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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Putnam County Announces Participation in September's National Preparedness Month

This September: A Time to Remember. A Time to Prepare.

Brewster, NY – This September, our nation will mark the ten year anniversary of 9/11; Putnam County government including the County Executive, the Bureau of Emergency Services and the Department of Health have committed to participate in National Preparedness Month (NPM), a month-long event held in September founded after 9/11 to increase preparedness efforts in the United State. The event, now in its eighth year, is a nationwide effort encouraging households, businesses and communities to prepare and plan for emergencies.

Hurricane Irene and the recent East Coast earthquake have all been critical reminders of the importance of community preparedness. One of NPM's key messages is to be prepared in the event an emergency occurs that causes you to be self-reliant for three days without utilities and electricity, water service, access to a supermarket or local services, or maybe even without response from Police, Fire, Emergency Medical Services or Rescue.

The Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services, in collaboration with the Putnam County Department of Health, stress the importance of residents being prepared for any type of emergency. The following suggestions will help keep you and your family safe in the event of an emergency:

- **Prepare a first aid kit and emergency supplies to meet your family's needs for three days. Make sure everyone in your family knows where you keep emergency supplies and a first aid kit.**
- **In an emergency, tune in to media reports and on-line services for important information.**
 - **Know which stations can provide up-to-date local information.**
 - **Keep a battery operated radio (with back-up batteries) in case of a power outage**
- **Keep important phone numbers by each phone in your home.**
- **Make sure at least one phone does not require electricity to work (such as a land line phone).**
- **Know the best escape route from each room in your home.**
- **Know where family members will meet in case they can't get home. One location should be near your home, and another should be outside the neighborhood.**
- **Be aware of the county's public alert system and your child's school emergency plan.**

Medical Reserve Corps

Putnam County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers were instrumental during Hurricane Irene manning shelters and comfort stations throughout the county. The purpose of the MRC is to recruit and train volunteers to support the county in the event of a disaster, a public health emergency or any incident where local agencies may need assistance. Volunteers include physicians, nurses, paramedics, EMT's, Mental Health professionals and lay people with expertise in many areas. Anyone, especially retired individuals, with a commitment to the residents of Putnam County are welcome to join! Please visit www.putnamcountyny.com to apply on-line, or call 808-1390 and ask for Keiren Farquhar, MRC Coordinator.

Putnam Emergency Animal Response Team

If you love animals, WE NEED YOU! The Putnam Emergency Animal Response Team (P.E.A.R.T.) was recently established to assist in planning for pets and other animals in the

event of a disaster. The mission of P.E.A.R.T. is to coordinate animal response agencies within Putnam County and ensure immediate and accessible services to pet and farm owners in the event of a disaster or other emergency. If you are interested in finding out more information about P.E.A.R.T., please visit www.putnamcountyny.com. Planning meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the 4th Wednesday of every month at the Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services, 112 Old Route Six, in Carmel.

2-1-1 Call Center Information

United Way's 2-1-1 helpline offers one-call information and referrals to health and human services organizations most appropriate for their needs. Call specialists can communicate with callers in more than 200 languages. Whether answering to a natural disaster, a personal emergency or to furnish tools to foster independent lives, United Way's 2-1-1 seeks to help those in need wherever they live. 2-1-1 can give callers up-to-date information on emergency shelters, road conditions, etc. The line is available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. During times of disaster 2-1-1 may be expanded to 24/7 coverage.

Other Resources

Putnam County residents are encouraged to take advantage of the many resources available to them to become better prepared. Please visit www.putnamcountyny.com or the Bureau of Emergency Services website at www.pcbes.org or www.ready.gov for a myriad of resources to help families better prepare for any type of disaster.

Preparedness is a shared responsibility; it takes a whole community. We want Putnam County residents to be ready when the next disaster happens. Take time to make a plan now!

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