Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services
Empowering Community Health Organizations (ECHO) Project FY2018
Workshop #15

Building Resilience: Community and Individual Emergency Preparedness
Wednesday, May 23, 2018; 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM; Silver Spring Civic Building, Great Hall

WORKSHOP SUMMARY

The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (MCDHHS) Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI), in partnership with the African American Health Program (AAHP), Latino Health Initiative (LHI), and Community Action Agency (CAA) hosted a free workshop entitled “Building Resilience: Community and Individual Emergency Preparedness” as part of the Empowering Community Health Organizations (ECHO) Project 2018. Launched in 2011, ECHO is a series of practical and professional training workshops aimed to build the capacity and sustainability of community organizations.

“Building Resilience: Community and Individual Emergency Preparedness” invited community members and leaders to learn more about the ways to prepare for local and widespread emergencies, including natural disasters, home fires, and biological attacks. The workshop featured a presentation by Patrick Campbell, Senior Planning Manager for Mass Care at the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services’ Emergency Preparedness and Response, followed by a panel discussion. The panel featured Chuck Crisostomo, MPH, CEM, Operations Chief of the Montgomery County’s Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security; Adriana Rojas, PhD, Assistant Professor of Spanish at Eastern Mennonite University; and Cecilia Warren, MS, MBA, Director of Emergency Preparedness Policy at the Maryland Department of Disabilities. Each speaker expanded on their expertise as it relates to emergency preparedness, contributing to a rich discussion on emergency preparedness for diverse and minority populations.

The workshop was attended by 59 individuals who represented 23 organizations from the community. The workshop was concluded with a brief question and answer session from attendees.

This document presents a summary of the discussion shared throughout the workshop. Please note the information may be subject to change. Published on 6/21/2018.
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Introduction:
Eventually, everyone will experience some kind of disaster – big or small – and, even small disasters, if they happen to you, can feel really big. Therefore, it is everyone’s responsibility to be prepared for a disaster. If many people are prepared, then government services will be able to help those who were unable to prepare themselves, and government resources can be better utilized. Remember, “If you can prepare, you must prepare.”

Why be prepared?
- Disasters affect vulnerable populations more severely. This include low income people, undocumented people, people living in densely populated areas, people newly arrived in the region, those with fewer family and community resources, the elderly, young children, and people with physical or mental illnesses.
- Vulnerable populations are less resilient and less able to “bounce back” from a disaster.
- Preparedness is not limited to certain seasons, times of years, weather patterns, or geographic regions.
- The most common disaster in the United States is house fires. The response for a single house fire is very different than the response for a hurricane. Often, with disasters like house fires, the expectation is that individuals will lean on their community members. However, with a disaster like a hurricane, entire communities are affected, and therefore more people need assistance.

What does it mean to be prepared?
- Different disasters will have different impacts depending on how prepared individuals, communities, and governments are.
- Different areas of preparation include:
  - Communication: individuals should determine how they will be able to communicate with family and friends if cell phones are not available.
  - Infrastructure: homes and buildings built with appropriate materials are better able to withstand some kinds of disasters.
Government: with enough advance warning, a well-equipped local government can handle immediate assistance needs and long-term recovery needs.

Documents: make sure you have access to important documents (identification, insurance, health status, home ownership), medications, or medical equipment.

Pets: consider a method for transporting pets, like a pet carrier.

**Whose responsibility is it to be prepared?**

- Everyone needs to prepare in their own way – families, the elderly, local, state, and federal governments, faith-based organizations, county emergency services, schools, non-profit organizations, hospitals – it is not just one group.
- As an individual, it is important that you make a plan, and then ensure your family members know about the plan, especially small kids.
- The local government also needs to make sure that the plans they create are accessible to the public.
- The most successful disaster response is when all groups are prepared and work together.
- Disaster management in the United States is designed to be locally led. Only when local governments get overwhelmed do they call for help from the state, who in turn calls for help from the federal level when they are overwhelmed.
- The nonprofits and faith based communities play an important role in emergency preparedness. The nested model helps depict what it takes for a whole community to be prepared, and highlights the role of these entities. Nonprofits and faith based organizations are especially important, because for some populations, like undocumented and new residents, they may not trust the government and therefore are less likely to listen to them. However, if these populations hear disaster preparedness messages from multiple places, they are more likely to adhere.

