

R 011709Z SEP 10

ALCOAST 438/10

COMDTNOTE 1754

SUBJ: FAMILY READINESS AND NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

1. THIS ALCOAST ENCOURAGES ALL MEMBERS OF THE COAST GUARD FAMILY TO USE THE OCCASION OF NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH IN SEPTEMBER TO ENHANCE FAMILY PREPAREDNESS FOR NATURAL DISASTERS, PANDEMIC FLU, TERRORISM, AND OTHER EMERGENCIES.
2. OUR "READY COAST GUARD" CAMPAIGN ECHOES THE KEY MESSAGE OF THE NATIONAL "READY AMERICA" CAMPAIGN: GET AN EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT, MAKE A FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN, AND BE INFORMED. THIS YEARS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS THEME IS "PLAN NOW. WORK TOGETHER. BE READY." EMERGENCIES WILL HAPPEN, BUT TAKING ACTION NOW CAN HELP YOU MINIMIZE THE IMPACT THEY WILL HAVE ON YOUR LIVES.
3. OUR COMMITMENT TO OPERATIONAL READINESS AND MISSION EXECUTION PREPARES US TO SAVE OTHERS IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS. MEANWHILE, OUR FAMILIES MAY BE AFFECTED BY THE SAME OR A SEPARATE EMERGENCY. AS THE COUNTRY FOCUSES ON INCREASING NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS, WE MUST ALSO BE VIGILANT SHIPMATES IN THE OFF-DUTY ENVIRONMENT BY BEING READY AT HOME. LETS PREPARE OUR OWN FAMILIES WITH THE SAME DILIGENCE THAT WE USE IN PREPARING TO EXECUTE OUR MISSIONS. KNOWING THAT OUR FAMILIES ARE SAFE AND SECURE, WE CAN FOCUS ON COMPLETING THE MISSION AT HAND.
4. AS HURRICANE SEASON CONTINUES AND SCHOOLS RECONVENE, NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH IS THE PERFECT TIME TO TAKE A FEW SIMPLE STEPS TO INCREASE AND REFRESH YOUR FAMILYS READINESS TO DEAL WITH THE RANGE OF POTENTIAL EMERGENCIES. PREPAREDNESS IS CONTAGIOUS - WHAT STARTS WITH ONE FAMILY CAN SPREAD THROUGHOUT A COMMUNITY, AND EVERY PREPARED COMMUNITY FREES UP EMERGENCY RESPONDERS TO TAKE CARE OF THOSE WHO ARE IN DIRE NEED. PLAN NOW. WORK TOGETHER. BE READY.
5. FOR TIPS ON GETTING YOUR FAMILY PREPARED TO MANAGE EMERGENCY SITUATIONS, GO TO THE OFFICE OF WORK-LIFE FAMILY READINESS PROGRAM WEBSITE AT WWW.USCG.MIL/WORKLIFE/READY.ASP. THE SITE OFFERS DOWNLOADABLE EMERGENCY KIT CHECKLISTS AND EMERGENCY PLAN FORMS, AS WELL AS LINKS TO OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND HELP, SUCH AS HOW TO PREPARE AND MANAGE IMPORTANT PERSONAL AND LEGAL DOCUMENTS. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE WWW.READY.GOV WEBSITE.
6. THE COMMANDANT, MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER OF THE COAST GUARD, MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER OF THE COAST GUARD RESERVE FORCES, AND THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, SAFETY AND WORK-LIFE, AND THEIR WIVES, HAVE PREPARED PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS (PSA) TO EMPHASIZE THEIR SUPPORT OF THIS INITIATIVE. THESE PSAS WILL RUN DURING EACH OF THE FIRST THREE WEEKS OF SEPTEMBER, AND CAN BE ACCESSED AT WWW.USCG.MIL/WORKLIFE/READY.ASP.
7. WORK-LIFE PROGRAMS CAN ALSO ASSIST YOU IN ADDRESSING ISSUES THAT DEVELOP BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER AN EMERGENCY. TO LOCATE THE WORK-LIFE OFFICE NEAREST TO YOU, SIMPLY CALL 1-800-872-4957 AND FOLLOW THE PROMPTS, OR GO TO WWW.USCG.MIL/WORKLIFE AND CLICK ON "WORK-LIFE REGIONAL OFFICES." YOU CAN ALSO ACCESS THE COAST GUARD EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE AND WORKLIFE4YOU RESOURCE AND REFERRAL PROGRAMS AT 1-800-222-0364 TO LEARN ABOUT AND OBTAIN VARIOUS FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES.
8. ENSURE THAT YOUR FAMILY IS AS PREPARED AT HOME AS YOU ARE TO EXECUTE COAST GUARD MISSIONS. KNOWING THAT THEY ARE SAFE AND PREPARED WILL HELP ENSURE THAT YOU ARE READY TO FOCUS ON SERVING THOSE WHO DEPEND ON THE COAST GUARD WHEN DANGER COMES. SEMPER PARATUS - READINESS BEGINS AT HOME.
9. COMDT (CG-111) POCs FOR THE "READY COAST GUARD" CAMPAIGN ARE MR. RODNEY WHALEY AT 202-475-5158 AND CDR MATT KLEIMAN AT 202-475-5145.
10. RADM MARK TEDESCO, DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, SAFETY AND WORK-LIFE SENDS.
11. INTERNET RELEASE AUTHORIZED.