



BE READY: HOW TO PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES DURING NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Every September, Americans are reminded to take steps to prepare for disasters and emergencies. This time of year is known as National Preparedness Month. It's a chance to make sure your home, business, school, and community are ready for anything from flooding to wildfires. September is also the peak of hurricane season, so it's a great time to get serious about safety. Being prepared can help you stay safe and recover faster after a disaster. Here are some simple and important ways to get started.

Stay Connected & Informed

Emergency messages are sent by state and local governments and the National Weather Service via television, radio, weather radios, social media, and alerts on cellular phones. Make sure you have a way to monitor severe weather conditions and receive emergency alerts at all times. The City of Hickory and Catawba County use CodeRED to send important alerts by call, text, and email to residents about severe weather, utility service interruptions, public safety concerns, hydrant flushing schedules, and other urgent situations. By registering for CodeRED Community Alerts, you can stay up to date on critical information that affects your home and community.

CODEREDBy **CRISIS24**SIGN UP FOR WEATHER
& EMERGENCY ALERTS

Build an Emergency Kit

An emergency kit should have everything you need to survive for at least three days.

Include items like:

- Non-perishable food and water for each person
- A flashlight and extra batteries
- A first aid kit
- A battery-powered or hand crank radio
- A cell phone charger and battery pack
- Medicines and necessary supplies for babies and/or pets
- A waterproof container for storing important documents like insurance papers



Create an Emergency Plan & Practice It

Know what kinds of disasters could happen in your area. These might include floods, hurricanes, fires, or tornadoes. Make a plan for how your family will stay in touch and meet up if you get separated. Choose meeting places both near your home and farther away. Practice your plan so everyone knows what to do.

National Preparedness Month is a great reminder to take action now. By planning ahead, you can protect yourself, your loved ones, and your community. Start today and be ready for whatever comes your way. Visit ReadyNC.gov for more information to help you plan, prepare, and stay informed.



HICKORY CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, October 6 & 20
6 p.m.
Hickory City Hall
HickoryNC.gov

AUTOLAWN
Saturday, October 3
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
SALT Block Lawn
HickoryArt.org

CATAWBA RIVERSWEEP
Saturday, October 3
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Geitner Park
CatawbaRiverkeeper.org

**JAZZ LEGACY
CONCERT SERIES**
Sunday, October 4 & 18
2-4 p.m.
Union Square
HickoryJazzSociety.com

OKTOBERFEST
October 9-11
Downtown Hickory
DowntownHickory.com

TRICK OR TROT 5K
Saturday, October 31
9 a.m.
Highland Recreation Center
RunSignUp.com

 City of Hickory, NC
- Government

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 City of Hickory

STOP THE CLOG: WHY FOG IS A BIG PROBLEM FOR HICKORY'S SEWERS

FOG—fats, oils, and grease from everyday cooking—might seem harmless when rinsed down the drain, but it's one of North Carolina's top causes of sewer overflows. When FOG sticks to pipes, it builds up like plaque, narrowing the line until it blocks completely. Those blockages can send raw sewage into streets, creeks, parks, and even homes.



Sewer spills are messy, expensive, and bad for our environment. Cleanup requires specialized crews, and those costs eventually affect everyone. Home backups are even worse—costly, unpleasant, and often the homeowner's responsibility if the clog starts on their side.

The fix is simple, and it starts in the kitchen:

- Never pour grease down the drain.
- Let oils and grease cool and solidify, then toss them in the trash.
- Wipe greasy pans before washing.
- Use sink strainers and throw food scraps away.
- Report overflows immediately to Public Utilities at 828-323-7427.

A few small steps keep our pipes clear, protect our waterways, and save money for everyone. Let's keep Hickory flowing smoothly.

OKTOBERFEST RETURNS OCT. 9-11

Hickory Downtown Development Association will once again host Oktoberfest, a three-day outdoor festival celebrating Hickory's German heritage. A tradition that began in 1985, Oktoberfest takes place in downtown Hickory each year on the second weekend of October and has grown into one of Western North Carolina's premier events. This year's Oktoberfest will feature two stages of live music, a KidsFest area, beer gardens, an arts and crafts show, and hundreds of food and commercial vendors. Festivities kick off on Friday, Oct. 9, with food vendors serving lunch at noon and the official festival opening at 5 p.m. Oktoberfest fun continues throughout the weekend on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 10-11. For full details, visit www.downtownhickory.com.

