Disaster Preparedness

National Preparedness Month:

National Preparedness Month is an observance each September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time. This year’s theme is “The life you’ve built is worth protecting. Prepare for disasters to create a lasting legacy for you and your family.”

National Preparedness Month, sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and held annually in September, is a good reminder that natural and man-made disasters can strike at any time. It’s important to have a planned response when you’re at work, on vacation, or on the road.

In 2020, 60,714 weather-related events resulted in 585 deaths and 1,708 injuries. Winter weather, tornadoes, and floods resulted in the most deaths that year. Federal agencies, like Ready.gov and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration also are valuable resources for emergency preparedness. When you face a natural or man-made emergency, try to stay informed through radio, TV, or the Internet. In some cases, however, cable, electric, and cell phone service will be disabled, making communication nearly impossible.

The National Safety Council recommends the following general precautions that apply to many disaster situations:

- Make sure at least one family member knows first aid and CPR
- Download the FEMA app for resources, weather alerts, and safety tips
- Have a family communication plan in place; all members of the family should review and practice the plan
- Have all family members and other important phone numbers written down or memorized
- Have an emergency kit in your car and at least three days of food and water at home
- Be sure to store all important documents – birth certificates, insurance policies, etc. – in a fire-proof safe or safety deposit box
- Know how to shut off utilities
Carbon Monoxide Awareness Campaign:

In February 2022, the preparedness branch worked with Ashli McCarty to apply for a mini-grant from the Kentucky Public Health Tracking Network to do a Carbon Monoxide (CO) Awareness Campaign, provide outreach/education on CO safety, and purchase Carbon Monoxide detectors to pass out to those who need them. On March 11, 2022, we were notified that we had received the grant of $19,525.27. We purchased over 500 Carbon Monoxide detectors, developed a multimedia campaign, and set up educational booths at local events. We will soon have CO detectors at each county health department to give to anyone who qualifies for a free device. We are asking everyone the following qualification questions:

- **Do you have gas heat (includes gas fireplace), gas hot water heater, or gas appliances (stove)?**
  - Yes or No
- **Do you have a backup generator?**
  - Yes or No
- **Do you have an attached garage?**
  - Yes or No

If you answer yes to any of these questions, you can pick up a CO detector at your local health department. If someone calls asking about the detectors, refer them to the Disaster Preparedness team. As of August 15, 2022, we have passed out 76 CO Detectors most at Community Events (23). Ashli McCarty developed an infographic with information on Carbon Monoxide and how to use a CO detector. We also have a coloring page for the youngsters to learn from. For copies of these materials, email Janarae.Conway@barrenriverhealth.org.

Ashli also developed a media campaign using Facebook, YouTube, local TV and radio. Watch the video here, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zsPPPi7YJhI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zsPPPi7YJhI). We also have information on our website at [https://www.barrenriverhealth.org/carbon-monoxide-safety](https://www.barrenriverhealth.org/carbon-monoxide-safety). We will continue to pass out detectors as long as we have them, at community events and at each health department. Please help us to spread the word about this awesome project!

COVID-19 Home Test Kits:

The Barren River District Health Department has received COVID-19 Home Test Kits to pass out to the public. Each health department has these available for staff and the public. Please let your team leads know if you need a kit.

are a COVID-19 Home Test Kits are also available to the public upon request. If you get calls or in person requests, ask if they have symptoms to determine if they need to wait outside or send someone else to pick the tests up. If you have any questions, please let Janarae Conway or Crystal Kingrey know.

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Do you know a new or expecting parent who could use an extra pair of hands? Click here for info on BRDHD's HANDS Program!

HANDS is always accepting referrals!

Contact Tammy.Drake@barrenriverhealth.org to learn more about the HANDS Program
Jarod Hines
Health Equity Coordinator, District

Diana Carpenter
Nurse, Logan

Nel Vung
Sr. Support Services Associate, Warren

Cally Stewart
Health Educator, District
UPCOMING EVENTS

HAPPY LABOR DAY

NO WORK!
September 5th

QI TEAM:
Let the QI Team know!
Submit your ideas here:

The QI Team is here for you! Do you have an idea that would make your job easier? Is there an improvement the agency could make to better serve our community?

Meetings:
District Wide:
Sep. 30th at 9am
District Board of Health:
Oct. 17th at 5pm
Local Board of Health:
Barren: Dec. 13th at 12pm
Butler: Apr. 7th 2023 at 12pm
Edmonson: Dec. 21st at 12pm
Hart: Dec. 8th at 11am
Logan: Oct. 20th at 12pm
Metcalfe: Sep. 13th at 12pm
Simpson: Sep. 8th at 12pm
Warren: Sep. 12th at 5pm

Fall Event Information
Coming Next Month!

Follow BRDHD on social media!

Click here to visit our website

Please submit articles for the newsletter to Jessica Wright at Jessica.Wright@barrenriverhealth.org
Submissions will be reviewed for approval.