



Region II Individual and Community Preparedness Bulletin



National Preparedness Month



Dear Partner in Preparedness,

My name is Devin Kerins and I am the FEMA Region II Community Preparedness Officer. This September marks the 13th annual National Preparedness Month (NPM). Launched in 2004, NPM is FEMA's national annual preparedness outreach initiative and is managed and sponsored by FEMA's Ready Campaign. The Ready Campaign, in conjunction with the Ad Council, aims to educate and empower Americans during National Preparedness Month (NPM) and throughout the year to prepare for and respond to all types of emergencies, including natural disasters.

This year's general theme places an emphasis on *planning*, with the overarching theme of “*Disasters Don't Plan Ahead. You Can.*” We are all able to help first responders in our community by training how to respond during an emergency and what to do when disaster strikes—where we live, work, and visit. The goal of NPM is to increase the overall number of individuals, families, and communities that engage in preparedness actions at home, work, business, school, and place of worship.

The weekly themes are as follows:

- Week 1: September 1-9 – Make a Plan for Yourself, Family and Friends
- Week 2: September 10-16 – Plan to Help Your Neighbors and Community
- Week 3: September 17-23 – Practice and Build out Your Plans
- Week 4: September 24-30 – Get Involved! Be a Part of Something Larger

To learn more about National Preparedness Month, please follow this link:

<https://www.ready.gov/september>.

I encourage you all to take action to prepare!

Sincerely,

Devin Kerins

NPM – Make a Plan for Yourself, Family and Friends

To meet the goals of week one of NPM, establish a family communications plan, which may help you if a disaster impacts your area and electricity is disrupted. Planning in advance will help ensure that all of the members of your household—including children and people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, as well as outside caregivers—know how to reach other and where to meet up in an emergency.

**BE SMART. TAKE PART.
CREATE YOUR FAMILY
EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATION PLAN**

Planning begins with three easy steps:

Collect: Create a paper copy of the contact information for your family and other important people/offices, such as medical facilities, doctors, schools, or service providers.

Share: Make sure everyone carries a copy in his or her backpack, purse, or wallet. If you complete your Family Emergency Communication Plan online at www.Ready.gov/make-a-plan, you can print it onto a wallet-sized card. You should also post a copy in a central location in your home, such as your refrigerator or family bulletin board.

Practice: Have regular household meetings to review and practice your plan.

Region II Individual and Community Preparedness *Then and Now*

The Regional Preparedness Liaison presented about hurricane preparedness during a workshop hosted by Congressman Lee M. Zeldin (NY-01). Additional speakers were from the following agencies: the National Marine Fisheries Service, the local Chapter of the American Red Cross, the local office of the National Weather Service, and Suffolk County Fire Rescue and Emergency Services.



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, Charles.colemand@njcourts.gov
November 7- November 10, 2017	Holy Name Medical Center Institute for Simulation Learning	https://fema.connectsolutions.com/r2hseepnov17/event/registration.html

FEMA Region II Preparedness Webinar: 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>

FEMA Prepares for Hurricane Irma

FEMA headquarters in Washington, D.C., its Regional Response Coordination Centers (RRCC) in New York, Philadelphia and Atlanta, and FEMA liaisons to the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida, are working with state, local, tribal, and territorial partners to prepare for Hurricane Irma.

According to the National Hurricane Center, as of September 5 at 9 a.m. Eastern, Hurricane Irma is an extremely dangerous Category 5 hurricane with winds of 175 mph moving closer to the Caribbean. FEMA staff are deployed to the U.S. Virgin Islands emergency operations centers on St. Thomas and St. Croix to support any requests for federal assistance. Additionally, two Regional Incident Management Teams are on the ground in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Staff from the FEMA Caribbean Area Division are on the ground in Puerto Rico to provide support to commonwealth and local officials as requested. Additionally, a Regional Incident Management Assistance Team is on the ground in San Juan.

FEMA maintains commodities strategically located at distribution centers throughout the United States and its territories, including in San Juan, Puerto Rico, where more than 600,000 liters of water and 290,000 meals are available, if needed and requested. In the U.S. Virgin Islands, there are more than 115,000 liters of water and 210,000 meals pre-staged.

History shows that storm tracks can change quickly and unexpectedly. Residents and visitors in areas potentially affected by the severe weather should continue to monitor local radio or TV stations for updated emergency information, and follow the instructions of state, local, and tribal officials. Download the FEMA mobile app (available in English and Spanish) for a customizable checklist of emergency supplies, maps of 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.

FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program Enhances the Flood Claims Process and Extends Grace Period for Policy Renewals

Due to the wide-spread catastrophic damage caused by Hurricane Harvey, FEMA implemented temporary changes to rush recovery money into the hands of NFIP policyholders, for repair and replacement of flood-damaged properties. FEMA also wants to ensure continuous flood insurance coverage for current NFIP policyholders affected by this storm, even if the renewed policy premium cannot be paid at this time. FEMA is directing all NFIP private insurance partners to:

- Provide advance payments on flood claims, even before visits by an adjuster;
- Increase the advance payment allowable for policyholders who provide photographs or video depicting flood damage and expenses, or a contractor's itemized estimate;
- Waive use of the initial Proof of Loss (POL) form; and,
- Extend the grace period for payment of NFIP flood insurance policy renewal premiums to 120 days. This applies to policies covering properties in Texas counties that are designated under the Presidential Disaster Declaration, and were set to renew July 24 through September 27, 2017.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TIPS

FEMA Region II

National Preparedness Month

Week 1: Make a Plan for Yourself, Family, and Friends



Make an Emergency Plan

- Consider the specific needs of the members of your household.
- Establish a communication plan, evacuation route, and shelter plan.
- Write down your plan & practice it with your household.

Sign up for alerts and warnings in your area

- Access to information sent out by local safety officials is crucial.
- Types of alerts include wireless alerts through your phone, an emergency alert system through radio or television, and NOAA Weather Radio.

For more information go to: <https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan> and <https://www.ready.gov/alerts>

FEMA Region II

National Preparedness Month

Week 1: Make a Plan for Yourself, Family, and Friends



Learn your evacuation zone and have an evacuation plan.

- Know your flood risk before the storm
- Make sure you have a means of transportation in the case that evacuation is necessary.
- Practice evacuating in the car with animals.

Check your insurance coverage and review the Document and Insure Property guide.

- Consider purchasing flood insurance .
- Check what damages your insurance covers.

Plan financially for the possibility of disaster.



For more information go to: <https://www.ready.gov/floods>



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

65th 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 or (703)-538-1795, ext. 1789.

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

EDUCATIONAL / TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

FEMA EMI Training Opportunity Virtual Tabletop Exercise Series- Earthquake

September 19, 20 & 21 2017, Virtual Exercise – Multiple Locations

Exercise Description:

This Virtual Tabletop Exercises (VTTX) will focus on an earthquake occurring in your community, using historical events and Hazus simulations.

The VTTX involves key personnel discussing simulated scenarios in an informal setting, and can be used to assess plans, policies, training, and procedures. This VTTX differs from other tabletop exercises in that it will be conducted using Video-Teleconference (VTC) technology (not a web-based program), and is intended to provide an opportunity for responders across the Nation to simultaneously participate in a hazard-specific facilitated discussion. Lead facilitation for the exercise will be coordinated by EMI, with local facilitation provided by the participating agency. Read more in [Training Opportunity 1314](#).

National Emergency Management Executive Academy Training Opportunity

Course Description: The National Emergency Management Executive Academy is a component of the Emergency Management Professional Program (EMPP).

The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) created the National Emergency Management Executive Academy to produce a comprehensive and cutting-edge curriculum that provides the setting for senior emergency management executives to come together to explore and confront contemporary and emerging 21st century challenges. The program hones strategic leadership and critical thinking for senior executives involved with multi-jurisdictional, national, and international homeland security and emergency management policy development and decision making responsibilities.

The program is a competency-based graduate-level executive education experience. That requires working collaboratively on projects and participating in activities with a capstone team to address some of the wicked problems in the emergency management field. Suggestions for a specific emergency management challenge to be addressed by an executive cohort as an Executive Academy capstone project may be submitted to <https://training.fema.gov/empp/executive.aspx>.

NEMEA 2017 Schedule

E0686, Executive EM Leaders Core Competencies III 4 days

Facilitating Community Risk Ownership, Civics/Governance Considerations, Political Skills, Influence Skills

Dates: September 18 – 21, 2017

Location: Emmitsburg, MD

Registration is required. All classes will be held in the Office of the Chief Component Human Capital Officer (OCCHCO) Training Suite, 500 C Street, 7 SW. For more information, please email: edu@fema.dhs.gov or visit the OCCHCO training page

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:

E-974 – Finance/Administration Section Chief TtT

Sept. 11-13, 2017

E-953 – Public Information Officer TtT

Sept. 25-29, 2017

Read more in [Training Bulletin1318](#).

