



FEMA

Region II

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Preparedness and Resilience Bulletin: Empowering People and Communities



Youth Preparedness in Region II

FEMA created the Youth Preparedness Council (YPC) in 2012 in order to create opportunities for young leaders who are interested in making a difference through disaster preparedness projects. The Council supports FEMA's ongoing commitment to involve the youth of America in preparedness-related activities while also creating a unique space for young people to share their feedback and perspectives regarding ongoing FEMA projects.

The YPC program exists on several levels – national, regional, and local. Students from various backgrounds can get involved in a myriad of projects in order to benefit their communities. These projects can vary from being a preparedness ambassador to creating new legislation to equipping a school with disaster kits. YPCs often act as a bridge between their unique communities and larger organizations and have been extremely successful since the program's inception.

The application cycle for the FEMA national YPC opened on January 27, 2020 and will close on March 8, 2020. To apply, click [here](#). Applicants who are not accepted to the national council will be considered for the Region II YPC. For more about the national program, click [here](#).

The 2019-2020 Region II cohort has been busy launching and getting involved with many great projects in their communities. See what they have been working on and what they hope to accomplish this year.



Name: Katerina Corr, Region II representative on the National YPC

Graduating Class: 2021

Katerina attends Stuyvesant High School in New York, NY. In 2016, she began a two-year partnership with New York City Council Members Ben Kallos and Danny Dromm to draft a law that advanced Gender and Sexuality Alliances in all New York City middle and high schools. Most recently, she created an in-depth workshop to present to stakeholders regarding FEMA's mission, the Youth Preparedness Council, and preparedness for two severe weather events.

During her time on the YPC, Katerina would like to start a required program for educating teachers in preparedness actions, so that they can teach their students to be better prepared for natural and manmade disasters. The program would provide information on how to prepare disaster kits and show students how they can promote disaster preparedness within their families and communities.

Name: Riya Kumar

Graduating Class: 2021

Riya is from Marlboro, NJ. She attends Biotechnology High School, a school specializing in scientific research. She has conducted extensive research both in-school and at Rutgers University, where she has published two papers. She is also a member of Marlboro's Community Emergency Response Team. Riya devotes much of her time to her town's first aid squad as a cadet and an EMT. She hopes to attend medical school and become a physician in the future.



For her project, Riya is taking the program "[Until Help Arrives](#)" and implementing it in her local Recreation Center and Library. She is also planning to create a version of the program for children to implement in her local elementary school. She hopes to teach the general public and children about how to respond quickly and efficiently to a medical emergency before first responders arrive.



Name: Lauren Chapell

Graduating Class: 2020

Lauren attends Fairport High School in upstate New York. She started a collection drive for her school's lost and found items, which she then donates to shelters in her community. During this term, Lauren hopes to create a middle school program to be implemented in health classes. Part of her inspiration is from personal experience – Lauren says that she was terrified of natural disasters in her childhood and would always assume the worst was going to happen. These experiences made Lauren passionate about combating misinformation and educating those younger than herself about preparedness measures. She believes that if young children are informed about how to be prepared, they will be less afraid of the possibility of disaster.

Name: Kaitlyn Guzmán Rodríguez

Graduating Class: 2020

Kaitlyn is from Arroyo, PR and attends Saint Patrick's Bilingual School in Guayama, PR. Kaitlyn has been part of FEMA's YPC Council since last year. Her most recent project was to amend the Good Samaritan Law in Puerto Rico, wanting to change the law so that it does not only apply to medical professionals. She is still working on getting the project approved by the Senate.



While waiting for Senate approval, Kaitlyn has started a new project to prepare elementary school students for earthquakes. After the recent earthquakes in Puerto Rico, Kaitlyn has decided that this program would be greatly beneficial to the students at her school. She hopes to cultivate an interest in elementary school children about the importance of emergency preparedness.



