

Speech on National Preparedness, DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano

American Red Cross, Hall of Service
September 29, 2009



Homeland
Security

“Our Shared Responsibility: Building a Ready and Resilient Nation”

The Secretary’s Message

- ❖ In a major speech closing out National Preparedness Month, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano called preparedness a **“Shared Responsibility,”** saying, *“When we act together, we contribute to our nation’s security ... and that is part of good citizenship.”*
- ❖ The Secretary called on all Americans to build a culture **of readiness and resilience** in our communities that draws on our history of resilience in the face of adversity:

“A ready nation is one where communities are prepared for the types of emergencies they are most likely to encounter. It’s one where federal, state, local, and tribal governments are working in harmony with local communities, the private sector, and with individuals.”

- ❖ The Secretary also thanked the many volunteers, professionals, and NPM Coalition members for their hard work and dedication:

“Thanks to our Ready Campaign, we had more than 2,500 organizations join the National Preparedness Month Coalition this year ... it underscores the importance of what the American Red Cross, Citizen Corps, and individuals and organizations across the country do every day to prepare for disasters and threats of all kinds.”

The Secretary’s Call to Action

Secretary Napolitano concluded by calling on all Americans to take two steps:

- ❖ **“First** take the most basic steps: **get an emergency kit, make a family reunification plan, and get better informed.** The easiest way to begin is to go to Ready.Gov or the Spanish-language listo.Gov.”
- ❖ **“Second** I called on all of us to look to the millions of community organizations, faith groups, and small businesses that make up our social fabric. I asked that next time individuals attend a town meeting, a staff event, or a school function – big or small – they simply raise your hand, and ask, **‘What’s our plan?’** Ask to take some time at the next meeting to discuss your group’s plans for an emergency.”