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

Hurricane Harvey

Helping those in Texas

The compassion and generosity of the American people is never more evident than during and after a disaster. It is individuals, non-profits, faith- and community-based organizations, private sector partners, and governmental agencies working together that will most effectively and efficiently help survivors cope with the impacts of Tropical Storm Harvey.

Please follow a few important guidelines below to ensure your support can be the most helpful for Tropical Storm Harvey disaster survivors.

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.

In addition to the national members, The Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (Texas VOAD) has a list of [vetted disaster relief organizations](#) providing services to survivors. Texas VOAD represents more than three dozen faith-based, community, nonprofit and non-governmental organizations.

TO PERSONALLY VOLUNTEER IN THE DISASTER AREAS

The State of Texas is asking volunteers to not self-deploy, as unexpectedly showing up to any of the communities that have been impacted by Hurricane Harvey will create an additional burden for first responders.

The National VOAD has also 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, many of which are already in Texas and supporting survivors on the ground.

The [National](#) and [Texas VOAD](#) websites are offering links to those who wish to register to volunteer with community- and faith-based organizations working in the field.

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.

Tropical Storm Harvey is still dangerous, with the potential to impact additional areas of Texas and Louisiana. As the situation changes, needs may also change in these areas. Continue monitoring traditional and social media channels to learn more.

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

Resources from the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness & Response (ASPR):

- Harvey: Resources for Professionals <https://www.phe.gov/emergency/events/harvey2017/Pages/professionals.aspx>
- Hurricane Resources at Your Fingertips <https://asprtracie.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/aspr-tracie-hurricane-resources-at-your-fingertips.pdf>
- Tips for Retaining and Caring for Staff after a Disaster <https://asprtracie.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/tips-for-retaining-and-caring-for-staff-after-disaster.pdf>
- After the Flood: Mold-Specific Resources <https://asprtracie.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/after-the-flood-mold-specific-resources.pdf>
- **empower Map 2.0** <https://empowermap.hhs.gov/> - Every hospital, first responder, electric company, and community member can use the map to identify areas and populations that may be at risk during a prolonged power outage, based on the number of Medicare beneficiaries with electricity-dependent equipment claims.



Canada-US Enhanced Resiliency Experiment Seminar

September 14, 2017, 1pm EDT

National Information Sharing Consortium (NISC) will host a webinar with the U.S. DHS Science and Technology Directorate First Responders Group and the Defense Research and Development Canada's Centre for Security Science to discuss the upcoming Canada-U.S. Enhanced Resiliency Experiment (CAUSE V). CAUSE V is the fifth experiment in the [CAUSE series](#), and will take place in November 2017 in the Pacific Northwest region in the U.S. and the Lower Mainland of British Columbia. The experiment will provide the participating regions with access to enhanced interoperable communications and response technologies to better respond to incidents affecting both sides of the border. The webinar will provide an overview of the experiment's objectives and scenario. For more information about the webinar series and the NISC, visit the NISC website at www.nisconsortium.org.

EMI Flood Virtual TTX

September 18 – 21, 2017

E0686, Executive EM Leaders Core Competencies III 4 days

Facilitating Community Risk Ownership, Civics/Governance Considerations, Political Skills, Influence Skills

Location: Emmitsburg, MD

EMI Training Opportunity Virtual TTX Series

September 19, 20 & 21 2017

V-0001 - Virtual Tabletop Exercise Series (VTTX) – Earthquake Virtual Exercise – Multiple Locations.

For more information contact **Douglas M. Kahn**, douglas.kahn@fema.dhs.gov

Inclusive Community Preparedness

September 27, 2017, 12-1pm EDT

The webinar will include several presenters, each offering tips and information on a variety of preparedness topics. Below are summaries of the planned presentations:

Presentation 1:

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.

Presentation 2:

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.

Presentation 3:

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.

MUST READS

Oil and Chemical Spills: Federal Emergency Response Framework

Congressional Research Service (Library of Congress)

This 22-page report provides background information on the National Contingency Plan (NCP) to address potential questions that may arise in congressional oversight of the federal response to oil and chemical spill incidents. It discusses the federal statutes that authorize the NCP and related executive orders; mechanisms for reporting incidents to the federal government; the framework under which federal, state, and local roles are to be coordinated; and circumstances under which the NCP may be integrated within the National Response Framework to address multifaceted incidents, such as major disasters or emergencies.

