Preparation can start in your house of worship, organization, shelter or even health facility. In addition, congregations often play an integral role in local readiness and recovery, providing shelter and supplies before and after disasters. Here are some steps you can take to ensure that your organization and your members are ready for emergencies.

1. Prepare: Appoint a Disaster Response Coordinator or committee to oversee preparedness and response efforts. Also, conduct an evacuation drill every year.

2. Plan: Create a organization continuity plan and develop a communications network with member contact info.

3. Stay Informed: Encourage your members to pledge to prepare. Set up a table with preparedness info, share an article in your newsletter or bulletin, play a video during your announcements or host an event during National Preparedness Month in September.

Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency’s Community Action and Preparedness Program has resources to help you get prepared and share the news with your members, including a pledge form, printable flyers and customizable emergency plans. Visit gema.georgia.gov/praise-preparedness to find out more.