Name: Maya Fenyk

Graduating Class: 2022

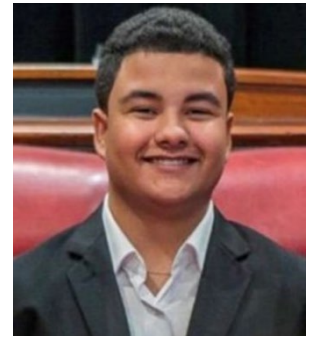
Maya attends Middlesex County Academy for Allied Health and Biomedical Sciences. Maya's YPC project focuses on the health effects generated from natural disasters that are most common in New Jersey. Her goal for the project is to create an educational program that can be hosted at her school and potentially others, with a specific focus on common health hazards after a major disaster event (such as a hurricane) and providing examples of disaster response.

Maya's inspiration began during the fallout of Hurricane Sandy, where her next-door neighbor died from carbon monoxide poisoning in the days following the storm because of the damages inflicted upon his house. Maya believes that deaths such as these could be avoided entirely with proper education and preparedness measures.

Name: Manuel Lopez Alamo

Graduating Class: 2021

Manuel is a junior at José Santos Alegria in Dorado, PR. For his YPC project, Manuel is focusing on promoting youth emergency education through the inception of a local youth preparedness council. Manuel believes that the citizens of Puerto Rico could be better-educated about natural disasters and how to be prepared, and that this was reflected after Hurricane Maria and the recent earthquakes. He believes that starting with the youth is the best means of creating an environment of preparedness that is also sustainable. Manuel presently serves as the Incident Commander for his local CERT, the Master of Ceremony at his school, and on the local Civil Air Patrol, an auxiliary of the Air Force.



Name: Megan Cameron

Graduating Class: 2023

Megan is from New Windsor, NY and attends Newburgh Free Academy. For the last few months, she has been working on creating and delivering an educational program for local elementary schools. This program focuses on pet preparedness during emergencies. Megan is extremely passionate about preparedness for all members of a family, including ones with fur and feathers. She has been working with her local ASPCA animal shelter as a partnership to promote this project. In her free time, Megan is a varsity swimmer and has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2017 President's Award for Educational Excellence, the Sands Medal Award, and a

Certificate of Distinguished Achievement from the New Windsor School in 2017.

Name: Dennis Cogley Jr.

Graduating Class: 2021

Dennis is from Salamanca, NY and is a senior at Salamanca City Central School. Dennis' project involves creating safety bags for classrooms throughout his district. He intends for these bags to have first aid materials, a body fluid clean-up kit, an EpiPen, class rosters, and an emergency procedure chart. He hopes that this variety of items will help to increase preparedness efforts for younger students.

Name: Syan Ghosh

Graduating Class: 2022

Syan attends Parsippany High School. For his regional project, Syan has been working with Parsippany Boy and Girl Scout troops to organize The American Red Cross Pillowcase Project. In addition to this project, Syan has been working to start a new teen CERT for Parsippany. Additionally, he is Vice President of his class for student council and is involved in peer buddies and the Red Cross club. Syan plays baseball, basketball and soccer.



Name: Caterina Cirone

Graduating Class: 2024

Caterina attends Roy H. Mann Junior High School. For her regional project, Caterina hopes to create a sustainable yearly program that teaches younger students about natural disasters and how to prepare. She believes that, the better prepared children are, the less afraid they will be. Students would create their own go-bags with items they need, such as photos of loved ones, phone numbers of family members, or a favorite stuffed toy. She also hopes to propose a legislation amendment that would have require children living in flood-risk zones to be adequately trained in swimming.



Washington, DC- American Red Cross Headquarters. FEMA photo.

Join the FEMA Youth Preparedness Council

This program brings teens together from across the country that are interested and engaged in community preparedness. Council members are selected based on their involvement in extracurricular activities, their leadership experience and any experience related to preparedness and emergency management.

During their two-year term, the youth leaders will complete a local and national-level project and share their ideas regarding youth disaster preparedness with FEMA leadership and national organizations. Applicants must submit a complete application form, provide two letters of recommendation and academic records.

Students in grades 8 -11 are eligible to apply. New council members will be announced in May.

Apply by March 8, 2020, 11:59 p.m. PST

[Apply Today](#)

Young Leaders:

Apply **TODAY** for the



**FEMA Youth
Preparedness Council**

Applications Due:



Coming Soon to Region II

Click on
Event links
to Register!