**Local, state, and federal government responsibilities during and after an emergency:**

- **Local government:**
  - Disaster recovery in the local government requires efforts from multiple departments and entities.
  - Emergency services – this includes entities like police and fire and rescue, who often respond to the immediate calls.
  - Mass shelters – if homes become uninhabitable, other safe locations will be opened for people to stay until it is safe to return to their homes.
  - Public transportation – this is necessary so that people can go to jobs and stores and continue functioning as best as they can.
  - Infrastructure – this includes buildings and roads that need to be repaired and ensuring clean drinking water will be made available.

- **State government:**
  - Provides oversight management
  - Can lend services from other counties to assist the affected area

- **Federal government:**
Federal agencies involved in disaster response include Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), troops, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Most federal financial assistance goes to rebuilding roads and buildings, not to individuals, because the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) believes that individuals are responsible for being as prepared as possible for emergencies. This allows FEMA to fill in where there are “service gaps,” but does not allow them to fix everything for everyone.

FEMA may offer loans to homeowners, but very little financial assistance is provided that does not require repayment. Looking at Harris County, in Houston, Texas that recently dealt with a major flood, homeowners there got only $4,000 from FEMA, compared to those with homeowner’s insurance who got $120,000.

Preparing for the stages of disaster:

- Call your insurance company and ask about different scenarios and how you, your family, and your home would be covered. Make sure your insurance plan is adequate and current.
- Preparedness goes beyond having an emergency kit or go-bag. The go-bag is meant to help you immediately if you must evacuate or shelter in place. Preparedness requires you to plan how to get out of your recovery space, which usually translates to insurance. It means determining how to mitigate the damage to your home, usually by keeping up your home maintenance. A go-bag is only a small slice of the preparedness process.
- The post-disaster stage of a disaster is usually the lengthiest. The FEMA case for Hurricane Katrina only closed two years ago. Economic recovery alone can take ten to fifteen years. Working through community and individual trauma can take much longer.
- Have an economic plan if you are business owner. Eighty percent of businesses that cannot open within 30 days of when a disaster hits, are normally forced to shut down, so make sure you have the resources to reopen again within 30 days to avoid closure.
- Situational ethics often result from being unprepared for a disaster. That is, sometimes good people make bad decisions in a disaster, because they are not adequately prepared and thus need to make certain decisions within the confines of a disaster. An example of this is Memorial Hospital in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. After having gone several days without power, doctors at the hospital decided to take the lives of some of their more critically ill patients, as they had no power, medical equipment and life-saving machines, air conditioning, etc… to take proper care of the patients. (These doctors were eventually tried and found innocent.)

Vulnerable communities:

- Vulnerable communities are often the ones that need the most help from the government, usually because they are unable to prepare for themselves.
- Examples of vulnerable communities include: new citizens, undocumented residents, low income individuals, people with limited family resources, those with mental health challenges, and peoples with functional needs.
• The things that make us vulnerable are limited language proficiency, not knowing about common disasters, not having insurance, and subscribing to the belief that “this will never happen to me.”

Common disasters in the area:
• Floods, house fires, and windstorms are very common this area.
• Even those that are not very common have happened in this area, so it is important to be prepared for it all.
• Something as simple as a power outage can have a huge effect. It can mean no gas because pumps are not working. It means no electricity at home, which will have a bigger impact if you are not prepared with a generator. Further, when you combine a power outage with extreme cold or heat, it can mean lives lost.
• Often it is not the actual weather event that takes lives, but it is the other conditions, the uncomfortable conditions, that lead to it – heat, cold, the inability to get needed treatment, etc...

