



UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Washington, DC 20415

The Director

Thursday, October 31, 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR: Heads Of Executive Departments And Agencies

FROM: Elaine Kaplan Acting Director

Subject: America's PrepareAthon!

"America's PrepareAthon!" was established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under Presidential Policy Directive-8 in support of the National Preparedness Goal to build a more secure and resilient nation. The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is a Federal partner in this nationwide, community-based campaign.

"America's PrepareAthon!" calls for biannual participation by Federal, state, and local community partners in local preparedness events. Twice yearly, in the spring and fall, the campaign provides a national focus for individuals, organizations, and communities to practice for relevant local hazards through drills, group discussions, and exercises.

Suggestions for themes to discuss/exercise include:

- In the fall - earthquakes, pandemics, hazardous materials, and winter weather
- In the spring - tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, and wildfires

OPM works closely with other agencies, including FEMA, to ensure that Federal employees in the Washington, DC area and across the Government are prepared for emergencies. In times of crisis, Federal employees serve as emergency workers – not only as a part of their jobs, but also within their communities and families. By preparing for emergency situations in the workplace, community, and at home, Federal employees help make our nation safer and more resilient.

OPM supports this effort and encourages all departments and agencies to participate and be prepared. You can support "America's PrepareAthon!" by forwarding this memo to your Emergency Management Staff and Human Resources (HR) Staff for them to consider how your agency can best take part in this campaign. Thank you very much for your support.

For more information about this campaign, go to <http://www.fema.gov/americas-prepareathon>. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please direct your questions to Sandra Hawthorn, Director, OPM Emergency Actions at (202) 606-5068 or Sandra.Hawthorn@opm.gov.

cc: Chief Human Capital Officers, and Human Resources Directors