



PIMA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
3950 S. COUNTRY CLUB, Ste. 100 ● TUCSON, AZ 85714

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Information:
Tim Siemsen, Volunteer Coordinator
Bioterrorism Preparedness Program
Pima County Health Department
520.243.7750
Renée Peyton, Communications Coordinator
Bioterrorism Preparedness Program
Pima County Health Department
520.243.7745

**PIMA COUNTY RECOGNIZES
SEPTEMBER AS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MONTH**

Tucson, Arizona – Thursday, September 4, 2008 – On Tuesday, September 9, the Pima County Board of Supervisors will take action to proclaim September as Emergency Preparedness Month. On hand to accept the Proclamation will be representatives from area CERT teams.

A CERT team (Community Emergency Response Team) is a group of volunteers who, during a local emergency or disaster, are committed to caring for the people in their neighborhood until help can arrive from area first responders. It is incumbent, however, that individuals also take steps to prepare themselves and their loved ones in the event of such an event.

To increase public awareness on the importance of emergency preparedness, the Health Department is encouraging everyone to put together an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, and be informed about the different threats that may affect all of us. It's also important to take steps to become trained and engaged in community preparedness and response efforts.

Pima County joins the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in promoting individual emergency preparedness through the Ready campaign and Citizen Corps. The Ready campaign is designed to educate and empower us all to prepare for and respond to emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks. For more information about family and business preparedness visit www.ready.gov or <http://www.pimahealth.org/cert/index.asp>

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