Recommendations on how to prepare:
• Be informed about the disasters in the area.
• Sign up for county alerts via Alert Montgomery and become aware of the county online resources (http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/oemhs/alertmontgomery/).
• The county has a group of nonprofits and other organizations coming together called County Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD), which will be a coalition of organizations working together with the county when a major disaster strikes. Consider joining if you are part of an organization.
• If you do not have one already, start a savings account – saving even a few dollars each month will add up.
Build a Kit Activity

Key Reminders: You must build a kit from what you already have in your home. The more honest you are, the more accurate you will be in understanding how prepared you really are for a disaster. You only have 10 minutes to pack your bag, car, and family to get out of danger. Below are a few key considerations in your planning.

- How many people live in my home?
- Does anyone have any type of special needs?
- How will you evacuate?
- How will you stay in communications with your family? How will you remain updated on important emergency alerts?

Use the space below to design your kit? Consider what containers or bags you will use to transport these items? Consider how much room you have in your car or bags. Lastly, keep your eyes on the clock.
MODERATED PANEL DISCUSSION

The following questions were asked by the moderator, Patrick Campbell, to the below panelists.

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What are some of your biggest concerns regarding emergency preparedness in Montgomery County?

Chuck: From an individual standpoint, preparedness means being able to survive in your home for a minimum of 72 hours in the event of a large-scale disaster. Being able to reach everyone in Montgomery County is the county’s highest priority, especially those with language and financial barriers. The better prepared that individuals and families are, the better able Montgomery County government will be to reach those who have the most need.

How do you design materials and methods that you use in inter-cultural settings, or for populations whose first language is not English?

Adriana: It is important to get to know the population that you are working with. This could include setting up safe and welcoming places that encourage cross-cultural exchange and communication, sharing different kinds of food that are unique to certain cultures, or storytelling. These should involve a “diversity welcome,” which acknowledges the many identities present in the room and encourages people to speak whatever language they are most comfortable speaking. It is also important to examine yourself and your values, and cultivate your self-awareness to better understand how you handle and respond to difficult situations.
In terms of training organizations and staff to be more culturally aware, the organization Training for Change (https://www.trainingforchange.org/) has a lot of resources. Groups can also conduct diversity welcomes and build community and promote culture within their staff by asking everyone to bring in an item that represents them or their culture. Staff should also share experiences and listen non-judgmentally to build cultural competency.

What are typical concerns for those with medical or other physical needs?

_Cecilia:_ For families that have a specific need for electricity, like those with an individual connected to a medical device, talk with the device supplier. They are often required to have emergency plans. Before known events, the healthcare agency or supplier should reach out to individuals and families to make sure they have enough supplies to last through the anticipated duration of the disaster. Deliveries of supplies can be interrupted during disasters. Also, some devices and equipment can use backup batteries.

If an individual is in an area that is highly likely to be affected by a disaster, do not wait until an evacuation order comes. It is helpful to evacuate in advance, which will reduce the urgency and stress of an evacuation. This also allows individuals to contact their local emergency services and determine the best course of action.

For people with individualized or very expensive pieces of equipment, it is recommended to keep a small set of instructions on how to operate the device, in the event that the user is unable to operate the device during a disaster and someone else may need to.

What kind of resources are available in the event that someone loses their medical equipment or device?

_Cecilia:_ Throughout the state there are local “loan closets” that contain assistive technology and durable medical equipment, where residents can borrow devices until they are able to replace their own. This program is coordinated by the Maryland Technology Assistance Program (http://mdod.maryland.gov/mdtap/Pages/MDTAP-Home.aspx) that maintains a large inventory of devices that are available to be loaned out. If an individual needs a more specialized device that Maryland Technology Assistance Program does not have access to, they are part of a national network where they can request equipment or devices.

Are there concerns about apathy in the community?

_Chuck:_ Apathy is a natural condition in humans. It is especially prevalent following the threat of a disaster that does not eventually occur. The best plan is to prevent apathy by being prepared, whether that means a communication plan, signing up for “Alert Montgomery” (http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/oemhs/alertmontgomery/), or whatever that means for you and your family.

What does community resilience mean to you?

_Adriana:_ The definition of resilience is the ability to bounce back, to bend and not break, to return to one’s original form – these does not address trauma and loss. Trauma can be loss of
property, loved ones, or sense of community. Humans are faced with choices in how to respond following trauma.