February/March 2020				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2/17	Region II CERT Quarterly Call HSEEP Doctrine Webinar	2/19	Protecting Your Organization DHS Webinar HSEEP Doctrine Webinar	2/21
2/24 VITEMA: Tsunami Awareness Training St. Croix, V.I.	2/25 VITEMA: Tsunami Awareness Training St. Croix, V.I. HSEEP Doctrine Webinar	2/26 VITEMA: Tsunami Awareness Training St. Thomas, V. I.	2/27 VITEMA: Tsunami Awareness Training St. Thomas, V.I. HSEEP Doctrine Webinar	2/28
3/2	3/3 NJ Nonprofit Security Grant Pilot Program	3/4	3/5	3/6
3/9 NJ Nonprofit Security Grant Pilot Program	3/10 Active Shooter TTX Webinar for Houses of Worship Emergency Operations Planning Workshop for Houses of Worship	3/11	3/12	3/13

- **Region II CERT Quarterly Call** – Join your fellow CERT team members, leads and coordinators to discuss challenges and best practices facing CERT today.
- FEMA will host webinars with information, highlights, and changes regarding the recently revised **Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) Doctrine**, which was revised on Feb. 5.
- Protecting Your Organization - The **2020 Nonprofit Security Grant Program**, and other Resources to Help Keep Your Facility Safe.
- VITEMA (Virgin Islands Emergency Management Agency) is hosting a **Tsunami Awareness Training Course** on February 24th or 25th from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the St. Croix location, and February 26th or February 27th from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the St. Thomas location. Participants of this course will enhance the ability of individuals and organizations to support tsunami preparedness and response efforts. Spaces are limited and will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. To register, contact Irvin Mason at 774-2244 or Irvin.mason@vitema.vi.gov
- NJ Nonprofit Security Grant Pilot Program - NJOHSP is offering three **applicant workshops** to discuss both the **State (New Jersey Nonprofit Security Grant Pilot Program or NJ NSGPP)** and **Federal (Nonprofit Security Grant Program or NSGP)** non-profit grant programs. Pre-registration for an applicant workshop is required.
- The **Active Shooter Exercise Toolkit** contains a variety of materials needed for a house of worship to conduct their own tabletop exercise with little or no previous exercise experience.
- **EOP Workshop for Houses of Worship** - This interactive workshop will guide planners from houses of worship through the steps of developing an emergency operations plan

Coming in April

Until Help Arrives Ocean County. To register, contact [Brian Albers](#).
L-146 HSEEP Course 4/13 thru 4/16 in NYC. To register [click here](#)

Region II Staff in Your Neighborhood!



Feb. 5--FEMA USVI Coordinator Mark Walters highlights federal preparedness and response coordination for no-notice disasters.



Feb. 5--Region II Community Preparedness Officer provides "You Are the Help Until Help Arrives" training for residents in Monmouth County, N.J.



Feb. 5-- Anne Marie DePinto practices applying a tourniquet to her co-worker Marie Martinetti during the "You Are the Help Until Help Arrives" training in Monmouth County, N.J.



Feb. 9- NJ FIT Response Operations Liaison Rob Hutchinson deployed with the NJ State Police Earthquake Assistance Response (NJ-SPEAR) Wave 2 Planning Section to provide situational awareness and perform liaison activities between the NJSP Command and General Staff and the FEMA Branch IV leadership in Puerto Rico.

FEMA REGION II MONTHLY WEBINAR SERIES

If you missed our February Webinar on [Tax Preparation Assistance – Supporting Financial Preparedness for Underserved Populations](#), you can watch it now.

FEMA News

FEMA Releases Exercise Simulation System Document

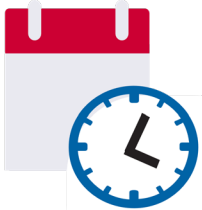
FEMA has made the Exercise Simulation System Document (ESSD) available [online](#). This document helps to develop exercises and exercise-based training to support simple to complex community-specific exercises. Included in this document is exercise information and resources for communities on how to respond to and manage an emergency or disaster. FEMA's Emergency Management Institute; national and SLTT training and exercise organizations; private and nonprofit sectors; and the public coordinated to prepare the ESSD.

