



## Region II Individual and Community Preparedness Bulletin



### *NPM - Practice and Build Out Your Plans!*



Americans at all income levels have experienced the challenges of rebuilding their lives after a disaster or other emergency. In these stressful circumstances, having access to personal financial, insurance, medical, and other records is crucial for starting the process of recovery quickly and efficiently. Taking the time now to collect and secure these critical records will give you peace of mind and, in the event of an emergency, will ensure that you have the documentation needed to start the recovery process without delay.

To meet the goals of week three of National Preparedness Month, consider building an Emergency Financial First Aid Kit (EFFAK). If a disaster or other emergency strikes your community, you may only have seconds or minutes to react. In those critical moments, your focus will be on your family's safety. Once the immediate danger has passed, having your homeowners or renters insurance policy, bank account information, and other household records and contacts will be essential as you begin the recovery process. The EFFAK can help you be ready.

The nonprofit organization HOPE Coalition America, in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), created the EFFAK in 2004 to help individuals and families collect and organize critical financial, medical, and household contact information. After completing the EFFAK, you will have a centralized record of essential household information whenever you need it, giving you peace of mind that you will be able to rebuild your life more quickly if you ever experience a disaster.



The EFFAK has four sections, each of which includes a checklist of important documents and forms to compile your relevant information: Household Identification, Financial and Legal Documentation, Medical Information, and Household Contacts. To learn more about the EFFAK, please follow this link: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/96123>.

## Then and Now



The Regional Preparedness Liaison provided a hurricane preparedness presentation to members of the NYC-Metro Chapter of the Rotary Club at the Union League Club in midtown Manhattan. The mission of the Rotary Club is to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

(Right) Region II National Preparedness staff attended the NYC Chamber of Commerce Small Business Expo at the Hilton Hotel in midtown Manhattan. NPD provided printed materials and spoke with attendees about how to enroll in the National Flood Insurance Program, which items to include in a Go-Kit, and how to safeguard critical documents.



(Left) The Regional Preparedness Liaison provided a preparedness overview including how to establish a family communications plan to cadets, faculty, and staff at the annual Emergency Preparedness Fair.

## General Assembly of the United Nations

The month of September brings to the United States a meeting of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). All city, state and federal partners are active in the planning and preparation for this event. For more information please check: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/>

### Exercise Design Course

FEMA Region II will be conducting training for emergency exercise design and evaluation (a combination of FEMA Courses I-120 and L-146). The course is a 4 day program which focuses on the design phase of the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP).

#### Course details:

Emergency managers, emergency services personnel, and other individuals who are part of the emergency preparedness and response or continuity of operations need to be able to use the fundamentals of exercise simulation and design as an integrated system of resources and capabilities. Skills learned during this program will enable jurisdictions to conduct NIMS required exercises.

*The course will develop emergency response and continuity exercise skills in the following areas:*

- Exercise programs
- Exercise design steps
- Exercise evaluation
- Designing a functional exercise
- Exercise process
- Tabletop, functional and full scale exercises
- Exercise enhancements

*The course will conclude with students conducting and evaluating actual tabletop and functional exercises in a group/team environment.*

**October 30-November 3, 2017 Daily: 0900-1530**

Burlington County Fire Academy, 53 Academy Dr., Westampton, NJ

**November 7-10, 2017 Daily: 0900-1530**

Holy Name Medical Center, 718 Teaneck Rd., Teaneck, NJ

#### Registration:

Dates	Partner Agency	How to Register
October 30- November 3, 2017	NJ Courts	Email Charles Coleman, <a href="mailto:Charles.colemand@njcourts.gov">Charles.colemand@njcourts.gov</a>
November 7- November 10, 2017	Holy Name Medical Center Institute for Simulation Learning	<a href="https://fema.connectsolutions.com/r2hseepnov17/event/registration.html">https://fema.connectsolutions.com/r2hseepnov17/event/registration.html</a>