Resilience needs to be practiced and conceptualized and needs to incorporate learning from experiences. One way to build resilience is through story-telling, which helps to share the trauma, build wisdom among a community, and cultivate a sense of community.

Can you describe some non-traditional means for getting community and emergency alerts? 

*Cecilia:* The “Alert Montgomery” system can be translated into many other languages, but that still requires people to be able to read alerts on their smart phone or email or hear them over the radio or on television.

Social media, like Facebook and Twitter, is useful but the information may not always be the most accurate, so, keep that in mind if that is how you receive information. Also, Google and the Red Cross allow people to “post” that they are safe or unharmed, and others are able to search the website for the names of their loved ones. In Maryland, specifically, during large-scale disasters, the county often establishes a “reunification hotline,” which is a phone number that people can call to track down a loved one. The reunification hotline has access to hospital registrations and other sources of information documenting where people may have gone during or following a disaster.

What are ways that nonprofit organizations can get involved in Montgomery County to help us get prepared? 

*Chuck:* Groups can donate meals, clean clothes, toiletries and personal hygiene supplies, and transportation services. Language and translation services are particularly important in Montgomery County, given the very diverse population here. After a fire in a large apartment building, a volunteer group brought comfort animals to spend time with the families that had been displaced, which was a tremendous gift to the children who had been traumatized by their experiences in the fire.

Montgomery County is also working to establish a group called Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD), which is a collaborative disaster response group. Their goal is to be able to organize and deploy community resources before, during, and after an emergency or disaster. COAD is still being formed, so they are inviting any organization that currently provides assistance during disasters, or organizations that would like to do so, to join them. They are especially interested in help from religious and cultural groups that may be better able to reach minority and vulnerable populations. More information is available at [https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/oemhs/involved/COAD.html](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/oemhs/involved/COAD.html).

What are specific concerns related to pets? 

*Cecilia:* Do not leave your pets behind. In larger emergencies, the state will open pet shelters, however, they are not always in the same location as human shelters. For small, domesticated pets, have a crate or carrier at home. For larger dogs, have a leash and collar at home. Farm animals and any non-domesticated animals are not accepted at county and state shelters. It is
good to have a way to identify the pet aside from a photograph, such as a micro-chip. Consider geographic-based diseases and concerns if you are traveling with your pet. It is a good idea to have an easy-to-carry and easily-accessible copy of the pet’s vaccinations records, in case a shelter needs that information. If your pet is on a special diet or any medications, be sure to have that with you. Shelters only have the most basic food available. Also, be aware that, while your dog is at a shelter, you will likely still be required to take the dog out for walks, so, make sure you are able to do that during the time that you and your dog are at the shelter.
The following questions were asked during the audience Q&A session.

Do you assume that the water supply will not be cut off in single family houses throughout Montgomery County?

*Chuck*: No, you should not assume that the water supply in Montgomery County will always be there and always be safe to drink. There are about 18-hours-worth of water in the pipes that is available after the water is turned off. Remember, having unsafe water is the same as having no water.

What about the water supply in high-rise buildings?

*Chuck*: If the water is primed, as is the case in most apartment buildings, it will only reach to about the seventh floor without the use of a pump. Above that point, pumps are needed to bring the water because of the downward pressure. Also, the height the water will reach depends on the elevation of the building itself. If it is located in a place with a higher elevation, the water likely will not even reach the seventh floor. The lack of water or the lack of clean water makes a building uninhabitable.

Are apartment buildings required to have backup power or generators?

*Chuck*: They are required to have backup power for life-saving purposes. In most cases, that means minimal inside lights, lights in hallways so that people can safely evacuate, and, sometimes, power for elevators. These requirements depend on when the building was built and what codes were in effect at that time.

What is the responsibility of governments and of developers when they rebuild a zone in disaster areas?

*Patrick*: Questions like that touch on the issue of local codes, which involve the work of so many different government and non-government groups. Sometimes, after really big disasters, governments will change the law about how and where homes can be built. Other times, the builders consider advocacy from fire fighters and safety experts, while also trying to keep the home affordable.

