



NEW YORK CITY **OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**
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**NYC OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT KICKS OFF NATIONAL
PREPAREDNESS MONTH AT GRAND CENTRAL TERMINAL**

To kick off National Preparedness Month in New York City, the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), in partnership with the American Red Cross in Greater New York, Citizen Corps and other community partners, hosted a Ready New York preparedness day at Grand Central Terminal today.

Held each September, National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the American Red Cross to encourage individuals to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and schools.

“With Hurricane Katrina so fresh in everyone’s minds, we’re reminded of the importance of preparing for all types of emergencies,” OEM Commissioner Joseph F. Bruno said. “New Yorkers face a number of hazards, including hurricanes. By taking the time to develop a disaster plan, assemble an emergency supply kit, and put together a Go Bag, residents will be better prepared when disaster strikes.”

OEM staff and a host of volunteers handed out copies of the new pocket-sized Ready New York guide at various locations around Grand Central throughout the day, and OEM and Red Cross preparedness experts were available to offer tips and answers questions outside Vanderbilt Hall. Today’s event mirrored National Preparedness Month kick-off efforts in Washington, D.C., which included a preparedness fair at Union Station.

This month, OEM, in partnership with many corporate and community partners, will host a number of events to promote the Ready New York preparedness message around the city. From today’s kick-off at Grand Central to a corporate fair in downtown Brooklyn, OEM and its partners will encourage New Yorkers to take steps to prepare for emergencies and learn more about the local hazards they face throughout September.

For more information about Ready New York and National Preparedness Month in New York, call 311 or visit OEM’s website at NYC.gov/oem.

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