## Preparedness Planning for Senior Citizen Communities

**Description:** The senior citizen population faces several unique challenges, coupled with the fact that many are often dependent upon others for basic necessities and psychosocial support. This dependency often increases their vulnerability to the impacts of major disasters, when not only are the seniors themselves impacted, but these critical services are also disrupted. Currently, 46.2 million people in the United States are 65 years old or older, with that number expected to increase each year. This population demographic made up 13.3% of the population in the 2011 Census. The ability to recover from an emergency tomorrow often depends on planning and preparation done today. This webinar will provide to older individuals and their caregivers, as well as to the local agencies who serve them, tools and information to assist them in assessing their needs and vulnerabilities so they can be better prepared to cope with emergencies.

**Speakers:** **Ms. Kathleen Otte** is the Regional Administrator for HHS Regions I and II for the U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL). In this capacity, she represents the Administration and the Assistant Secretary on Aging on all matters related to the implementation of the Older Americans Act (OAA) and other aging related issues within the 8 states and 2 territories she oversees. Prior to joining AoA, Kathleen served as the Director of the Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services for the State of New Hampshire. Kathleen and the New Hampshire team designed and implemented a caregiver support program that received national distinction by winning the Regional Innovation Award from The Council of State Governments and developed the nation's first statewide 'Structured Decision Making' process for Adult Protective Services.

Kathleen has over 30 years' experience in the field of aging, having served or volunteered in various human service delivery programs. In 2014, Kathleen received the Spirit of Jane Addams Award for Outstanding Performance in Social Justice from Be the Evidence, International for her work with Elder Justice Initiatives.

**Rhonda Schwartz** is an Aging Services Program Specialist within the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Administration for Community Living. Rhonda is assigned to the Regional Office located in Boston, MA, where she works with federal, state and tribal organizations in the region, with particular attention to oversight of the Older Americans Act state and tribal grant programs. Prior to joining ACL in July 2016, Rhonda spent more than seven years managing Older Americans Act and other ACL programs at the Rhode Island Division of Elderly Affairs. Rhonda previously practiced law for sixteen years, specializing in commercial real estate transactions, before pursuing a Masters Degree in Social Work, focusing on older adults.

**Date / Time:** September 26 2017, 12:00 – 1:00pm EDT

**Registration Link:** <https://fema.connectsolutions.com/r2seniorwebinar/event/registration.html>

# Inclusive Emergency Preparedness

## ***Andrew Perlman***

### ***Summary:***

Emergency Preparedness Inclusion Strategies - increase your awareness of different community engagement strategies that include, inform and involve the disability community and others with access and functional needs. Learn the difference between retail and wholesale community engagement, and how both can work for you. Learn how to get started with developing a Community Emergency Plan with the use of a template developed by NYC Emergency Management. Learn about targeted community messaging and how to leverage your existing messaging systems.

### ***Bio:***

As part of NYC Emergency Management's Planning and Preparedness Division, Andy's responsibilities include but are not limited to working with agency partners. He addresses issues related to individuals with disabilities and others with access & functional needs and their service providers, incorporates strategies and integrates them into plans. Andy also serves as a member of the Operations Support Team, maintaining situational awareness between the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) and field response personnel during large scale incidents. Andy is also a retired firefighter from the Philadelphia area.

## ***Matthew Puvogel***

### ***Summary:***

During the presentation Mr. Puvogel will speak about additional steps that people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs must take to be prepared. Mr. Puvogel will speak about the importance of support networks, knowing the proper supplies to gather pertaining to one's needs, and the importance of signing up for Notify NY. In addition Mr. Puvogel will speak about services that the city offers for people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, during coastal storms and this will include accessible transportation and evacuation centers.

## ***Brian Baer***

### ***Summary:***

The importance of universal design and the elevated-single family home. While the Americans with Disabilities Act does not fully reflect accessibility concerns, we as design professionals, should use our problem-solving capabilities to guide our clients and the communities that they live in towards a more resilient environment. Removal of barriers, regardless of economic means is paramount to a community's resilience and sustainability. Once those barriers are eliminated, what does it mean to live in this community, especially for those individuals who live with an access or functional need. It starts with design for all.