*Chuck*: Montgomery County has a pre-disaster recovery plan that addresses how the county would reconstitute local government following a large-scale disaster to ensure that local leaders would be in charge of rebuilding the community. One example of this is in New Orleans, after Hurricane Katrina, when the federal government allowed homes to be rebuilt in the areas that flooded during the storm. People who live there now are going to have trouble purchasing insurance, and will, eventually, be subject to another natural disaster.

Are there requirements for apartment and building managers to accommodate the elderly and/or differently abled people during emergencies? Policy initiatives?

*Cecilia*: State government does not dictate specific housing policies to county governments, but, every building is required to be within state and federal safety guidelines. Supportive
housing for seniors or differently-abled people that is run by the state is usually located in low or mid-rise buildings for this exact reason.

High rise buildings are required to have an evacuation plan. Also, residents with mobility issues, or anyone who might not be able to self-evacuate, have to be specifically identified on that plan, and the plan must be approved by the local fire marshal’s office. This ensures that emergency responders are aware of these individuals if an emergency occurs at that building.

**Chuck:** When I arrive on the scene of large fires in apartment buildings, the first thing I do is find the building manager. My experience has mostly been that the building managers have evacuation plans in place and know the individuals who might be unable to self-evacuate. This way, they can tell the first responders where to look for the individual(s) and what kind of equipment the first responders will need to safely evacuate the resident(s). Police, fire fighters, or building managers are required to knock on every single door in an apartment building to check for residents.

**Patrick:** Government cannot tell people where to live or restrict them from living in certain places. This means the responsibility falls to families, friends, or caregivers, to discuss with someone whose living situation may be a safety risk. If possible, encourage them to move to a lower floor of the building.

**Cecilia:** Remember to be aware of all the methods that can be used to alert people to emergencies. Check your smoke detectors. For people who are hearing-impaired or who have other sensory deficits, there are assistive technologies available. There are vibrating alert systems that can wake someone up from sleeping.

Where can Montgomery County residents learn more about emergency conditions that can occur here? Is there information about the possibility of each of those conditions occurring? Is there information that lists the ideal preparation for each of those conditions?

**Chuck:** We know what kinds of emergencies occur in Montgomery County – these include tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, earthquakes, house fires, terrorist attacks, and mass shootings. We also have information on the frequency with which these events occur, although that information is not easily available to residents. However, for ideal preparation for different emergency events, a lot of information is available at [http://montgomerycountymd.gov/oemhs](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/oemhs).

**Patrick:** For those of you with smart phones, there are a few apps that are very useful. The first is a good weather app that includes weather-related alerts. The second is the Red Cross emergency app, which sends out emergency alerts, provides information on what to do for different emergencies or disasters, and will show the location of shelters if some open up near you. The third app is the “Ready” app that is run by FEMA, which also sends out alerts. If you do not use a smart phone, all of this information is available online.
How do we know where shelters are located?

**Patrick:** For large-scale disasters, a press release will go out and will be picked up by radio stations and news organizations. For events that is located in a small area, like neighborhood flooding, typically individuals like police officers or county officials will go door-to-door in the area to inform local residents. The information is also available via Alert Montgomery.

**Chuck:** One thing to keep in mind is that not every potential shelter will open during an emergency. For example, if there is a school near you that could be a shelter, the county may not use it for a variety of reasons, which means you should not go there for shelter. When shelters are opened by the county, they will announce it. This information is immediately posted online at [http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs/](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs/).

Will 311 work during emergencies?

**Chuck:** 311 is the county information line. It is normally not open 24-hours a day. However, during an emergency, it is open 24-hours a day.
WORKSHOP FEEDBACK

The response rate from the workshop was 71%. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding and skipped questions.