For more information on the Exercise Simulation System Document, visit the [FEMA website](#).

FEMA Opens Registration for Dam Safety Workshop

FEMA has opened registration for the [2020 Dam Failure Life Loss Consequence Workshop](#) on Aug. 19-20 in Washington, DC. The workshop has been developed to provide dam owners, emergency managers, regulators and other relevant stakeholders with a forum to discuss the ways that the industry can better estimate potential life loss consequence from dam failure. The course is intended for those involved with dam safety and dam security programs at the federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial levels, as well as from the private sector. Registration for the workshop is open on [Eventbrite](#). For additional information on FEMA's National Dam Safety Program please visit the [FEMA website](#).

Important Deadlines



FEMA Seeks Comments on Draft Policy About Building Code and Floodplain Management Administration and Enforcement by March 6

The draft Recovery Policy on Building Code and Floodplain Management Administration and Enforcement defines the framework and requirements for consistent and appropriate implementation of Section 1206 of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act through the Public Assistance program. The intent of this policy is to provide communities with the resources needed to effectively administer and enforce state and locally adopted building codes and floodplain management ordinances for a period of no longer than 180 days after the date of the major disaster declaration.

FEMA is releasing the current draft policy, for a 45-day public comment period, ending on Friday, March 6. The draft policy and accompanying comments matrix is located on the FEMA website at <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/185634>.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of External Affairs, Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs Division at (202) 646-3444 or at FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov.

Other News

SchoolSafety.gov Launches to Help Educators, Administrators, Parents, and Law Enforcement Prepare for Threats

The [SchoolSafety.gov](#) website was launched on February 10, aiming to create a one-stop-shop of resources for K-12 administrators, educators, parents, and law enforcements to use when preparing for and addressing various threats related to safety, security, and support in school. In addition, the Federal Commission of School Safety was recently established to continually review safety practices and make recommendations to keep students safe. “The Department of Justice has no higher priority than making sure our schools are safe and secure our nation’s students, teachers, and administrators,” said Attorney General William P. Barr regarding the launch of the site. The DHS states that the launch of School.Safety.gov is the first phase of ensuring safety in school, and the DHS looks forward to continually expanding and refining resource materials. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Department of Homeland Security Suspends Enrollment in CBP Trusted Traveler Programs for New York Residents

Acting Secretary Chad Wolf announced recently that New York residents will no longer be eligible to apply for or renew their enrollment in Trusted Traveler Programs, such as Global Entry, FAST, SENTRI, and NEXUS. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) estimates that this new move will affect up to 200,000 New York residents that seek to renew their memberships this fiscal year, in addition to the 30,000 commercial truck drivers that use the FAST program and four New York-Canada ports of entry. This move by Wolf is a response to New York State's new implementation of the Green Light Law, which would prohibit the New York Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) from sharing information with the US Department of Homeland Security.

The Acting Secretary's letter informing state officials of the move can be read [here](#).

CDC, States Update Number of Hospitalized EVALI Cases and Deaths

The CDC announced on February 11 the updated number of hospitalized e-cigarette, or vaping, product use associated lung injury (EVALI) cases* and EVALI deaths. As of Feb. 4, 2020, **2,758 cases** of hospitalized EVALI or deaths were reported by all states and territories. As of Feb. 4, 2020, **64 deaths** have been confirmed in 28 states and the District of Columbia. More deaths are under investigation. The CDC is continuing to work closely with the FDA, states, public health partners, and clinicians to ensure the health and safety of e-cigarette products and those who use them. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Adults Unintentionally Make It Easy for Young Children to Eat Dangerous Pills

Each year there are about 400,000 poison center calls and 50,000 ER visits as a result of young children ingesting medications when adults weren't paying attention. A new study finds that more than half of the time when children get into prescription pills, the medication had already been removed from the child-resistant container by an adult. The findings come from a study of calls to five U.S. poison control centers by researchers from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Emory University School of Medicine, and the Georgia Poison Center. The study appears this week in The Journal of Pediatrics. Click [here](#) to learn more.