**Date / Time:** September 27, 2017, 12:00 – 1:00pm EDT

**Registration Link:** <https://fema.connectsolutions.com/r2v5jem4jjd/>

### Coordinated Federal Response to Hurricane Irma Continues in Caribbean

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and its federal partners continue actively coordinating the federal response to Hurricane Irma in the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) and Puerto Rico, as Hurricane Irma began battering southern Florida last week and now as of this writing were are preparing for Hurricane Maria.

President Donald J. Trump issued a major disaster declaration for Puerto Rico as a result of Hurricane Irma, making federal funding available to affected individuals in the municipalities of Culebra and Vieques. Federal funding is also available to Commonwealth and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities. President Trump also adjusted the federal cost-share for the U.S. Virgin Islands, authorizing 90 percent federal cost share for debris removal, including direct federal assistance; and a 100 percent federal cost share for emergency protective measures, including direct federal assistance, for 30 days from the start of the incident period, and then a 90 percent federal cost share thereafter.

FEMA Incident Management Assistance Teams (IMAT) are deployed in the U.S. Virgin Islands (two IMATs), and Puerto Rico (two IMATs). As of September 10, FEMA transferred 2,100 cots to the commonwealth of Puerto Rico at their request. The following commodities have been transferred to the U.S. Virgin Islands at their request:

St. Thomas: More than 87,000 meals and 18,000 liters of water;

St. Croix: More than 96,000 meals and 48,000 liters of water;

St. John: More than 570 meals and 900 liters of water.

In addition, the following commodities are at incident support bases or distribution centers to fulfill future requests by the U.S. Virgin Islands or Puerto Rico:

U.S. Virgin Islands: More than 183,000 meals and 67,000 liters of water

San Juan, Puerto Rico: More than 103,000 meals and 592,000 liters of water

A FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Incident Support Team-Advance element, Virginia Task Force Two (VA-TF2), Virginia Task Force One (VA-TF1) are on the ground on the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico conducting operations. FEMA has also deployed additional US&R support including Canine Search and Logistics teams.

Six Mobile Emergency Response Support (MERS) personnel are deployed to support communication needs for the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Additional MERS capabilities are arriving. The FEMA National Radio System is operable in St. John and St. Thomas to help provide essential emergency communication.