1. Please rate this workshop:

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
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<td>a. Value of topic</td>
<td>79%</td>
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<td>b. Quality of presentation content</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>26%</td>
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<td>c. Quality of speaker</td>
<td>69%</td>
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<td>d. Quality of panel</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<td>e. Usefulness of handouts</td>
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<td>f. Length of workshop</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<td>g. Time for questions and answers</td>
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2. Please rate the following:

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<th>After attending this workshop:</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Somewhat Agree</th>
<th>Undecided</th>
<th>Somewhat Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
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<td>a. I received the information I wanted to learn about emergency preparedness</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>26%</td>
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<td>b. I am more knowledgeable about emergency preparedness</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>26%</td>
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<td>c. I am more knowledgeable about local resources related to emergency preparedness</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>29%</td>
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<td>d. I better understand my role and the role of the government in preparing for and responding to disasters</td>
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<td>e. I am confident in my ability to prepare me and my family for a disaster</td>
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### WORKSHOP ATTENDEES

The following workshop registrants provided permission to publish their name, organization, and email address.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization/Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carl Abella</td>
<td>St. Michael’s Church</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Bruce Baker</td>
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<td>Nilsa Benavides</td>
<td>Primary Care Coalition</td>
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Handouts from the “Building Resilience: Community and Individual Emergency Preparedness” ECHO Workshop

Please note the information provided in this section may be subject to change. Please contact the respective organizations to ensure the most current information. The following documents were compiled on 6/18/2018.
The following materials were provided to ECHO workshop attendees.

**Are You Ready? My Plan: Emergency Preparedness Workbook**  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OEMHS/Resources/Files/Community%20Workbook_online.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OEMHS/Resources/Files/Community%20Workbook_online.pdf)  
Helps individuals prepare for a disaster through six steps. Includes local resources, space to list important information and phone numbers, check lists to prepare materials, and more. 
Available in [Spanish](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OEMHS/Resources/Files/Community%20Workbook_online.pdf), [French](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OEMHS/Resources/Files/Community%20Workbook_online.pdf), [Chinese](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OEMHS/Resources/Files/Community%20Workbook_online.pdf), [Amharic](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OEMHS/Resources/Files/Community%20Workbook_online.pdf), [Korean](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OEMHS/Resources/Files/Community%20Workbook_online.pdf), [Russian](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OEMHS/Resources/Files/Community%20Workbook_online.pdf), and [Vietnamese](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OEMHS/Resources/Files/Community%20Workbook_online.pdf).

**Are You Ready? Pet Preparedness Brochure**  
Used to prepare for pet safety during an emergency. Brochure discusses how to make a plan, includes space to note important pet contacts, suggests how to make a pet go-kit, and recommends how to ensure proper pet identification in a disaster.

**Are You Ready? Senior Preparedness Brochure**  
Used to prepare for senior safety during an emergency. Brochure provides seniors with tools to stay informed, identify a support network, make a plan, and prepare a go-kit.

**You Are the Help Until Help Arrives Brochure**  
Brochure provides information on training for a disaster, counseling resources related to disaster and trauma recovery, and volunteer resources to get involved.

**Alert Montgomery Card**  
Informational card about Montgomery County’s enhanced electronic emergency warning system. Also includes important county phone numbers.
Be Prepared for Any Emergency Kids Coloring Book
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OEMHS/Resources/Files/MoCoColoringBook.pdf
Coloring book educates kids on how to respond to an emergency to decrease loss, reduce panic, and increase child empowerment. For kids ages 3 to 5 years. Available in Spanish.

Are You Ready? Kids Activity Book
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OEMHS/Resources/Files/MoCo%20-%20FINAL%20Reduced%20Size.pdf
Activity book educates kids on how to respond to an emergency to decrease loss, reduce panic, and increase child empowerment. For kids ages 6 to 9 years.

Please visit Montgomery County’s Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (OEMHS) Resource Library for more materials and resources.
BUILDING RESILIENCE:
Community and Individual Emergency Preparedness
Empowering Community Health Organizations for Community Leaders

Speaker:
Patrick Campbell

Panelists:
Chuck Crisostomo, MPH, CEM
Adriana Rojas, PhD
Cecilia Warren, MS, MBA

Hurricane Katrina, 2005,
New Orleans, LA
Superstorm Sandy, 2012, Tom River, NJ

PREDICTED PATH FOR SANDY
Tornado EF-4, 261 MPH, 2002, La Plata, MD

Explosion, 2016, Silver Spring, MD.
Hurricane Maria, 2017, Puerto Rico

COMPARING TWO EARTHQUAKES

2010 Haiti earthquake, estimated deaths 160,000 with 3 million people affected

1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, 63 deaths and 3,757 injuries.
WE PREPARE FOR THE WORST DISASTER OR EMERGENCY THAT WE CAN IMAGINE

Wildland Fires, 2017, Santa Rosa, CA.