DOD Officials Warn of Increased Threat from Weapons of Mass Destruction

The Department of Defense at the February 11 subcommittee hearing stated that there are emerging threats from extremist organizations pursuing weapons of mass destruction. The DOD aims to use the National Defense Strategy's three lines of effort to counter potential weapons of mass destruction in its efforts to ensure the safety and utility of US forces in the event of an environment contaminated by chemical, biological, radiology, or nuclear weapons. A core focus of the DOD is to strengthen alliances and partnerships in order to reduce the threat of mass destruction, empowering the US and its partners to detect, prevent, and reduce threats.

More information about the DOD subcommittee on intelligence and emerging threats and capabilities in response to risks from weapons of mass destruction can be found [here](#).

Emergency Preparedness Tips

What you should know about Youth Preparedness



Include children in preparedness conversations.



Learn the building blocks of preparedness – Be Informed, Make a Plan, Build a Kit and Get Involved.



Know the emergency plan for your child's school and child care facility.



Practice evacuation plans and other emergency procedures with children on a regular basis.



Learn different ways to help children cope during and after an emergency.



Make sure children have emergency contacts memorized or written down in a secure place.



Don't forget to wipe your dog's paws! Ice-melting chemicals can make your pet sick.

#BeInformed



Response Teams have played important roles in recent wildfires. During the 2018 Camp Fire, Sacramento CERT led the setup of multiple animal shelters at a local airport. These shelters housed close to 2,000 animals, ranging from cats and dogs to chickens and tortoises.

“The two CERT Animal Response modules are integral to the success of our Animal Response Team training,” said Robert Ross, Chief of Operations for Sacramento CERT. “We use the FEMA Animal I/II courses as prerequisites to our Animal Sheltering Class. These two modules have a lot of very good information on animal behavior and signs that we feel our members must know about before trying to handle animals in an emergency shelter situation.”

FEMA is continuing to update CERT training to ensure it is consistent with current methods. The following training modules will be updated in 2020:

- Community Emergency Response Team Animal Module I;
- Community Emergency Response Team Animal Response Module II;
- Community Emergency Response Team Drills and Exercises;
- Community Emergency Response Team Firefighter Rehab;
- CERT Traffic and Crowd Management Module; and
- CERT Tools for Leadership Success Module.

Additionally, FEMA will be developing two new modules on building community preparedness and serving communities with access and functional needs.

CERT Train the Trainer and Program Manager Course Openings - EMI

There is still space available in upcoming CERT Train the Trainer and Program Manager courses at the [Emergency Management Institute](https://www.fema.gov/emergency-management-institute) (EMI). These courses will run March 2-6 and June 8-12. To apply, visit training.fema.gov, contact the EMI admissions office at NETC-admissions@fema.dhs.gov, or contact your state training officer today!



If you have events you would like to share, please email them to deborah.costa@fema.dhs.gov

Educational/Training Opportunities

Family Assistance Center Operations During a Large-Scale Incident

March 3-4, 2020 8 a.m.–5:00 p.m., 100 Camp Drive, Sea Girt, NJ

This program will discuss the components of assistance that can be offered to enhance and supplement response efforts during an incident. Family assistance operations are multi-agency designed to assist survivors and families with various needs during and after an incident. The use of a Family Assistance Center can greatly impact the outcome of the incident. **Please contact Bryan.Hoffmann@doh.nj.gov with any questions and to register for the course.**



E0122 Emergency Management Accreditation Program

April 7-9, 2020, September 14-16, 2020, Emmitsburg, MD

The purpose of this training is to provide emergency management, preparedness, and homeland security personnel with information that will assist them in assessing their jurisdiction or agency's Emergency Management Program using the *Emergency Management Standard* by EMAP. The training also provides participants with the appropriate qualification to learn how to assess other Applicant Emergency Management Other Programs using the *Emergency Management Standard* by EMAP. To apply, navigate to <https://training.fema.gov/onlineadmissions/>. **Questions related to NETC campus access identification should be directed to Jason.Cawthon@fema.dhs.gov.**

