Alabama Extension to Hold Disaster Preparedness Expo on March 25

Natural and manmade disasters have the ability to disrupt lives, and without careful planning can have adverse effects for years to come. To help individuals, families, businesses, and non-profit organizations to better prepare, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System’s Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs unit will hold its first Urban Living Expo (ULE) on Saturday, March 25, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This event will be held at Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University’s Agribition Center, 4925 Moores Mill Road in Huntsville, Alabama.

The theme for the ULE 2017 is “Plan-Practice-Prepare: Don’t Get Caught off Guard When Disaster Occurs!” The primary objectives of the event are to engage the public through interactive displays and to disseminate information across Extension program areas to individuals, families, and local businesses and organizations about disasters. But more importantly, participants will learn the most effective actions to take to maximize safety and to ensure that their needs and the needs of their family members, including pets are adequately met should disaster strike.

“It is our hope that no one ever encounters a natural or manmade disaster. However, today we must be ready for the unexpected! The goal of the first Urban Living Expo is to not only educate Alabama residents about disaster preparedness resources, but to encourage individuals and families to develop a disaster plan for themselves, their families, and for animals left in their care,” said Robert Spencer, event co-chair and urban regional Extension specialist.

Admission is free; however, all participants are required to register at http://www.aces.edu/urban/living-expo. In addition, we are asking each participant to bring a non-perishable food item that will be collected and donated to local food banks. Lunch will be served between 12:00-1:00 p.m. along with light refreshments throughout the event. Participants will also have a chance to win door prizes such as a 4,000 watt generator and weather radios provided by event exhibitors and sponsors. The National Weather Service staff will also be on site to help participants to program weather radios.

Exhibitors and sponsors are welcome. Exhibitors are asked to pay a set-up fee of $25.00 or to provide a door prize of equal value. For exhibit information, please contact Robert Spencer at (256) 372-4983 or rds0002@aces.edu. If you would like to become a sponsor, please contact Dr. Karnita Garner at (256) 372-8331 or kfg0003@aces.edu, or visit www.aces.edu/urban for more information.

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