



FEMA

# Fact Sheet

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Contact: FEMA News Desk, 202-646-3272

## ***READY RESPONDER***

Launched in September 2010, *Ready Responder* is designed to ensure that emergency response personnel are prepared and available to preserve lives and protect property. An extension of FEMA's *Ready Campaign*, *Ready Responder* provides tools and resources for agencies to prepare their organizations, enacts pre-disaster policies and procedures to serve their members during a disaster, and helps their members in preparing their families.

- The goal of *Ready Responder* is to emphasize the importance of agencies preparing themselves and their members for operations during disasters. First responders responsibilities in the community force them to take into consideration the needs of those they serve. It is important that agencies equip their members to have individual and family preparedness plans in place. By ensuring that their families are safe and protected, responders can turn their full attention to the life-saving missions of the rest of the community.
- Past disasters and recent studies have shown that responders may be distracted or may not report to work if they have reason to believe their family is not safe. A 2009 study of graduates and current participants in the Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security showed:
  - 43.3 percent of those surveyed indicated that general emergency preparedness training and education was available from their agency or department.
  - Only 29.1 percent indicated that employee and family preparedness was provided through their agency or department.
  - However, 98.8 percent indicated that employers should encourage, provide, or require education and training in personal and family preparedness.
- The *Ready Responder* campaign's resources draw upon existing *Ready Campaign* messaging for consistency, but also provide agencies and departments with specific, customizable tools. These include:
  - A preparedness survey to establish a baseline understanding of an organization's members' preparedness.
  - A presentation that can introduce the basics of individual and family preparedness to staff.
  - An Organizational Preparedness Plan Template with guidance to create a document to organize the agency or department's efforts.
  - Other templates, graphics, tips, and resources that will enable comprehensive organizational preparedness to occur.
- *Ready Responder* resources can be found at [www.ready.gov/responder](http://www.ready.gov/responder).
- *Ready Responder* was created in collaboration with the *Ready Campaign*, Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Infrastructure Protection.

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