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Selby Library hosts Community Preparedness Day

Are you prepared for any emergency? Residents and visitors can get the answer at the Sarasota County Libraries Community Preparedness Day, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 26, at Selby Public Library, 1331 First St., Sarasota.

The daylong event, sponsored by the National Library of Medicine, will feature Sarasota County Emergency Services staff and others speaking on related topics, including emergency response and recovery planning, stress during a crisis, aquatic safety, mosquito management and medical issues. Children's activities are also planned throughout the day, and include learning to "Stop, Drop and Roll," as well as a firefighter demonstration.

"It's all about having the right information and having a plan in place before you need it," said Andrea Ginsky, Sarasota County Library System manager. The theme of the event is "Be Informed, Be Prepared" and according to Ginsky, "the best place to get information is at your local library. Libraries connect people, information, and resources."

From the spread of infectious diseases to the widespread devastation of a major hurricane, the key to protecting people and property is to be prepared. Following on that theme, Sarasota County libraries will raffle off several "Ultimate Disaster Preparedness Kits" that contain virtually every essential item needed during an emergency.

"We have partnered with more than 20 community-based organizations, including Sarasota Memorial Hospital's Bishopric Medical Library, the Red Cross and the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office to give people the latest information on how to protect themselves," said Ginsky.

For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask about the Sarasota County Libraries Community Preparedness Day.

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