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PRESS RELEASE

Governor Baker Proclaims September to be Emergency Preparedness Month in Massachusetts

Thank you campaign for COVID-19 essential workers and organizations helps kick-off month-long effort to encourage a focus on preparedness.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

9/01/2020

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

Office of Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito

Governor's Press Office

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

A Proclamation

Whereas, The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the importance and effectiveness of a culture of preparedness that is supported and strengthened by individuals, communities, governments, businesses and organizations; and

Whereas, The contributions of our residents, our 351 municipalities, state agencies and countless public and private partners continue to save lives and reinforce our response to the pandemic; and

Whereas, The Commonwealth's experience with, and susceptibility to, other hazards such as severe weather, floods, blizzards, hurricanes, and tornadoes, compounded by the continued risk of terrorist attacks, pandemics, and other disasters, both natural and man-made, demonstrates the ongoing need for the state's residents and organizations to prepare for a broad range of emergencies; and

Whereas, The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, including the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, Massachusetts State Police, Department of Fire Services, and the Massachusetts National Guard; the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, including the Department of Public Health and the Department of Mental Health; the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, including the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Agricultural Resources, Office of Coastal Zone Management and the Department of Public Utilities; the Massachusetts Department of Transportation; and other partners, have the responsibility to protect safety, public health and property, and minimize injuries and the loss of life by preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters and emergencies; and

Whereas, The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Public Health, the American Red Cross of Massachusetts, the Salvation Army Massachusetts Division, Massachusetts Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (MA VOAD), and other public safety partners support personal, family and community preparedness in the Commonwealth to build resilience, help reduce loss of life, and minimize the economic impacts of disasters in our communities and in our state; and

Whereas, Essential workers and organizations across the Commonwealth have worked tirelessly to keep medical services operating, public safety operations functioning, public transportation running, food, medicine and commodities stocked, and other vital needs met during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas, Emergency preparedness is the responsibility of every resident, organization and governmental entity of the Commonwealth and all are urged to make preparedness a priority by creating or updating a disaster plan, including preparations needed during the COVID-19 public health emergency, building an emergency supply kit, and preparing homes and businesses for all types of emergencies; and

Whereas, All residents of the Commonwealth are encouraged to participate in preparedness activities and use the preparedness resources at www.mass.gov/ready,

Now, Therefore, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim September, 2020, to be,

Emergency Preparedness Month

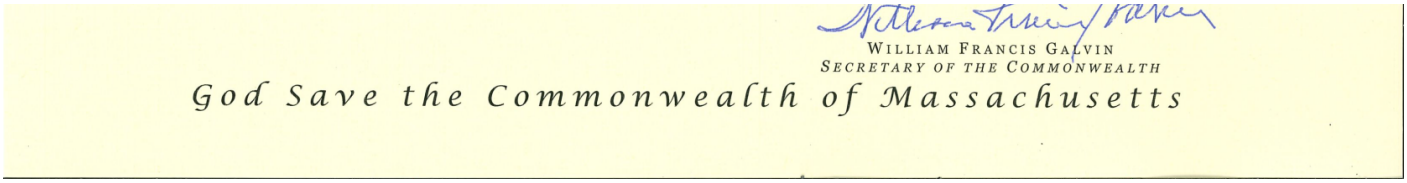
And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this twenty-seventh day of August, in the year two thousand and twenty, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-fourth.

By His Excellence

Charles D. Baker
Governor of the Commonwealth

Karyn E. Polito
Lt. Governor of the Commonwealth



FRAMINGHAM — Governor Charlie Baker has proclaimed September 2020 to be Emergency Preparedness Month in Massachusetts to encourage residents, families, and organizations to prepare for emergencies and disasters. September is also National Preparedness Month.

The Commonwealth will kick-off the annual observance by launching a public Thank You campaign on social media to recognize the tireless efforts of essential workers and organizations that are doing so much to keep the Commonwealth prepared and safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the importance of emergency preparedness, and the role we all must play in better preparing our homes, workplaces and communities for the unexpected," **said Governor Charlie Baker**. "It has also highlighted the incredible contributions of so many individuals who have stepped up every day to ensure that essential services and goods continued to be delivered throughout this public health emergency."

