

**For Immediate Release**  
**#72-19**

**NYC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS NATIONAL  
PREPAREDNESS MONTH WITH SENIORS READYFEST**

*Festival helps older adults prepare for emergencies*

**September 16, 2019** — Creating an emergency plan is the first step to keeping your family safe during an emergency. While emergencies can affect individuals of all ages, older adults and individuals with access and functional needs are at increased risk. To highlight the importance of emergency preparedness for seniors, NYC Emergency Management hosted “*Seniors ReadyFest*” at the Church of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Ozone Park on September 12. Representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FDNY, NYC Department for the Aging, and the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities attended the event to share information with older adults on the importance of developing an emergency plan with their family and friends.

“Emergencies can happen anywhere at any time, so it’s important that New Yorkers are prepared. The Senior Readyfest provides the opportunity for older adults to learn how they can prepare for emergencies through fun activities and interactive games.” **New York City Emergency Management Commissioner Deanne Criswell** said. “We are thankful to our partners including the Department for the Aging for their help educating New York’s seniors about the importance of emergency preparedness.”

“While September is National Preparedness Month, it’s important to be prepared for disasters or emergencies at anytime,” **NYS Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato** said. “I thank NYC Emergency Management for hosting a Senior Readyfest at the Nativity Golden Age in Ozone Park, Queens.”

“It was great to be a part of the NYC Emergency Management’s Seniors Readyfest event in my hometown of Ozone Park,” **NYS Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.** said. “The seniors were having a great time learning about the NYCEM team and the services they offer, because in times of emergency, our vulnerable seniors and their needs can sometimes be overlooked. I would like to thank NYCEM and all those involved for bringing this great informative and enjoyable event to Ozone Park.”

As a part of *Seniors ReadyFest*, NYC Emergency Management staff members were on hand to distribute a range of emergency preparedness materials and free giveaways. Residents learned the steps to make a plan, gather supplies, and stay informed. Other activities included disaster-themed “Bingo,” “Name That Tune,” and “Spin the Wheel.” New York City Emergency Management Deputy Commissioner for External Affairs Christina Farrell attended the event to highlight the importance of emergency preparedness for older adults and individuals with access and functional needs.

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**About National Preparedness Month**

National Preparedness Month reminds individuals to prepare themselves and families now and throughout the year. During the month, NYC Emergency Management will team up with City agencies and community partners to organize and promote a number of events for the entire family, including children, older adults, and pets, as well as steps New Yorkers and their communities can take to be ready. For more information and resources about National Preparedness Month, including a calendar of events, visit [NYC.gov/emergencymanagement](https://nyc.gov/emergencymanagement) and [www.ready.gov/september](https://www.ready.gov/september).

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