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NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: CYNTHIA SCOTT, PIO
PHONE: 732-431-6400 ext. 1113

SHERIFF'S OFFICE KICKS OFF NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH WITH SAFETY TIPS AND THE LAUNCH OF ITS NEWLY UPDATED APP

Monmouth County: Sheriff Shaun Golden is reinforcing the message to prepare, plan, stay informed and get involved as National Preparedness Month gets underway Sept. 1. National Preparedness Month, sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Homeland Security, is an effort to educate the public on how to prepare for emergencies.

“The Monmouth County Sheriff’s Office, in partnership with numerous agencies, prepares for emergencies such as natural disasters, mass casualties and chemical threats throughout the year, by conducting drills, training, tabletops exercises and educational programs,” said Sheriff Shaun Golden whose agency runs the Office of Emergency Management. “These efforts are critical in ensuring that we can effectively and efficiently respond to crises situations, but, it’s vital the public plays a role as well, by preparing, planning and staying informed.”

On September 30, the sheriff’s office in partnership with Neptune OEM will be participating in “National PrepareAthon Day” which provides individuals, organizations, and communities with an opportunity to prepare for specific hazards through drills, discussions and exercises. The event will take place from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the parking lot of the Headliner, 1401 Route 35.

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SHERIFF'S OFFICE KICKS OFF NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH WITH SAFETY TIPS AND THE LAUNCH OF ITS NEWLY UPDATED APP

To keep up with the most up to date information, Sheriff Golden is asking residents to like or follow the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office on social media through Facebook, **Monmouth County Sheriff's Office** and Twitter, **@MonmouthSheriff**, and to download the agency's newly updated application for smartphones. The Monmouth County Sheriff's Office app has emergency notifications and public safety information at your fingertips. It is designed for Android and iOS platforms and can be downloaded for free.

The app provides instant access to sheriff's office related information, which includes real-time emergency notifications through its integrated push notification system that automatically displays the message on the phone. Users are able to be instantly alerted to weather, or other emergency related situations, from the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office and the agency's Office of Emergency Management. The OEM section of the app has been expanded to include important information regarding the warning signs of hurricanes, tornadoes and flash floods as well as other weather related events. To download the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office app, log onto **www.mcsonj.org/downloadapp**.

"It can be challenging during emergency situations to provide consistent, official messages to a large group of residents. In addition to social media and our website which are updated regularly, this app is another tool that we have to keep the public informed and encourage all residents to utilize," said Sheriff Golden.

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