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TIPS

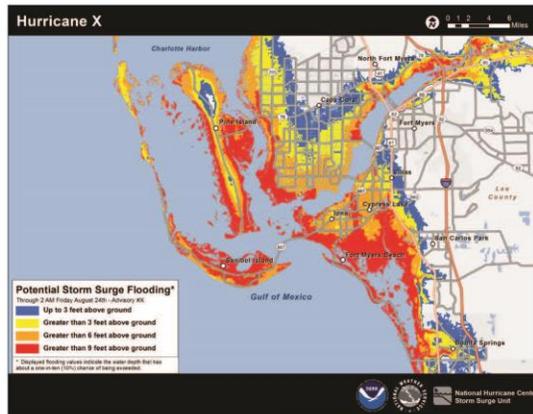


## Storm Surge Can Be Deadly! 10 Tips to Be Ready

1. Storm surge is often the greatest threat to life and property from a hurricane. It poses a significant threat for drowning. A mere **six inches** of fast-moving flood water can knock over an adult. It takes only **two feet** of rushing water to carry away most vehicles—including pickups and SUVs.
2. Storm surge can cause water levels to rise quickly and flood large areas—sometimes in just minutes, and you could be left with no time to take action if you haven't already evacuated as instructed.
3. Storm surge values do not correspond well to the hurricane wind categories (of the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale) that range from 1 to 5. These categories are based only on winds and do **not** account for storm surge.
4. Tropical storms, category 1 or 2 hurricanes, major (category 3 to 5) hurricanes, and post-tropical cyclones can **all** cause life-threatening storm surge.
5. Storm surge can also occur with non-tropical storms like Nor'easters and other winter storms.
6. Many U.S. Gulf and East Coast areas are vulnerable to storm surge, including areas up to several miles inland from the coastline. **Find out today, well before a hurricane ever approaches, if you live in a storm surge evacuation zone.**
7. Storm surge can occur before, during, or after the center of a storm passes through an area. Storm surge can sometimes cut off evacuation routes, so do not delay leaving if an evacuation is ordered for your area.
8. During the peak of a storm surge event, it is unlikely that emergency responders will be able to reach you if you are in danger.
9. Even if your community is not directly affected by storm surge, it could experience other hazards from the storm and face dangerous conditions such as **impassable roads, water and sewage problems, and power outages**. If power remains on, downed electrical wires can pose an **electrocution risk**.
10. Weather conditions and the forecast can change. Local officials could issue evacuation or other instructions for many reasons. **Always follow the instructions of local officials.**

### For More Information

The National Weather Service seeks feedback on the *Potential Storm Surge Flooding* map. For more information on the map and to submit comments on this experimental product, go to [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov).



If a tropical storm or hurricane is threatening your community, go to [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov) to see a map like this, which will show potential storm surge flooding for your area

### Know Your Maps, Know Your Zone!

The *Potential Storm Surge Flooding* map is different from FEMA flood insurance rate maps and hurricane evacuation zone maps.

- » You do not have to live in a floodplain to experience storm surge from a hurricane or other storm.
- » Evacuation zones can be established for many public safety reasons and differ from the areas shown on this map.

**Find out today if you live in a hurricane evacuation zone!**





# Flash Flood Safety



<http://www.floodsafety.noaa.gov>

On average, more people are killed by flooding than by any other single severe weather hazard, including tornadoes, lightning, and hurricanes. Most of these deaths occur at night, when it is more difficult to recognize flood dangers, and when people are trapped in vehicles. Do you and your family know what to do in case of a flood?

## **Remember...**

- **DO NOT** drive onto a flooded roadway.
- **DO NOT** drive through flowing water.
- If you approach a roadway that is flooded, **TURN AROUND - DON'T DROWN.**
- Drive with extreme caution if roads are even just wet or it is raining. You can lose control of your vehicle if hydroplaning occurs, which is when a layer of water builds up between your tires and the road, causing there to be no direct contact between your vehicle and the road.



## **If a Flash Flood Warning is issued for your area...**

- **If advised to evacuate, do so immediately!** Act quickly to save yourself, you may not have much time.
- Get out of areas that are subject to flooding and move to a safe area before access is cut off by flood waters. Low spots such as dips, canyons, and washes are not the places you want to be during flooding!
- **DO NOT** camp or park your vehicle along streams and washes, particularly during threatening conditions.
- **DO NOT** drive if not necessary. If driving is necessary, do not attempt to drive over a flooded road, as the depth of the water is not always obvious, and the roadway may no longer be intact under the water. Never drive around a barricade, they are placed there for your protection! If your vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and move to higher ground before water sweeps you and your vehicle away.
- **DO NOT** try to walk, swim, or play in flood water. You may not be able to determine if there are holes or submerged debris, or how quickly the water is flowing, and you may be swept away. If water is moving swiftly, as little as 6 inches of water can knock you off of your feet! There is also a danger of hazardous materials polluting the water. Also remember that water is an electrical conductor, if there are power lines down, there is a possibility of electrocution.
- Always continue to monitor the situation through the National Weather Service website, your NOAA Weather Radio All-Hazards, or favorite local television or radio stations.

## ***Why is "Turn Around - Don't Drown" so important?***

Each year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other severe weather related hazard. The main reason is people underestimate the force and power of water. More than half of all flood related deaths result from vehicles being swept downstream. Of these, many are preventable.



