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**OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION TEAM-UP TO TEACH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TO
STUDENTS**

Emergency Preparedness Pilot is Underway at 46 Schools in Brooklyn's District 13

New York City Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Commissioner Joseph F. Bruno and Department of Education (DOE) Executive Director Mariano Guzman today participated in an emergency preparedness workshop with fourth and fifth graders at P.S. 9 in the Prospect Heights section of Brooklyn. P.S. 9 is one of 46 schools participating in a pilot program to educate students about the importance of preparing for emergencies through in-school and after-school workshops and presentations. The pilot program is the second phase of OEM's *Ready New York for Kids* initiative.

"One in seven New Yorkers is a public school student, so *Ready New York for Kids* is a great way for us to further the message of emergency preparedness," said Commissioner Bruno. "It is our hope that students will take the lessons they learn at these workshops and teach their families about the simple steps they can take to prepare for emergencies."

In 2007, in partnership with the Department of Education, OEM introduced two interactive emergency preparedness guides for students – one for elementary school kids and the other for middle and high school students. The *Ready New York for Kids* program focuses on three key messages:

- **Get Ready: Make a Plan** – Have at least two phone numbers – one local and one out-of-state number that you can call in an emergency – and practice the plan with adults in your home.
- **Get Set: Prepare a Stay at Home Kit** – During emergencies that require you to stay at home, it is important to have extra food and water for everyone in the house, and a battery operated radio for news updates.
- **Get Ready to Go: Pack a Go Bag** – During emergencies that require you to leave your home, everyone should have a Go Bag with emergency supplies.

Ready New York has grown dramatically since OEM released its first household preparedness guide in 2003. The program now includes several multi-language publications, public

service announcements, a video, an advertising campaign, expanded web content, a speakers' bureau, a reprinting program, corporate partnerships, and extensive community outreach. Ready New York guides are available in up to 14 languages: English, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Haitian-Creole, Korean, Arabic, Russian Yiddish, Urdu, Japanese, Bengali, French and Italian, as well as Braille and recorded on audio tape.

According to OEM's second annual preparedness survey in 2008, more than six in 10 New Yorkers say they are prepared for an emergency, such as a natural disaster, fire, or power outage. The most common reason New Yorkers do not prepare for emergencies is that they have not considered it.

For more information about the Ready New York program visit nyc.gov/oem or call 311.

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