

ECHO News Release

Emergency, Community and Health Outreach



Pathway to Community Preparedness and Resiliency on 10th Anniversary of 9/11

St. Paul, Minn. (8.11.11) – Disasters can suddenly befall communities without warning and their effect can be felt for months and even years to come. As a result, ECHO Minnesota has created a program on how families and communities can best prepare for the worst of situations. The program aims to address the aspects of disasters that families and communities can control, such as preparedness, disaster response, and resiliency as a community.

The 30-minute television show entitled “Community Strength and Preparedness” will be available in Somali, Hmong, Spanish, and low-literacy English. The program will air on the 10th anniversary of September 11th, 2001, during National Preparedness Month. The program’s focus is on helping community members to begin a dialogue on emergency preparedness and resiliency after an emergency.

“If you look at the course of a year, you’ve got a lot of emergencies that are actually taking affect in our communities and they don’t have to be big incidents like the bridge coming down; they can also be incidents that affect a specific community that they need to respond to,” said Valerie Donovan, ECHO Board Member.

ECHO has partnered with the Public Health Emergency Coordinators (PHEC) in order to bring this important program to Minnesota’s communities. The program will air on the *tptMN* channel Sundays at 7 p.m. in early September and is available any time at echominnesota.org.

Schedule and guests for “Community Strength and Preparedness” on *tptMN*:

- **Sept 4 at 7:00 p.m. in Spanish** – Guests: Marlene Ovalle Stiehm, Psychologist and Licensed Family Therapist and Maria Castor, Senior Social Worker, Hennepin County
- **Sept 4 at 7:30 p.m. in Hmong** – Guests: Xee Xiong Vang, Health Educator at West Side Community Health Services and David Yang, Police Officer, City of St. Paul
- **Sept 11 at 7:00 p.m. in Somali** – Guests: Mahamed Cali, Executive Director Somali American Community and Dr. Osman Ahmed (Harare), Executive Director, East Africa Health Project
- **Sept 11 at 7:30 p.m. in Low-Literacy English** – Guests: Jonathan Bundt, Masa Consulting, and Mao Thao, Community Member who lived in Thai refugee camp.

All programs are available any time in multiple languages with English captions at echominnesota.org.

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About the Organizations:

ECHO

Formed in 2004, the mission of ECHO is to leverage partnerships to deliver vital health, safety, emergency and civic engagement information to help the ever-changing, diverse population integrate and become successful in our communities. For more information visit www.echominnesota.org

Twin Cities’ Metro Public Health Emergency Coordinators’ mission is to provide leadership and to assure a coordinated approach to prepare for, mitigate, respond to and recover from an all-hazard event/incident with public health implications in the Twin Cities metropolitan region.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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