

# Ready, Set, Praise!

## PRAISE & PREPAREDNESS PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Although natural and man-made disasters can be devastating, the damage can be minimized if communities are prepared. When emergencies and disasters occur, faith-based organizations like yours play an integral role in community readiness and recovery efforts.

As part of Praise & Preparedness, we encourage you to take steps to prepare your congregation before disaster strikes.

Interested in joining our Praise & Preparedness Partnership Program? Simply complete or update a facility emergency plan plus perform three (or more) of the actions below.

- Create a communications plan to contact congregants in the event of an emergency
- Work with other local organizations to organize, sponsor or participate in an emergency preparedness fair
- Conduct at least one evacuation drill each year or participate in at least one statewide drill, such as the tornado drill conducted during Severe Weather Awareness Week each February
- Promote individual emergency preparedness to members, through a newsletter or other means
- Download a Praise and Preparedness video and present to congregants

Once you have completed these actions, submit your Praise & Preparedness Partnership Program application package to [praise@gema.ga.gov](mailto:praise@gema.ga.gov). Visit [www.praise.ga.gov](http://www.praise.ga.gov) for more information.

Sign up today and help reduce the impact of emergencies or disasters of any scale on your facility and your congregants – whether they are at home or in a house of worship.

Praise  
& Preparedness



[www.praise.ga.gov](http://www.praise.ga.gov)

Praise  
& Preparedness

Is Your Congregation  
**READY**  
for Emergencies?



For more preparedness tools, tips and resources, visit GEMA's *Ready Georgia* campaign at [www.ready.ga.gov](http://www.ready.ga.gov) or download GEMA's free *Ready Georgia* mobile app for iPhone and Android for information on the go.



## Ready, Set, Praise!

In recent years, Georgia has been hit by severe storms, extreme heat, a crippling freeze, deadly tornadoes and dangerous wildfires – resulting in the loss of property and even human life. Unfortunately, many Georgians are still not prepared for the next disaster.

As part of **Praise & Preparedness** – a new initiative launched by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) – faith-based organizations statewide are encouraged to promote the message of readiness and help members prepare before disaster strikes.

### WHAT IS PRAISE & PREPAREDNESS?

In times of crisis, many people look to faith-based organizations for guidance and support. In addition, congregations often play an integral role in local readiness and recovery, providing shelter and supplies before and after disasters. The **Praise & Preparedness Partnership Program** offers three ways to build upon these traditional roles.

- **Facility Safety:** Conduct a facility safety assessment and complete or update the emergency plan for all the congregational buildings.
- **Congregant Safety:** Encourage members of the congregation to develop family emergency plans.
- **Expanded Ministries:** Explore new opportunities for the congregation to become involved in community emergency disaster relief efforts, feeding and sheltering programs.

### ARE YOU PREPARED?

One of the main goals for **Praise & Preparedness** is for each house of worship's congregation to be prepared in their homes. Here are a few things they will take away from the program:

- 1. Prepare:** Create a Ready kit with the necessary supplies you and your family would need to survive at least three days without any aid. Consider seniors, family members with special needs and pets when compiling resources. Keep extra kits in your car and workplace.
- 2. Plan:** Make a family communications plan that includes how you get in touch with each family member, evacuation plans and meeting places in case of a disaster.
- 3. Stay Informed:** Monitor news and weather and make sure you have a way to receive weather alerts at home, work and on the go. Learn what emergencies could impact your area and how to respond.

# If Disaster Strikes, WILL YOU BE READY?

Want to bring Praise & Preparedness to your congregation? Visit [www.praise.ga.gov](http://www.praise.ga.gov) to download our toolkit of free resources and find out how to join the Praise & Preparedness Partnership Program.