## Important Deadlines

### Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant App Period Open

The open application period began on August 14 for two competitive [Hazard Mitigation Assistance](#) grant programs. Eligible applicants including territories, federally recognized tribes, states and local governments may apply for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 [Flood Mitigation Assistance](#) (FMA) and [Pre-Disaster Mitigation](#) (PDM) grants at <https://portal.fema.gov> through **3 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on November 14, 2017**.

FMA grants are available to implement measures to reduce or eliminate risk of flood damage to structures insured by the [National Flood Insurance Program \(NFIP\)](#). For FY 2017, \$160 million is available, including \$70 million for community flood mitigation activities that address flooding on a neighborhood level, such as floodwater diversion and localized flood-control measures as well as advance assistance for mitigation design and development of community flood mitigation projects. The remainder of funds will be used for mitigation planning, technical assistance and mitigating Severe Repetitive Loss and Repetitive Loss structures, which include elevation, acquisition, and relocation projects. PDM grants are awarded for all-hazard mitigation planning and projects, such as the construction of community and residential safe rooms for tornados, and wind retrofits, which are enhancements made to strengthen the roof, walls and doors of structures to minimize damage caused by high winds. This year, \$90 million is available, including \$10 million for federally-recognized tribes. States, tribes, territories and the District of Columbia may apply for the statutory allocation of up to \$575,000 federal share. The remainder of funds will be awarded on a competitive basis with an emphasis on mitigation activities that complement the post-disaster funding available under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and the flood mitigation funding from the FMA program.

### FEMA Seeks Input on Fiscal Year 2018-2022 FEMA Strategic Plan

FEMA Administrator Long strongly believes in the importance of hearing external partners' perspectives to help FEMA improve the way business is done. Throughout the next few months, FEMA is inviting its stakeholders and partners from across the whole community to help shape the Fiscal Year 2018-2022 FEMA Strategic Plan. In an effort to reach as many stakeholders and partners as possible, FEMA is accepting feedback via [IdeaScale](#) – an interactive, web-based application that allows idea sharing, collaboration and engagement. FEMA is looking for input and engagement on:

#### **Simplifying Recovery and Reducing Disaster Costs**

- How can FEMA simplify recovery programs and reduce disaster costs while ensuring accountability, customer service, and fiscal stewardship?

#### **Buying Down Risk through Preparedness and Mitigation**

- How should risk be calculated in awarding grants?
- What type of grants are best suited for effectively reducing risk?
- How do we incentivize more investment in preparedness/mitigation prior to a disaster (not only federal investment)?
- How should the nation, including but not limited to FEMA, train and credential a surge disaster workforce ahead of major disasters?
- What are new ways to think about a true culture of preparedness?

We value the input and diverse perspectives that you bring to help inform this process, the final product, and our efforts. Our [IdeaScale](#) campaigns will be open until **October 5, 2017**. We look forward to your ideas and suggestions.

## EDUCATIONAL / TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

### 65<sup>th</sup> Annual IAEM Conference and EMEX

**November 10-15, 2017 in Long Beach, California**

[Pre/Post-Conference Training Courses](#) available. Participants of these training courses, with the exception of the AEM/CEM offerings will receive an attendance certificate, which can be applied towards the IAEM Certification program under the Training section.

If you have any questions, please contact IAEM Program Manager Julie Husk at [jhusk@iaem.com](mailto:jhusk@iaem.com) or (703)-538-1795, ext. 1789.

To register for the full conference or specific EMI classes: <https://iaemconference.info/2017/>

### Department of Homeland Security Education Fair

**Date:** September 21, 9am-12pm EDT

**Location:** Holiday Inn (Grand Ballroom)  
500 C Street, SW  
Washington, DC

The fair will showcase more than 30 colleges and universities from across the country and around the world that provide educational opportunities available for DHS employees. This is a great opportunity for you to learn about:

- Bachelor's, master's and certification programs from Department of Defense Senior Service Schools and other institutions of higher learning.
- Information from faculty, alumni, and current students pursuing various degrees.
- Information about eligibility, how to apply for programs, federal tuition discounts or grants, and valuable tips on writing an application.
- Information from the Department of Veterans Affairs about veterans' ability to use their education benefits to help offset the cost of tuition.
- Information on discounted tuition for federal employees and their family members from participating schools in the Office of Personnel Management's Education Alliance.

