

NEWS



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For Immediate Release:

Philadelphia Prepares the Blind and Visually Impaired Communities for Emergencies

September is National Preparedness Month and the City of Philadelphia Managing Director's Office of Emergency Management (MDO-OEM) works to prepare every community in the city for emergencies.

On Thursday, September 3, Philadelphia OEM visited the Associated Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 919 Walnut Street, to provide a free emergency preparedness workshop, as well as large print, Braille, and audio versions of Ready Philadelphia preparedness materials.

"The information shared at these workshops provides critical information to the blind and visually impaired community and prepares them for situations and circumstances beyond their control," said Patricia C. Johnson, ASB President and CEO. "Offering the materials in accessible formats for this community is crucial for their safety and piece of mind. We value those we work with and for so anything we can do to help broaden their awareness is necessary and beneficial to all involved."

These emergency preparedness workshops educate the public on how to develop a household emergency plan, what to have on hand in case they have to shelter in place or evacuate, and how to stay informed during an emergency.

"It is important to reach out to all communities within the city to ensure everyone has the information they need to prepare now before an emergency strikes," said Deputy Managing Director for Emergency Management MaryAnn E. Tierney. "That's why we have preparedness materials available in several languages, large print, Braille and on an audio CD. Our goal is for everyone to plan for and take the necessary steps now to get ready."

For information on all the events during National Preparedness Month or to receive emergencies preparedness materials, visit the Philadelphia Office of Emergency Management website at www.phila.gov/ready or call 3-1-1.

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