



# ***NEWS RELEASE***

## **St. Charles County Government**

**Department of Community Health and the Environment**

*Gil Copley, Director  
(636) 949-7477*

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Cameron (Wessel) Satterfield, Public Information Officer (636) 949-7408  
Gil Copley, Director, Department of Community Health and the Environment (636) 949-7477

### **Are You Prepared for an Emergency?**

National Public Health Week is April 2-8

***St. Charles County, Missouri*** – Emergencies can happen at any time, putting your safety and that of your family at risk. The theme for this year’s observance of National Public Health Week is “Take the First Step: Preparedness and Public Health Threats.” During the week of April 2-8, residents of St. Charles County are urged to make sure they are ready when disaster strikes.

“Emergency preparedness is everyone’s responsibility,” says Gil Copley, director of the St. Charles County Department of Community Health and the Environment. “Whether it’s a flu epidemic, a tornado, or another type of disaster, being prepared and knowing what to do can save lives when seconds count.”

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and the St. Charles County Department of Community Health and the Environment are helping citizens get prepared through “Ready in 3.” The program teaches people three simple steps they can take to be better prepared.

- Create a plan for you, your family, and your business.
- Prepare emergency kits for your home, your car, and your workplace.
- Listen for information about what to do and where to go during an actual emergency.

A variety of materials are available for free from DHSS by visiting [www.dhss.mo.gov/Ready\\_in\\_3](http://www.dhss.mo.gov/Ready_in_3). Materials can also be obtained by calling or visiting the Department of Community Health and the Environment. In addition, department staff can deliver “Ready in 3” presentations to schools, businesses, and civic organizations. For more information, or to schedule a presentation, call (636) 949-7408.

For more information about the St. Charles County Department of Community Health and the Environment, call (636) 949-7400 or visit [www.scchealth.org](http://www.scchealth.org).

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