September is National Emergency Preparedness Month

SANTA ANA, Calif. – (September 1, 2016) – September is National Emergency Preparedness Month and the Orange County Sheriff’s Department’s Emergency Management Division would like to encourage County residents to prepare and plan for emergency and disaster events. The time is now to make a commitment to be a survivor.

September marks National Preparedness Month, which was founded after 9/11 to increase preparedness in the United States. First responders and emergency managers understand that there will be an overwhelming demand to reach people in distress following a disaster. Getting to everyone quickly following an emergency will simply not be possible – especially if roads are damaged and power is out. It’s imperative that community members take the necessary steps to prepare for emergencies. The more people who are prepared for a disaster, the quicker the community will recover afterwards. Find out more about National Preparedness Month at http://www.ready.gov/september.

It is a time to prepare yourself, your family and your loved ones for any emergency. Follow these three steps:

1. **Get a Kit**: Keep enough emergency supplies on hand for you and those in your care, including water, non-perishable food, first aid, prescriptions, flashlights and a battery-powered radio. For a complete checklist of supplies, visit www.ReadyOC.org.

2. **Make a Plan**: Discuss, agree on, and document an emergency plan with those in your care. For sample plans, see www.ReadyOC.org. Work with your neighbors, colleagues and others to build a community network of resilience.

3. **Be Informed**: Information is available to assist you from federal, state and local resources. You can find preparedness information by:
   b. Accessing www.ReadyOC.org to learn what to do before, during, and after an emergency.
   c. Contacting your local emergency management department and ask for a tour and information about preparedness.

As part of National Emergency Preparedness Month, the Orange County Sheriff’s Department Emergency Management Division will be giving emergency backpacks filled with more than 283 items that will contain supplies for safety and self-sufficiency for one person for up to six days, or two people for up to three days. For more information and the opportunity to win one of the emergency backpacks, visit the Orange County Sheriff’s Department, CA Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/OCSheriff/ throughout the month of September.