If you are located outside the National Capital Region, we will also offer 5-10 minute virtual sessions with each school. To register for the webinars, please email [educationfair@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:educationfair@hq.dhs.gov).

For more information and a complete agenda, please visit the [DHS Education Fair page](#) on Connect. If you have any questions, please email [educationfair@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:educationfair@hq.dhs.gov).

# All-Hazards Position Specific Train-the-Trainer Classes Course Vacancy Announcement:

Please be advised that openings remain in upcoming All-Hazards Position Specific train-the-trainer (TtT) classes for the 2nd Semester of FY 2017. The classes for which openings remain are below:

**September 25-29, 2017**

E-953 – Public Information Officer TtT

Read more in [Training Bulletin1318](#).

## Critical Decision Making for Complex Coordinated Attacks

**Dates:** September 21-22, 2017

**Location:** ROIC, Mercer County, New Jersey

**Cost:** None, but please preregister as seating is limited.

### **Description:**

This course addresses the vulnerability of any community to a public safety situation, such as an active shooter at a shopping mall; a train derailment with hazardous chemicals; a bombing incident at a commercial district; a plane crash; or chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive attack. These attacks, known as complex coordinated attacks, involve multiple threats that often exceed conventional response tactics. These attacks require a joint response involving members from varying disciplines and jurisdictions. The course will enhance the response capabilities of participants by providing them with the knowledge and tools to enable effective response. This course is taught through a combination of classroom instruction and practical exercises. Among the topics covered during the classroom instruction are characteristics of a complex coordinated attack, public safety response considerations, command operations and strategies, and critical information about situational domain awareness. Several notable case studies are also presented to provide real-life examples of the characteristics of a complex coordinated attack. Featured practical exercises allow participants to interact with responders from other disciplines to effectively address a variety of complex coordinated attack scenarios. Participants will work together to identify critical considerations and command strategies. Further, these exercises encourage collaborative decision-making and rapid strategizing.

### **Target Audience:**

Fire Service, Hazardous Materials Personnel, Public Health, Emergency Medical Services.

### **Registration/Point of Contact:**

For questions or registration, please email the point of contact Sgt. James Boland at [lpp6060@gw.njsp.org](mailto:lpp6060@gw.njsp.org)

## Small Business Development Center at Kean University: Cybersecurity classes

Every day the media reports new cybersecurity attacks on large, well-known companies. What is not reported are the growing number of small businesses that are being targeted. It's a common misconception that hackers primarily target organizations and business. The reality is the risky behavior of individuals, whether intentional or not, is what often leads to security breaches. Keep your business safe from cyber threats. We offer two free interactive courses and a downloadable cybersecurity workbook.

Go to <https://www.sbdckean.com/training/cybersecurity-readiness/> for online courses

## Hurricanes Harvey and Irma

### Helping those in Texas, the Caribbean, and Florida

The compassion of the American people is evident in their response by volunteering hours to support shelters and preparedness efforts. To donate or volunteer, contact the voluntary or charitable organization of your choice through the National Voluntary Agencies Active in Disasters (NVOAD) at [www.nvoad.org](http://www.nvoad.org). For those who wish to help survivors in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Florida, and other impacted states, cash donations offer voluntary agencies the most flexibility in obtaining the most-needed resources and pumps money into the local economy to help businesses recover. For more information about Hurricane Irma, go to <https://www.fema.gov/hurricane-irma>. For more information about Hurricane Harvey, go to <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4332>.

In Florida, the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FEDM) is coordinating with volunteer organizations across the state and partnering with the American Red Cross to provide shelter operations training to volunteers and AmeriCorps grantees. To volunteer, go to [www.volunteerflorida.org](http://www.volunteerflorida.org) or call 1-800-FL-Help-1.