E0389 Master Public Information Officer Program – Part Three

April 27-May 1, 2020, August 3-7, 2020

This is a three-course series that prepares public information officers for an expanded role in delivering public information and warning using a strategic whole community approach. [Read more at Training Opportunity 1487](#). Training takes place in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

P0258 Management & Safety in Response to Hazardous Materials

July 6-17, 2020, Emmitsburg, MD

This is a 9-day course appropriate for hazardous materials personnel operating at technician and specialist levels that addresses systematic issues for operating at a hazardous materials incident safely. This course is an instructor-facilitated, student-centered course that utilizes a risk-based approach to directing and coordinating hazardous materials/WMD incident response from a hazardous materials officer's and a hazardous materials safety officer's perspective. **All applications require electronic approval from the head of your sponsoring organization and must be submitted no later than April 30, 2020. Questions about this course can be redirected to the Hazardous Materials Curriculum Training Specialist Wayne Yoder at wayne.yoder@fema.dhs.gov. To apply, click [here](#).**

Training Calendars

FEMA: <https://training.fema.gov/emicourses/schedules.aspx>

NJOEM: <http://ready.nj.gov/training/schedule.shtml>

NJOHSP: <https://www.njhomelandsecurity.gov/calendar>

NYDSES: <http://www.dhSES.ny.gov/training/calendar/>

DHSOBP: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/obp>

Webinars

FEMA REGION II MONTHLY WEBINAR SERIES

Protecting our Communities:

Signs of Terrorism, What to Look For and How to Help Law Enforcement

Thursday, March 12, 2020 from 12 PM – 1 PM ET

Please join us our next preparedness webinar to learn about the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (NJOHSP) Suspicious Activity Reporting System (NJSARS). The presentation will define suspicious activity, show how law enforcement and the public can identify suspicious behavior and discuss the best way to report that information.

Participants will learn about the indicators used to classify leads, how information is routed through NJSARS and how this information can spark action. David Kanig, NJOHSP, is the featured speaker.

Register now using this link:

<https://icpd.adobeconnect.com/r2recognizingterrorism/event/registration.html>

- Make sure to [test your Adobe Connect](#) before the meeting.
- This event will include live captioning.
- Contact FEMA-Prepare@fema.dhs.gov to learn more.



FEMA



FEMA REGION II WEBINAR

Active Shooter Exercise Toolkit for Houses of Worship

Tuesday, March 10, 2020 from 12 PM – 1 PM ET

Please join us as the regional National Preparedness Division looks to enhance preparedness capabilities for houses of worship. The Active Shooter Exercise Toolkit contains a variety of materials needed for a house of worship to conduct their own tabletop exercise with little or no previous exercise experience. During this presentation, FEMA Region II Individual and Community Preparedness Officer Devin Kerins will discuss and review Toolkit contents by providing simple tips to help you structure your exercise and maximize its benefits. The intended audience for this session is houses of worship safety and security committee members, interfaith preparedness organizations or local first responder agencies looking to strengthen ties with religious institutions in their communities.

[Register Here](#)

- Make sure to [test your Adobe Connect](#) before the meeting.
- This event will include live captioning.



FEMA



Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) Webinars for Nonprofit Partners

Thursday, February 20, 2020 1 pm -3:30 pm ET

FEMA's Grant Programs Directorate, in partnership with the DHS Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiatives, invites faith-based, community, and nonprofit partners to participate in one of the upcoming webinars regarding the Nonprofit Security Grant Program. The Fiscal Year 2020 NSGP will provide \$90 million in funding support to nonprofit organizations for security related activities. Additional program information is located at <https://www.fema.gov/grants>.

The February 20 webinar will focus on other DHS and FEMA resources for the faith community, including NSGP. [Click to register here](#).

If you missed the recent webinar, FEMA 101: Overview of the DHS Center for Faith and Opportunities Initiatives and FEMA Components, the recording can be found [here](#).

