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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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**NEW, TOLL-FREE SERVICE TO HELP FAMILIES,
BUSINESSES BETTER PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES**
1-888-9-READYPA Latest Tool from State's ReadyPA Public Outreach Campaign

HARRISBURG – Pennsylvanians have another tool to help them to be better prepared for emergencies, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency said today.

The commonwealth today unveiled a new, toll-free line, **1-888-9-READYPA** (1-888-973-2397), as part of ReadyPA, a public outreach campaign that includes a Web site – www.ReadyPA.org – to educate citizens about the importance of creating emergency kits and family emergency plans.

“With this toll-free number, we’re making it easier for citizens to obtain the information they need to prepare for emergencies,” said Robert P. French, director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. “They can call to request information or speak to someone if they have additional questions. The number is another way for families and individuals to prepare for any emergency and to access information that’s available on ReadyPA.org.”

“It is extremely important for all Pennsylvanians to take the necessary steps to prepare themselves and their families for emergencies,” said acting Secretary of Health Everette James. “Everyone should have an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, be informed about the potential emergencies that could affect them, and get involved in helping their

communities prepare for potential hazards. ReadyPA provides the tools our citizens need to stay safe when a disaster strikes.”

ReadyPA, which was unveiled during National Preparedness Month in September, outlines 10 potential emergencies that Pennsylvanians may face so that citizens can be better prepared to respond quickly and appropriately.

Downloadable materials, including home and car emergency kit checklists and emergency plan templates, are available at www.ReadyPA.org and now also through 1-888-9-READYPA. Citizens can find information about getting involved in local emergency response efforts and other volunteer opportunities through the Web site or the toll-free line.

ReadyPA is a statewide campaign aimed at motivating Pennsylvanians to take action to prepare for a disaster. The campaign is supported by PEMA, Pennsylvania Citizen Corps, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and volunteer organizations. It seeks to coordinate a cohesive statewide program and a call to action regarding emergency preparedness.

Information about year-round emergency preparedness and planning is available online at www.ReadyPA.org.

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EDITOR’S NOTE: For graphic of the ReadyPA logo, click on “Links” at www.pema.state.pa.us, then right-click the logo and select “Save Picture As.” If using the logo in electronic media, hyperlink it to: <http://www.readypa.org>.