Lava Flow, 2018, Hawaii
SO WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT TO BE PREPARED?

WHOLE COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS
PREPARING FOR THE STAGES OF DISASTER

DISASTER IS NOT UNIQUE TO THE UNITED STATES OR MARYLAND

- Rather how we respond is unique to the United states and Maryland.
- It is important to understand what you can expect in times of disaster and what is expected of you.
CASE STUDY

Memorial Hospital

Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills

SITUATIONAL ETHICS

"WHAT HAPPENS WHEN CAREGIVERS STEEPED IN MEDICINE’S SUPREME VALUE, PRESERVING LIFE, FACE TRAUMATIC CHOICES AS THE STANDARDS OF CIVILIZATIONS COLLAPSE". DR. SHERI FINK, 5 DAYS AT MEMORIAL
WHY DO GOOD PEOPLE MAKE BAD DECISIONS IN DISASTER?

- Regular systems and processes are destroyed
- Loss of typical power
- Fear, shock, overwhelmed, lack of sleep, lack of healthy food...
- No previous experience
- Very little practice in emergency plans
- Emergency plans often are developed for organization but they sit covered in dust unpracticed, leaving communities and individuals without the critical information

LET’S TALK VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

- New Citizens
- Undocumented residents
- Low income
- Limited family resources
- Mental health
- Functional needs
  Who else?

Things that make us vulnerable
- Limited Language proficiency
- Education on types of common disasters
- No Insurance
- Cognitive Dissonance “This will never happen to me”
- What else?
WHAT ARE COMMON DISASTERS IN OUR AREA?

MARYLAND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common</th>
<th>Less Common</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Floods</td>
<td>Earth Quakes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heat/Drought</td>
<td>Landslides/Mudslides</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hurricanes/Tropical storms</td>
<td>Public Health Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thunder/Lightning</td>
<td>Technology Disaster</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter Storms</td>
<td>Tornado</td>
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<tr>
<td>House Fires</td>
<td>Tsunamis/Tidal Waves</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wind storms</td>
<td>Wildfires</td>
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**WHAT CAN YOU DO TO BE BETTER PREPARED?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Can You Do</th>
<th>Organizations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Become informed about disasters in your area.</td>
<td>- Focus on education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Make a plan with your family</td>
<td>- Educate people on renters insurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Communication plan</td>
<td>- Advocate for increased resources to emergency services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- What and how you respond to each type of disaster</td>
<td>- Support with language services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure you have enough and the correct insurance</td>
<td>- Join COAD (will explain)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sign-up for Alerts</td>
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**LET’S LOOK AT SOMETHING SO SUBLTE AS A POWER OUTAGE...**
A police officer has just come to your front door and said you need to evacuate your home in 10 minutes because of a serious flash flood warning. This is Saturday afternoon and your entire family is home, including pets, you need to Act Quickly and move your family to safety. Using just the materials or items that are already in your home you are to design a go-kit that considers your family’s needs. If you own a car then you have a car, if you do not own car then that is not an option for you. This activity is first intended for you to think outside the box on putting together a kit. It will also be important to consider the unique needs of your family, pets, and visitors.

You will need to consider the following: how will I carry or move the items? You need to plan to survive with at least 3-7 days’ worth of goods.
GOOD RESOURCES

- www.ready.gov
- http://mema.maryland.gov/Pages/FourStepsSafety.aspx
- https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/oemhs/

Plus we have provided you paper copies of many great resources with additional documents in the back of the room.

NEXT UP WE ARE GOING BEGIN OUR MODERATED DISCUSSION

- Remember as individual, as organizations we have a role in supporting ourselves and our community.
- Those that can prepare must prepare so the limited available resources can focus on them.