



By Jan Rahn

Managing Editor

Schools in Perkins County are prepared for whatever might go wrong thanks to emergency go kits provided by the Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD).

Every school in the health department's eight-county district was given the kits in recognition of National Preparedness Month in September.

Americans are encouraged to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies anywhere.

“The preparedness and stability of our schools are important in the recovery efforts of a community after an emergency or disaster, said Heidi Wheeler, emergency response coordinator of SWNPHD.

“Additionally, many parents are part of the emergency workforce responding to the event—EMS,

firefighters, nurses, doctors, law enforcement—that can not, or will not, respond unless they have a safe and secure environment in which to leave their children.”

Superintendent Terry Prante accepted the go kits on behalf of Perkins County Schools.

The emergency kits are equipped with items necessary for many different types of emergencies, whether accidental or intentional.

The kits include essential first aid items and personal care items.

“They’re a good thing to have available,” said Prante. He explained that should students need to evacuate the school, they would go to a site that already has some things available. The first aid items, however, would be especially nice to have at that setting, he said.

Being prepared is a collaborative effort because emergencies in the schools can happen anytime.

These go-kits are made for a wide range of threats—natural disasters, school shootings, chemical spills or explosions, just to name a few.

The kits can be used by teachers if they need to shelter-in-place with their students or the school is instructed to lock down.

“The go-kits are a great supplement to the emergency kits and disaster plans the schools already have in place,” said Wheeler. “The bottom line is that preparedness is important and prevention is possible—we must be proactive to help schools prepare for any disaster.”

National Preparedness Month (NPM) is sponsored by the Ready Campaign in partnership with

Citizen Corps and the Ad Council.

The month is designed to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and communities.

For more information on preparing for an emergency or disaster, call SWNPHD at 308-345-4223 or visit the web site at www.swhealthdept.com.

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department serves Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Perkins and Red Willow counties.

