



Feature

National Night Out

Tuesday evening, August 7, is National Night Out (NNO) in Shelby County. Neighbors will turn on their porch lights and visit each other in backyards, community centers and parks sharing fellowship, food and information.



Since 1984 this community event, held on the first Tuesday in August, is “meet and greet” to increase awareness about crime prevention, drug prevention, and to strengthen neighborhood watch programs.

NNO is also a great opportunity for neighbors to review community disaster preparedness plans. What will you and your neighbors do before, during and after the next unexpected emergency. Your neighbors just may be your greatest resource during a disaster.

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness urges you to participate in National Night Out. Meet your neighbors and plan ahead for the next emergency. As we say, “**A prepared community is a resilient community.**”

Photo caption: Bob Nations, Jr. Director Shelby County Office of Preparedness

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Other stories

MidSouth Drought



One year after the historic flooding called “the Flood of the Century” swallowed the banks of the Mississippi River at Memphis, we now watch the same waterway shrink to 14 feet below normal.

Shelby County joins 39 other counties in Tennessee declared a natural disaster from drought. It is considered the worst drought since 1956.

Lack of rain for many months has shriveled crops and caused river traffic to detour to deeper waters.

As a result, local food costs will likely increase as much as 3.5% according to the United States Agriculture Department.

Additionally, a “burn ban” was issued by the Shelby County Fire Department to protect citizens from accidentally starting wild fires that can ignite from such dry conditions.

Citizens can help by conserving water and reporting outdoor burning.

Shelby County Citizen Corps

The Shelby County Citizen Corps Council, under the leadership of Kimberlyn Bouler, Chairperson and Office of Preparedness Planning Officer, continues to meet monthly. The council guides the preparedness efforts of volunteers and agencies locally.

Training opportunities:

Bartlett: Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) August 11 and 18, Bartlett Station. Contact Terry Wiggins at 901.385.5536 or twiggins@cityofbartlett.org

Shelby County Health Department:

- Incident Command System Forms Review, August 14, 8:00 – 12:30 p.m., 1075 Mullins Station, Room W204
- ICS 300, August 15 – 16, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., 1075 Mullins Station, Room W204
- Mass Prophylaxis Course, September 4 – 5, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Health Department Auditorium, 814 Jefferson, Memphis, TN
Contact:
jennifer.russell@shelbycountyttn.gov

Lakeland: “Seniors CERT,” preparedness “Lunch and Learn,” Wednesdays, September 12 - November 7, 10:00 – 12:00, 4523 Canada Road, Lakeland, TN. Contact Claude Talford at 901.867.5407 or ctalford@lakelandtn.org.

For more information or to volunteer for Citizen Corps programs, please email citizencorps@shelbycountyttn.gov.

Prepare Pets for Summer



The “dog days” of summer are here as Shelby County continues to endure excessive heat almost daily. High temperatures can be dangerous for humans as well as our beloved pets and livestock.

Animals don’t perspire and therefore expel heat differently than humans do. They can overheat very quickly. Some tips for animal safety in the summer months:

- Never leave pets inside a hot automobile. They can suffer heat stroke or even death. If you witness a pet left alone in a hot vehicle, contact law enforcement at once.
- Paws can burn when walking on hot pavement and their noses can sunburn when unprotected.
- Don’t over-exert pets. Avoid long walks during hottest part of the day.
- Do not drive with pets in the back of a pickup truck. Secured seating is best.
- Provide shade and cool water
- Be sure pets wear a collar and ID tag
- Create a first-aid kit for your pets

If pets get overheated, apply cool water or cold towels to head, neck and chest. Consult a veterinarian immediately. For more information please visit: www.aspca.org.

“Flat Stanley and Flat Stella”



New “employees” at FEMA, “Flat Stanley and Flat Stella,” are excited to be helping kids learn about disasters. Follow them as they go on adventures at FEMA learning how to prepare. Read their blog to find out “Where in the world is Stanley?” Kids are encouraged to create their own unique flat characters on this educational web site. Mobile apps are available. Visit www.flatstanely.org.

Mid South Weather Camp!



Join Channel 13’s Chief Meteorologist, Joey Sullipeck, August 4 at the Agricenter for “Mid South Weather Camp,” 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Visit exciting exhibits from the National Weather Service, the Shelby County Office of Preparedness, the Shelby County Health Department and other agencies at 7777 Walnut Grove, Memphis. The event is free.