"Emergency Preparedness Month provides us with an opportunity each year to focus on what we can do to make ourselves and our families better prepared," **said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito.** "Especially now, we are thankful for all the tireless efforts of the Commonwealth's essential workers throughout the COVID-19 pandemic."

Visitors to **Mass.Gov/EPmonth** (/EPmonth) can download a certificate of appreciation to thank an essential worker or organization in their community. After personalizing the certificate, residents are asked to post a picture of the certificate to the social media platform of their choice with the hashtag **#EPisEssential**.

"Everyone plays an important role in staying prepared, especially in the face of new challenges posed by the pandemic," **said Public Safety and Security Secretary Thomas Turco**. "I hope these initiatives raise awareness of present-day risks, outline measures we all should be taking, and facilitate collaboration between the public and private sectors. When we embrace preparedness, we all have an opportunity to serve our communities."

"Preparedness takes a whole community effort and during the COVID-19 pandemic so many essential workers and organizations across the Commonwealth have worked tirelessly to keep medical services operating, public safety operations functioning, food, medicine and commodities stocked, and other vital needs met during the COVID-19 pandemic," **said MEMA Director Samantha Phillips.**

During September, **MEMA** (/orgs/massachusetts-emergency-management-agency) and the **Massachusetts Department of Public Health** (/orgs/department-of-public-health) will share information on their respective social media accounts about emergency preparedness topics including emergency planning, building an emergency kit, preparing for disasters, youth preparedness, ways to get involved in community preparedness, and more. This emergency preparedness information includes guidance about how to prepare for emergencies during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation will feature signage along highways to raise awareness of Emergency Preparedness Month.

To say thank you to an essential worker or organization in your community, and to find resources on how to prepare for emergencies large and small, visit **http://www.mass.gov/EPmonth** (/EPmonth).

About MEMA

MEMA is the state agency charged with ensuring the state is prepared to withstand, respond to, and recover from all types of emergencies and disasters, including natural hazards, accidents, deliberate attacks, and technological and infrastructure failures. MEMA's staff of professional planners, communications specialists and operations and support personnel is committed to an all hazards approach to emergency management. By building and sustaining effective partnerships with federal, state and local government agencies, and with the private sector - individuals, families, non-profits and businesses - MEMA ensures the Commonwealth's ability to rapidly recover from large and small disasters by assessing and mitigating threats and hazards, enhancing preparedness, ensuring effective response, and strengthening our capacity to rebuild and recover. For additional information about MEMA and Emergency Preparedness, go to **www.mass.gov/mema** (/mema).

Continue to follow MEMA updates on Twitter at **www.twitter.com/MassEMA** (http://www.twitter.com/MassEMA); Facebook at **www.facebook.com/MassachusettsEMA** (http://www.facebook.com/MassachusettsEMA); YouTube at **www.youtube.com/MassachusettsEMA** (http://www.youtube.com/MassachusettsEMA).

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Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

(/orgs/massachusetts-emergency-management-agency)

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency ensures the state is prepared to withstand, respond to and recover from all types of emergencies and disasters.

More (/orgs/massachusetts-emergency-management-agency)

Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

(/orgs/executive-office-of-public-safety-and-security)

EOPSS is responsible for the policy development and budgetary oversight of its secretariat agencies, independent programs, and several boards which aid in crime prevention, homeland security preparedness, and ensuring the safety of residents and visitors in the Commonwealth.

More (/orgs/executive-office-of-public-safety-and-security)

Office of Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito

(/orgs/office-of-the-governor)

Governor Charlie Baker, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito and the Baker-Polito Administration are committed to serving the people of Massachusetts and making the Commonwealth a great place to live, work and raise a family.

More (/orgs/office-of-the-governor)

Governor's Press Office (/orgs/governors-press-office)

Visit the Governor’s Press Office to learn about recent news from the administration, follow our happenings on social media, and for media contact information.

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