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NEWS RELEASE

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Area Residents Urged to ‘Be Disaster Aware, Take Action to Prepare’

DUBUQUE, Iowa – September is National Preparedness Month and is acknowledged annually by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and public safety and emergency management agencies around the country. The theme for 2014 is, “Be Disaster Aware, Take Action to Prepare.”

Dubuque County residents, employers, and organizations are encouraged to take action by educating themselves on emergency preparedness.

- **Be Informed:** Learn what protective measures to take before, during, and after an emergency.
- **Make a Plan:** Prepare, plan, and stay informed for emergencies.
- **Build a Kit:** Build a kit for disasters, to be prepared.
- **Get Involved:** Find opportunities to support community preparedness.

FEMA’s “Ready” website (www.ready.gov) features a wealth of information available to the public at no cost and includes suggestions for businesses to plan and protect their business as well as games for kids and tools for educators and parents. Disaster preparedness information is also available locally from the Dubuque County Emergency Management Agency by calling 563-589-4170.

Residents and businesses are also encouraged to create a safety profile with Smart911 (www.smart911.com). This free, optional service gives residents of Dubuque and Dubuque County the opportunity to provide important information to emergency responders prior to an

emergency to enable faster and more informed responses to emergency situations. Dubuque residents can also subscribe to receive important notifications from the City of Dubuque through the CodeRED phone notification system (www.cityofdubuque.org/codered) and the Notify Me email and/or text notification system (www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme).

The City of Dubuque is distributing preparedness tips through its presence on Facebook and Twitter throughout the remainder of September.

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