How to Reason with Hurricane Season!



We are in the midst of Hurricane Season, which ends November 30, 2012. Hurricanes are tropical cyclones with thunderstorms.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Hurricane Center continues to warn citizens in coastal areas of impending tropical depressions, tropical storms, such as the recent “Debby,” and hurricanes. The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale rates damage from winds and storm surges. A “1” is minimal damage, with winds of 74 – 95 miles an hour. Hurricane Katrina in 2005, was rated a “3” with winds from 111 – 130 miles an hour. The most catastrophic hurricane will be rated a “5,” such as Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

Shelby County keeps a close eye on these predictions since hurricanes can cause extensive damage several hundred miles inland – including high winds, tornadoes and flooding. Our county has sheltered hurricane victims after Hurricanes Gustav and Katrina.

Pledge to Prepare!



Are you one of the prepared? Are you “weather ready?” To learn more about hazardous weather and other threats that may affect where you live and work, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is inviting YOU to “Pledge To Prepare!” Join the Preparedness Coalition now. There is no cost and no obligation. Just visit www.fema.org to register. Join us!

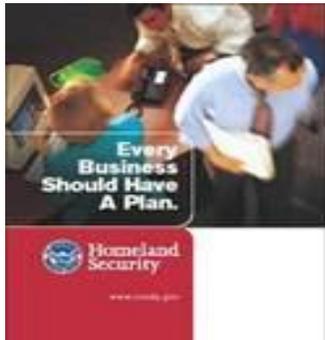
Emergency Sanitation



After a disaster, water and sewage lines could be broken and disrupted. Create a plan for temporary sanitation ahead of time. Supplies needed include: medium size plastic bucket with lid, plastic garbage bags and ties, household chlorine bleach, soap, liquid detergent, toilet paper and shovel.

After each use, pour bleach into the container to avoid infection and stop spread of disease. Cover container tightly when not in use. Bury human waste to avoid spread of disease by digging a pit 2 to 3 feet deep and 50 feet downhill from any well, spring or water supply.

Preparedness Question



How can businesses prepare?

Answer: It is estimated that 40% of all businesses do not return after a large-scale disaster. Businesses should plan for emergencies and disasters. Continuity planning is essential for recovery. Steps to ensure your business bounces back after a disaster:

- Identify your business process flow chart. What staff, materials, equipment and protocols are necessary to keep the business going? Conduct a business impact analysis.
- Create a plan to shelter-in-place and to evacuate. Train each employee and practice your plans annually.
- Create a crisis communications plan.
- Create an emergency kit for each employee and their families.
- Copy important records. Store off-site.
- Review insurance coverage, especially flood insurance policies.
- Secure your building.
- Make sure the building has fire extinguishers and smoke alarms.
- Use anti-virus software to protect data.

For more information visit www.ready.gov.

Preparedness Resources

Shelby County Office of Preparedness:

www.staysafeshelby.us

Shelby County Citizen Corp

(email): **citizencorps@shelbycountyttn.gov**

Shelby County, TN:

www.shelbycountyttn.gov

Ready Shelby: **www.readyshelby.us**

ALERT FM: **www.alertfm.com**

Memphis Light Gas and Water:

www.mlqw.com, 901.544.6549

American Heart Association: **www.heart.org**

United States Geological Society:

www.usgs.gov

National Fire Protection Association:

www.nfpa.org

Center for Earthquake Research and

Information (CERI) **www.ceri.memphis.edu**

Citizen Corps: **www.citizencorps.org**

American Radio Relay League:

www.arrl.org

Federal Emergency Management Agency:

www.fema.org

Ready America: **www.ready.gov**

National Weather Service:

www.nws.noaa.org

NOAA Hurricane:

www.hurricanes.noaa.gov

National Hurricane Center:

www.nhc.noaa.gov

Department of Homeland Security:

www.dhs.gov

National Flood Insurance Program:

www.floodsmart.gov

Emergency: call 911

**Shelby County Office of Preparedness
HLS/EMA**

Bob Nations, Jr., Director
901.636.2525 or 901.515.2545
www.staysafeshelby.us

Know Your Risks

Get a Kit

Make a Plan

Stay Informed