CONVERGE Disaster Mental Health Training Module

This 31-minute webinar provides a demonstration of the newly released CONVERGE Disaster Mental Health Training Module. It offers an overview of the broader vision for the CONVERGE Training Modules, as well as feature specific tips for how users can integrate the Disaster Mental Health module into their classroom, workplace, and future presentations.

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) National Network Learning Session: Earthquake Preparedness For Everyone, With Everyone

Participants in this one-hour, 30-minute webinar will get an overview of new resources and materials developed by people with disabilities for people with disabilities and learn how to modify earthquake preparedness and safety steps for access and functional needs and disabilities. Emergency managers will learn steps to take to include people with disabilities in preparedness education and drills.

The Impact of Stigma Surrounding Use of Medications for Opioid Use Disorder

Thursday, February 20, 2020 1:00 p.m. EST

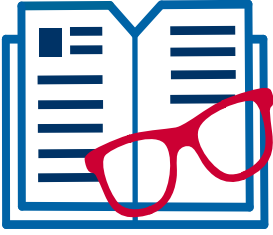
During this webinar, participants will learn about the ways in which stigma undermines treatment opportunities and increases individuals' shame that can lead to adverse outcomes, including overdose.

Take Action: Implement Workforce Diversity Strategies to Effectively Address Disparities in Mental Health

Thursday, February 20, 2020 6:00-7:00 p.m. EST

This webinar will highlight the importance of increasing workforce diversity for achieving health equity. Presenters will briefly outline the purpose of the six areas in strengthening workforce diversity. Then, participants will have the opportunity to complete a self-assessment instrument and explore the different aspects of each area.

Must Reads



[Mental Health and Behavioral Guidelines for Preparedness and Response to Coronavirus and other Emerging Infectious Diseases](#)

This three-page fact sheet details recommended steps in response to a pandemic flu outbreak in four phases: preparedness, early outbreak response, later response and recovery, and mental health intervention planning. It is one of a series of educational fact sheets that provide information and recommendations for healthcare personnel, families, businesses, and communities during this emerging infectious disease outbreak.

[EPA Region 2 Releases 2019 Year in Review, Highlighting Accomplishments and Environmental Progress](#)

The EPA has released its 2019 Year in Review outlining major accomplishments and progress towards the EPA's mission of protecting human health and the environment. Some accomplishments from this past year include finalizing the Affordable Clean Energy rule to reduce CO2 emissions and advancing the PFAS Action Plan, which is the first multi-media, multi-program, research, management, and risk communication plan to address emerging contaminations of concern.

[Words into Action: Enhancing Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response](#)

This 35-page guideline, updated in February, aims at promoting smooth operations between existing guidance and initiatives to provide direction for risk-informed disaster preparedness for response, which is required to achieve the goals of the Sendai Framework. It targets actors working to strengthen risk-informed disaster preparedness within and across sectors and at all administrative levels in a country; highlights the key principles and required actions outlined in the Sendai Framework to enhance disaster preparedness for effective response in action; and points to existing resources that provide more detailed explanations and guidance by theme or stakeholder.

[Ready or Not 2020: Protecting the Public's Health from Diseases, Disasters, and Bioterrorism](#)

This 80-page report provides an annual assessment of states' level of readiness to respond to public health emergencies and recommends policy actions to ensure that everyone's health is protected during such events. It reports overall preparedness improvement but also identifies areas that need attention. Topics include disease outbreaks, severe weather and natural disasters, bioterrorism, and pandemics.

[Interim Guidance for Emergency Medical Services \(EMS\) Systems and 911 Public Safety Answering Points \(PSAPs\) for 2019-nCoV in the United States](#)

This web page provides guidance and recommendations for preparing for and responding to patients with confirmed or possible 2019-novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) infection. Guidance topics are 911 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), Modified Caller Queries, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Clinicians and Medical First Responders, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), EMS Transport of a Person Under Investigation (PUI) or Patient with Confirmed 2019-nCoV to a Healthcare Facility (including interfacility transport), Cleaning EMS Transport Vehicles after Transporting a PUI or Patient with Confirmed 2019-nCoV.