

# *Renville County MN Responds*

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR RC MN RESPONDS VOLUNTEERS



## *Fall is in the Air*

by Melanie Netland

Happy fall to all of the Renville County MN Responds volunteers from your new volunteer coordinator! I am excited to be taking on this role, and I invite you all to provide me with any feedback or suggestions on both the newsletter and the volunteer program.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our drill in June. 59 out of 110 responded, which was a 54% response rate. For those who weren't able to respond, please use the directions at the left to update your contact preferences, or let me know if you are no longer able to serve as a volunteer. Thank you!

***Please update  
your contact  
information:***

***Log in to [mnresponds.org](http://mnresponds.org)***

***Click on "My Profile"***

***Click on "Contact"***

***Check to make sure that your  
contact preferences are up-to-  
date. If you need assistance,  
please reach out to me.***

## *Share Roads Safely During Harvest Time*

by Mark Vanderlinde, from cenex.com



With harvest well underway, farm machinery operators and other drivers should take extra care to prevent potential accidents on rural roadways. "It is very important for farmers and motorists alike to be vigilant when traveling on rural roads. As a driver, make sure you are aware of what's ahead of you and behind you," says Kevin Gutknecht, director of communications for the Minnesota Department of Transportation. "Crashes between automobiles and farm equipment are nearly always severe. So, please watch out. Your diligence this fall could save a life." Tractors and combines are large and heavy, making it difficult for operators to accelerate, slow down and stop. Farm vehicles make wide turns and the large-scale equipment often crosses the center line, creating large blind spots and making it hard for operators to see approaching vehicles. To ensure safety, motorists should always slow down and use caution when approaching farm equipment. And, farmers need to move cautiously across roadways, always ensuring to check and double check blind spots. Driving defensively is important for all drivers, but is imperative for farm machinery operators.

They should display the slow moving vehicle (SMV) emblem when driving under 30 mph, use proper vehicle lighting, and mount amber flashing lights in both the front and rear. In addition, take the extra time to check hitches, use safety chains and follow all state laws. As we prepare to share the road during harvest time, motorists should wait for a safe place to pass farm vehicles, keep headlights on at all times and avoid tailgating. Watch for debris dropped by trucks hauling grain and other crops. It's safer to brake or drive through debris than to veer into oncoming traffic or off the road. Being vigilant when driving on rural roads will help protect everyone. So, here's to a safe and successful harvest.

### *Recipe Corner: Black Beans & Rice*

4 tsp. olive oil  
1 green pepper, chopped  
1 onion, chopped  
3 cloves garlic, minced  
2 (16oz) cans black beans, rinsed and drained  
1 (14.5oz) can diced tomatoes  
1.5 cups chicken broth  
3/4 tsp thyme  
1 bay leaf  
1/2 tsp onion powder  
1/2 cup water

1. Sauté onion, garlic, and bell pepper in the oil on medium heat for 15 minutes, or until vegetables are tender.
2. Stir in the beans, tomatoes, broth, thyme, bay leaf, oregano, and water. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to a simmer uncovered for 45 minutes or until sauce is thickened.
3. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve over hot cooked brown rice

*Variation: add a package of kielbasa, chopped into bite-sized pieces.*




## *September is National Preparedness Month*

National Preparedness Month is part of a governmental effort to strengthen our country's preparedness capabilities. It encourages Americans to take steps to prepare for

emergencies in their homes, businesses, schools and communities. By being a MN Responds Volunteer, you are already helping our community to prepare for disasters. This month, please take a minute to review your family's emergency plan & prepare an emergency supply kit. While the most common emergencies in our area are weather or weather-related (flooding, tornadoes, snowstorms, power outages), other scenarios, such as fire, should be considered as well. For more information, visit [ready.gov](http://ready.gov).



# 12 WAYS TO PREPARE

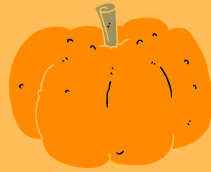
<input type="checkbox"/>  Sign up for Alerts and Warnings	<input type="checkbox"/>  Make a Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>  Save for a Rainy Day	<input type="checkbox"/>  Practice Emergency Drills	<input type="checkbox"/>  Test Family Communication Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>  Safeguard Documents
<input type="checkbox"/>  Plan with Neighbors	<input type="checkbox"/>  Make Your Home Safer	<input type="checkbox"/>  Know Evacuation Routes	<input type="checkbox"/>  Assemble or Update Supplies	<input type="checkbox"/>  Get Involved in Your Community	<input type="checkbox"/>  Document and Insure Property



**~Fall is the perfect time to turn over a new leaf~**

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# ***Minnesota Responds***

medical  
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**MN Responds Website:**  
**<https://mnresponds.org/>**