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NORTHAMPTON COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES SPONSORS 2ND ANNUAL PREPEAREDNESS EXPO IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH 2009

Nazareth – September 1, 2009 – September marks the sixth annual National Preparedness Month. To emphasize the importance of getting prepared and to promote further community involvement, Northampton County Emergency Management Services, in conjunction with the Bethlehem Health Bureau, will host the Second Annual Emergency Preparedness Expo on Saturday, September 12th at the Bethlehem Municipal Ice Rink from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Admission to this event is free to the public.

National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort designed to encourage individuals, families, businesses and communities to take action and prepare for emergencies. “Our goal is to use this event to help teach our communities how to protect their homes and loved ones in the event of any disaster” said Robert Mateff, Northampton County Emergency Management Services Director. “Because of the fears and concerns surrounding the H1N1 virus over the past few months, this year’s event will also highlight influenza preparedness,” said Mateff.

More than 20 exhibitors are expected to participate, including representatives from Northampton County Emergency Management Services, the Bethlehem Health Bureau, the American Red Cross, various law enforcement agencies, and local fire departments. Emergency response vehicles and some apparatus will be on display and available for tours, weather permitting. In addition, the Miller-Keystone blood mobile will be on-site for a blood drive.

Health experts from the Weller Health Center and other medical institutions will be on hand displaying information of interest, giving free demonstrations and answering any questions. A variety of children's activities are also planned to provide education and entertainment for the whole family. Complimentary hot dogs and drinks will be available to anyone in attendance, and prizes will be given away throughout the event.

Featured activities are set to include; free child finger-printing, NotifyNC registration, various health screenings (blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose), McGruff the Crime Dog, Digi Kids, Red E. Fox, interactive tours of fire and emergency apparatus, influenza preparedness demonstrations and more. Prizes will be raffled off at various times throughout the day and will include; first aid kits, disaster supply packs, smoke detectors, and safety items for kids.

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