Proclamation Of The El Paso County Board Of Health Recognizing September 2023 As National Preparedness Month

WHEREAS, preparedness within the field of emergency management can best be defined as a state of readiness to respond to a disaster, crisis, or any other type of emergency situation, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and

WHEREAS, disasters and emergencies often have public health consequences that impact the local jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, preparedness is a continuous cycle of planning, organizing, training, equipping, exercising, evaluating, and taking corrective action in an effort to assure effective coordination during incident response; and

WHEREAS, El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) will prepare for, respond to, and recover from all hazardous incidents or events which pose an imminent or potential threat to the health, medical, and environmental needs of El Paso County residents; and

WHEREAS, National Preparedness Month is observed across the nation every September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies; and

WHEREAS, The Ready Campaign’s 2023 National Preparedness Month messaging will focus on preparing older adults for disaster, specifically older adults from communities that are disproportionally impacted by all-hazard events, which continue to threaten the nation; and

WHEREAS, EPCPH participates in National Preparedness Month by encouraging the community to take actions to prepare themselves and their families, children and pets for emergencies or disasters, such as building emergency kits, making a plan to communicate with loved ones, and developing evacuation plans and meet-up points with family; and

WHEREAS, the EPCPH Emergency Preparedness and Response Program also encourages agency and county staff to engage in and prioritize personal preparedness; and

WHEREAS, EPCPH maintains a ready workforce and requires all staff to take Incident Command System trainings to prepare to serve in first responder roles they may have in public health or other emergencies; and

WHEREAS, EPCPH has taken a lead role in responding to various public health emergencies in the past several years, such as the hepatitis A outbreak in 2018-2020, the 2019-2022 COVID-19 pandemic, and the 2022 monkeypox outbreak; and

WHEREAS, EPCPH has also provided critical support during other recent disasters and emergencies, such as the 2012 Waldo Canyon Fire, the 2013 Black Forest Fire, the 2013 Manitou Springs flooding, the 2015 Planned Parenthood mass shooting, the 2018 Carson Midway Fire, the 2019 Regency Tower Fire; the 2022 Club Q mass shooting; and

WHEREAS, EPCPH recognizes the need for and importance of encouraging the community to take action and prepare for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH:

1. The month of September 2023 is proclaimed as "National Preparedness Month" in El Paso County, Colorado.

MOVED, SECONDED AND ADOPTED BY THE EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH AT ITS MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 23, 2023, IN COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO.

EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

BY: ___________________________ ATTEST BY: ___________________________

Ted Collas, President

Susan Wheelan, Secretary

El Paso County, CO
Public Health
Present • Protect • Prepare

SEAL