From: Office of the Secretary
Sent: Thursday, September 05, 2013 9:29 AM
Subject: National Preparedness Month

September 5, 2013
Dear Colleagues,

September is National Preparedness Month, a time for all of us to redouble our efforts to prepare for emergencies that could threaten our homes, our workplaces, and our communities.

Over the past year, we faced a number of major disasters, including tragic wildfires in Arizona and California, devastating tornados in Oklahoma, the terrorist attack at the Boston Marathon, and one of the costliest storms our nation has ever seen in Hurricane Sandy.

Our own personal readiness is a key part of the Department's ability to meet our mission and serve the American people, even under the most trying of circumstances. By preparing for emergencies, we not only enhance the safety of our families, but strengthen our ability to carry out our work.

DHS will be joining thousands of National Preparedness Month coalition partners this year to engage the whole community, and encourage every American to prepare for emergencies. We are asking you to take just a few simple steps to improve your preparedness:

- Make an emergency plan with your family and put together a kit of basic emergency supplies;
- Learn what hazards could affect your workplace or community; and
- Know the appropriate ways to respond.

To help you better prepare this month and throughout the year, representatives from across the Department have been working to implement the Employee Preparedness Initiative. The foundation of this program is a short, introductory online course, *Emergency Preparedness for Federal Employees*. I urge you to take this course and use the tools it provides to prepare yourself and your family for emergencies. Please visit Connect for more information.

We all have an important role to play in bolstering preparedness for disasters of all kinds. Let's work together to make our families, our communities, and our Department safer, more resilient, and better prepared for the next emergency.

Thanks for all you do to keep America safe.

Yours very truly,

Janet Napolitano
Secretary