Central Texas emergency warnings

September is National Preparedness Month, and Travis County and the City of Austin are encouraging everyone to prepare for emergencies and register to receive emergency alerts. Central Texas is known as Flash Flood Alley, and in recent years, Travis County has faced deadly flash floods. Other emergencies, such as wildfires, tornadoes and severe weather, are not uncommon in our area, so planning and preparation are key to protecting life and property.

Don't wait. Communicate. Make your emergency plan today. Take practical steps now, so that you are informed and prepared to keep you and your family safe when emergencies occur:

1. **Stay informed.** Monitor local news reports for emergency information. There may be no electricity during a disaster, so a hand-crank radio is recommended. Travis County and Austin Twitter pages (@TravisCountyES, @austinHSEM and @austintexasgov) and Travis County Emergency Services and Austin HSEM Facebook pages ([TravisCoEmergencyServices](#) and [DisasterReadyAustin](#)) also provide updates during emergencies.
2. **Register your cell phone, phone landline or email address to receive emergency alerts** for your specific neighborhood at [WarnCentralTexas.org](#). Contact information, including phone numbers and email addresses, is only used for emergency and major incident notification. [WarnCentralTexas.org](#) serves Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis and Williamson Counties.
3. **Stay weather aware.** Visit [Weather.gov/safety](#) to learn about weather emergencies. Follow [ATXfloods.com](#) during heavy rain and floods to monitor low-water crossing closures.
4. **Build a disaster supply kit.** Your kit should include enough non-perishable food, one gallon of water per day per person, prescription medication and other supplies, such as flashlights, batteries and a first-aid kit. Learn more about disaster supply kits at [Ready.gov/kit](#).
5. **Make a plan** that extends from home to vehicle, workplace and other locations. Remember to have supplies at all locations, and keep vehicle fuel tanks at least half full.
6. **Prepare your home** and decrease the threat of wildfires to you and your property by following the *Ready, Set, Go!* brochure at [TravisCountytx.gov/wildfire](#).
7. **Get involved—Prepare your community for emergencies:** For more information about National Preparedness Month and getting others involved, go to: [Ready.gov/September](#) or [Ready.gov/es/Septiembre](#), and follow [#NatlPrep](#).

Contact: Travis County Emergency Services PIO Lisa Block, Tel: 512-854-7954.

###