



**UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL**  
Newark, New Jersey

## National Preparedness Month

Week Two

September 9 - 15, 2019

# Plan to Help Your Neighbor and Community

## Stay In The Know

Whether you just moved into your neighborhood a week ago or you've lived there for 25 years, getting to know your neighbors has always been an important part of building a vibrant community. It can also be helpful in a crisis because, after a disaster occurs, the people in closest proximity to you – and the people who will be able to help you most immediately – are your neighbors. They may need your help as well.

Research reported by FEMA found that people often are not as prepared for disasters as they may have thought. Forty percent of survey respondents said they did not have household plans in the event of an emergency, and nearly 60 percent did not know their community's evacuation routes. Almost 20 percent of survey respondents said they had a functional disability that would limit their ability to either evacuate or take care of themselves during a disaster, and only 25 percent of those people had made arrangements to alert others for assistance during a disaster. A similar survey revealed that 46 percent of people

said they expect to rely on people in their neighborhood for assistance in the first 72 hours after a disaster.

## How to Help

Here are a few recommendations of what you can do to help your neighbors and community:

- If you live in an area that is prone to natural disasters or has had one recently, it can be as simple as asking your neighbors how they dealt with any previous incidents. Their feedback can inform you about what precautions are the most effective for a particular situation.
- FEMA recommends hosting meetings with family, friends and neighbors to plan service projects, set service goals, and learn about existing local emergency response plans.
- Ask your local leaders about community-based organizations such as Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs), or reach out to the American Red Cross for community training at: [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

*Emergency Management's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.*

**For more information on disaster preparedness, contact Michael Feravolo, Emergency Management Coordinator  
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# 2019

# Disasters Happen. PREPARE NOW. LEARN HOW.