In Texas, to register as an affiliated volunteer with a voluntary or charitable organization, visit the National VOAD or Texas VOAD for a list of partners active in disaster. Alternatively, you may register your interest to volunteer [here](#) for partner organizations to reach out to you. Continue monitoring traditional and social media channels, including [www.volunteertx.org](http://www.volunteertx.org) for the latest information. You may make a financial donation to a [Texas VOAD Member](#) or a [National VOAD Member](#) to help voluntary or charitable organizations continue to provide services to those affected by Hurricane Harvey.

### HOW TO HELP DISASTER SURVIVORS IN TEXAS

#### **TO DONATE TO RELIEF EFFORTS**

The most effective way to support disaster survivors in their recovery is to donate money and time to trusted, reputable, voluntary or charitable organizations.

Cash donations offer voluntary agencies and faith-based organizations the most flexibility to address urgently developing needs. With cash in hand, these organizations can obtain needed resources

nearer to the disaster location. This inflow of cash also pumps money back into the local economy and helps local businesses recover faster.

Please do not donate unsolicited goods such as used clothing, miscellaneous household items, medicine, or perishable foodstuffs at this time. When used personal items are donated, the helping agencies must redirect their staff away from providing direct services to survivors in order to sort, package, transport, warehouse, and distribute items that may not meet the needs of disaster survivors.

Donate through a trusted organization. At the national level, many voluntary-, faith- and community-based organizations are active in disasters, and are trusted ways to donate to disaster survivors. Individuals, corporations, and volunteers, can learn more about how to help on the [National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster](#) (NVOAD) website.

## **TO PERSONALLY VOLUNTEER IN THE DISASTER AREAS**

The National VOAD has noted the situation may not be conducive to volunteers entering the impacted zone and individuals may find themselves turned away by law enforcement. To ensure volunteer safety, as well as the safety of disaster survivors, volunteers should only go into affected areas with a specific volunteer assignment, proper safety gear, and valid identification. At this time, potential volunteers are asked to register with a voluntary or charitable organization of their choice.

Most importantly, please be patient. Although the need is great, and desire to help strong, it is important to avoid donating material goods or self-deploying to help until communities are safe and public officials and disaster relief organizations have had an opportunity to assess the damage and identify what the specific unmet needs are.

Volunteer generosity helps impacted communities heal from the tragic consequences of disasters, but recovery lasts much longer than today. There will be volunteer needs for many months, and years, after the disaster, so sign up now.

**QUICK NOTE:** For up to date information download FEMA mobile app (available in English and Spanish), which provides a customizable checklist of emergency supplies, directions to open shelters and recovery centers, disaster survival tips, and weather alerts from the National Weather Service. The app also enables users to receive push notifications reminding them to take important steps to prepare their homes and families for disasters. <https://www.fema.gov/mobile-app>.

## **HELPFUL LINKS**

### **Recently updated information guides:**

- **Floods** <https://disasterinfo.nlm.nih.gov/dimrc/floods.html> - responder safety, cleanup and recovery, and more
- **Hurricanes** <https://disasterinfo.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/hurricane.html> - responder safety, cleanup and recovery, and more
- **Disaster Recovery** <https://disasterinfo.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/disasterrecovery.html> – emergency health management, responder safety, environmental cleanup, hazardous materials, and more

## MUST READS

### **Hurricane Resources At Your Finger Tips**

<https://asprtracie.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/aspr-tracie-hurricane-resources-at-your-fingertips.pdf>

### **Emergency Response and Recovery: Pandemic, Infectious Diseases, and Biological Hazards**

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. 08/28/2017 This Web page provides information and links about emergency response to pandemics and infectious diseases, specifically the 2016 Zika virus outbreak, and the 2009 H1N1 outbreak. It provides information about new Centers for Medicare and Medicaid funding to health departments in American Samoa, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Florida to help combat the Zika virus.

[Emergency Response and Recovery: Pandemic, Infectious Diseases, and Biological Hazards](#)