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Governor Proclaims September Arizona Preparedness Month
Statewide Campaign Reminds Arizonans of Pervasive Flood Risk

PHOENIX— Governor Doug Ducey proclaimed September as Arizona Preparedness Month to encourage families, businesses and whole communities to prepare for and mitigate against emergencies, including flooding.

According to FloodSmart.gov, all 50 states have experienced floods or flash floods in the last five years. Flooding is not just a problem for people who live in a river basin or in regions that get a lot of rain and snow; it happens here too, and more often than you might think. In the last five years, flooding has cost the State of Arizona more than \$15 million*.

Not coincidentally, *Anytime, Anywhere* is the tagline of a new flood awareness and preparedness campaign from the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA). DEMA's plainspoken message is meant to raise flood awareness while encouraging Arizonans to [prepare for all types of emergencies](#).

DEMA works to reduce the impact of emergencies and disasters on people, property and the environment, but it cannot do it alone. People who prepare their families and property for emergency are well disposed to respond and recover if disaster strikes. Arizonans are encouraged to take the following preparedness steps:

- [Make a Family Communication Plan](#) that includes an out-of-town contact and evacuation route.
- [Build an emergency supplies kit](#) with enough food, water and daily medication(s) to last at least 3 days. Create a smaller, travel-sized kit that you can take in the event of an evacuation.
- Be informed of local hazards and emergency plans at your work and your children's school. Contact your local emergency management office to sign up to receive emergency notifications.
- Inspire others by your positive preparedness example.

“Arizona experiences a variety of disasters, including drought and wildfires, that we as a state must prepare for,” said DEMA Deputy Director Wendy Smith-Reeve, “but flooding is our most common, expensive and destructive disaster. All of Arizona is vulnerable to flooding, but there are clear and proven steps home and businesses owners can take to lessen that risk.”

For more information on how you can prepare for and mitigate against the potential impacts of flooding, visit FloodSmartAZ.org.

*Response, recovery and mitigation efforts for 16 flooding incidents.

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Visit the Arizona Emergency Information Network at AzEIN.gov for statewide emergency updates, preparedness advice and hazards information.