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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September is National Preparedness Month

Every year, in every season, we hear about disasters that take peoples homes and lives. We would like to think that disasters and emergencies don't really happen here, in our area, but they do. This September marks the 6th Annual *National Preparedness Month observance. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has joined with more than 2,700 national, regional, state and local agencies and organizations to encourage Americans to prepare their homes, businesses, schools and communities for disasters of all kinds.

"Emergency response is a team effort, and the most important member of that team is the public," said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. *"The truth is, the more the public does now to prepare, the better we can respond in the future...we are encouraging Americans to visit Ready.gov and learn how they can do their part to prepare."*

None of us know when or where disaster will strike, but we can be ready, resilient and safe during emergencies by preparing in the following 3 ways.

1. Make A Plan: Know the hazards in your area, have an evacuation and communication plan with your family and practice it.
2. Build A Kit: A minimum 3 days survival kit at home, in each car, at work, and at each child's school or daycare, and remember your pets' needs as well.
3. Get Involved: Learn CPR and first aid, talk with your neighbors about responding to emergencies in your neighborhood.

Join us on for our first annual Disaster Awareness Day, "Are You Ready?" on Saturday, September 26th at Rushmore Mall.

"Preparedness is a shared responsibility that begins with each person," said Anthony Carbajal, Pennington County Emergency Management Director. *"First responders may not be able to get to you right away. You've got to be ready to take care of yourself, your family and maybe even help your neighbors."*

* National Preparedness Month is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Ready Campaign. www.ready.gov
Additional resources available at rcpcem.com homesafetycouncil.org bReadysd.com fema.gov/areyouready/