

Sunday will mark the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on New York City and Washington D.C.

Special ceremonies and observances are planned throughout the across America on the day now set aside each year as Patriot Day in honor of those who were injured or killed during the attacks.

Pres. Barack Obama has declared Sept. 11 a National Day of Service and Remembrance and encourages all Americans to come together in their communities and neighborhoods to remember the victims of 9/11 with acts of service and charity and to pay tribute the first responders who gave their lives trying to assist them.

“On this 10th anniversary, we still face great challenges as a nation. We’re emerging from the worst economic crisis in our lifetimes. We’re taking the fight to al Qaeda, ending the war in Iraq and starting to bring our troops home from Afghanistan. And we’re working to rebuild the foundation of our national strength here at home,” said Obama.

“None of this will be easy. And it can’t be the work of government alone. As we saw after 9/11, the strength of America has always been the character and compassion of our people. So as we mark this solemn anniversary, let’s summon that spirit once more. And let’s show that the sense of common purpose that we need in America doesn’t have to be a fleeting moment; it can be a lasting virtue — not just on one day, but every day.”

Nationwide prayer events are also planned throughout the day on Sunday, including the Unite the USA 911 Prayer Team and the Presidential Prayer Team, online efforts to encourage people to pray for the United States anytime and anywhere, but especially on Sept. 11.

A Time to Remember. A Time to Prepare.

Written by Wauneta Breeze

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September is National Preparedness Month. National Preparedness Month, or NPM, was originally created by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Ready Campaign in response to the tragic events of 9/11 in order to educate the public on how to prepare for emergencies. In tribute to this September's 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, this year's NPM campaign focuses on the theme "A Time to Remember. A Time to Prepare."

FEMA and the Ready Campaign urge communities around the country to take a moment in September to remember the disasters from our past and prepare for the disasters of the future.

Emergency preparedness is the responsibility of every citizen. It takes a team effort to ensure that we are ready for any disaster or emergency. The Ready Campaign and Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) encourage everyone to participate in preparedness activities and to get their families, businesses, neighborhoods, and communities prepared by putting together an emergency supply kit, make an emergency plan, and join in local efforts to become a community preparedness partner.

"Only by working together as a team can we be truly ready for emergencies and disasters," notes Myra Stoney, SWNPHD director.

To help remember 9/11 and observe Preparedness Month the health department, in collaboration with emergency management, is kicking off a new program to help those with functional or special needs prepare for a disaster or other emergency.

SWNPHD has signed up with Lincoln/Lancaster County Emergency Management to provide a Functional Needs Disaster Registry. This is an online disaster database for those who need more help or are likely to be disconnected from critically important support after a disaster.

For more information please see SWNPHD website at <http://swhealthdept.com/> or visit with your local emergency manager.

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For more information on how to get prepared, individuals can visit the Ready websites at Ready.gov.

“These activities, along with a vigilant public, contribute to an overall level of preparedness that is critical to the safety of our region and the entire country,” said Stoney. “Don’t forget to take a moment on Sunday, Sept. 11, to remember and honor those who died in the 9/11 tragedies.”

More information may be obtained by calling Heidi Wheeler, Emergency Response Coordinator at SWNPHD at 308-345-4223 or 308-882-4269. Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department serves Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Perkins and Red Willow counties. SWNPHD is located at 404 West 10th in McCook.

More information can be found at www.swhealthdept.com or find us on Facebook.