



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **SEPTEMBER: NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH WEEK 2 – PLAN TO HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR AND COMMUNITY**

SUFFOLK, VA (September 11, 2017) In recognition of National Preparedness Month, the Suffolk Department of Emergency Management will be continuing their efforts to bring attention to the importance of readying ourselves for disasters, both natural and man-made. With the overall monthly theme of “Disasters Don’t Plan Ahead ... You Can”, Week 2, September 10<sup>th</sup> through September 16<sup>th</sup>, focuses on *Plan to Help Your Neighbor and Community*.

Comprehensive preparedness requires the whole community to participate and as witnessed in the aftermath of the devastation of Hurricane Harvey and the emerging story in the wake of Hurricane Irma, there is tremendous value on communities that embrace a local "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" approach. According to statistics from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), 46% of individuals expect to rely a great deal on people in their neighborhood for assistance within the first 72 hours after a disaster. When the whole community comes together to respond to and help recover from these emergencies - neighbor helping neighbor – the needs of everyone can often be met.

We will continue to focus on National Preparedness Month topics throughout September, highlighting the following specified topics moving forward:

- *Week 3 (Sept. 17-23): Practice and Build Out Your Plans*
- *Week 4 (Sept. 24-30): Get Involved! Be a Part of Something Larger*

Additional helpful tips related to severe weather and preparedness information can be found on the City's website at <http://www.suffolkva.us/severe-weather-updates> .

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