



**Friday, September 10, 2010**

**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **September is National Preparedness Month**

Brewster, NY - National Preparedness Month (NPM) is held each September to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities. September 2010 is the seventh annual NPM. This year the focus is on encouraging Americans to work together to take real steps toward emergency preparedness. We are encouraging everyone to join the readiness team and help themselves, their neighbors, and their communities to be “ready”.

The Putnam County Department of Health, in collaboration with the Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services, have been spreading the word on how important it is for each county resident to be prepared for any type of emergency. The following suggestions will help keep you and your family safe in the event of an emergency:

- Make sure everyone in your family knows the Family Emergency Plan.
- 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 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.
- Know your community's public alert system and your child's school emergency plan.

Putnam County residents may also want to find out more information about the Putnam County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). 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](http://www.putnamcountyny.com) to apply on-line, or call 808-1335 and ask for Keiren Farquhar, MRC Coordinator.

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](http://www.putnamcountyny.com). Planning meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month at the Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services.

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

Together we can take steps to be more aware and better prepared. We want Putnam County residents to be ready when the next disaster happens. Take time to make a plan now!

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