

Speaker 1: [00:04](#) Welcome to "Prep Talk," the emergency management podcast. Find out what you need to know about preparedness. Get all the latest tips from experts in the field. And, learn what to do before the next disaster strikes. From the Emergency Management Department in the city that never sleeps. Here are your hosts, Omar Bourne and Allison Pennisi.

Omar Bourne: [00:26](#) Hello everyone. Thank you for listening. I'm Omar Bourne.

Bushra Mollick: [00:29](#) And, I'm Bushra Mollick.

Omar Bourne: [00:30](#) And, you are our listeners and, as always, we thank you for joining us. And, Bushra, you're back.

Bushra Mollick: [00:37](#) Oh, I am back. Allison is still out on maternity leave, so I'll be here until she comes back.

Omar Bourne: [00:43](#) We're happy that you're here.

Bushra Mollick: [00:44](#) Thanks for having me, Omar. And, we want you to come back as often as you can, so feel free to add 'Prep Talk' to your favorite RSS feed. You can also follow us on social media, on our Twitter, @nycemergencymgt, Facebook or Instagram sites.

Omar Bourne: [00:59](#) As we always say, April showers, what do they bring, Bushra?

Bushra Mollick: [01:05](#) I don't know. Omar. Why don't you tell me?

Omar Bourne: [01:06](#) Oh, you know, and our listeners know. April showers, they bring May flowers. But, increases in frequency and intensity of rain can create potential flooding emergencies. So, on this episode, we are talking with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection about the hazards of flooding. We have two special guests here to tell us more about what the City does to mitigate flood risks.

Bushra Mollick: [01:35](#) But first, before we dive in, it is time to give our listeners the latest hot topics in the emergency management field.

Speaker 4: [01:45](#) Here's your "Prep Talk" situation report.

Bushra Mollick: [01:49](#) This is the situation report. Let's get started.

Omar Bourne: [01:52](#) Okay. Our first story, Bushra, and for our listeners, is a story that we've been talking about now for a few weeks. It is dealing with the measles, and a state of emergency has been declared in

Rockland County, New York after the total number of measles cases have climbed to more than 150. Now, anyone under the age of 18 who have not received a measles vaccine will be barred from accessing public spaces in Rockland County until they receive the vaccine or until the emergency declaration expires in 30 days. Public places are described as a place where more than 10 persons are intended to congregate for purposes such as civic, governmental, social, or religious functions, as well as recreation or shopping, for food or drink consumption, or awaiting transportation, and also for daycare or educational purposes, or for medical treatment. Now, according to the Rockland County Department of Health of the reported measles cases, a total of 82 percent have not been vaccinated and 85 percent of those are 18 years of age or younger.

Omar Bourne: [03:07](#) Measles is a highly contagious disease caused by a virus. Symptoms include high fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes, and sore throat, followed by a rash on the face that spreads over the entire body. So, the Rockland County Department of Health and their partner clinics are going to be giving free measles, mumps, and rubella vaccines. And, as I said earlier, Bushra, we had Dr. Daskalakis from the New York City Department of Health on a few episodes ago to talk about measles. And, he also refuted some of the myths that come along with measles. So, we encourage our listeners to go back. Take a listen to that episode. Lots of important information in there for you.

Bushra Mollick: [03:51](#) Now, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's latest spring outlook report forecasts elevated risks of flooding for the lower half of the United States this spring. Over half of the states will have elevated risk of flooding until May. Basins of the upper Mississippi and the Red River of the North have already been hit with rain and snow this spring of up to twice normal levels. Mary C. Erickson, the deputy director of the National Weather Service says that flooding this year could be worse than anything we've seen in recent years. Even worse than the historic floods of 1993 and 2011. The recent floods in Nebraska, Minnesota, and Iowa are just a preview of what else could be expected this spring.

Omar Bourne: [04:35](#) Our next story is one that I know Bushra is a fan of.

Bushra Mollick: [04:42](#) It's definitely a personal favorite of mine.

Omar Bourne: [04:42](#) That's right. You picked this story. Now, could feeding birds be the answer to conservancy? Researchers at Virginia Tech think so. Ashley Dayer and Dana Hawley recently published their

findings in *People and Nature*, a new journal published by the British Ecological society. The researchers collaborated with Project Feederwatch to analyze the relationship between the human bird feeders and birds. They found that most people notice natural changes in their backyards that could be due to the feeding including an increase in the number of birds at their feeders, a cat or hawk near their feeders, or a sick bird at their feeders. People who feed birds also respond to any potential threats to the birds by scaring away cats or other birds of prey. Americans spend more than 4 billion annually on bird food with more than 57 million households that include feeders in the back yard. Bushra, are you one of those Americans that spend more than 4 billion on bird food?

- Bushra Mollick: [05:47](#) No, because I don't have a backyard. But, I have had a hawk on my fire escape before, which is pretty cool.
- Omar Bourne: [05:57](#) Did you feed it?
- Bushra Mollick: [05:57](#) No, I did not feed it. I was too scared of it.
- Omar Bourne: [05:58](#) I'm just asking.
- Bushra Mollick: [05:59](#) I just look at it. I just watch it from a distance.
- Omar Bourne: [06:02](#) And, to our listeners, that is our situation report. Up next, we have two special guests. Natan Mandelbaum from New York City Department of Environmental Protection and Jessica Sanchez from New York City Emergency Management. They are going to join us to discuss how the City coordinates to mitigate flood risks.
- Bushra Mollick: [06:20](#) But first, here is a public service announcement from New York City Emergency Management and the Ad Council.
- Speaker 5: [06:27](#) Open calendar. What's my schedule looking like?
- Speaker 6: [06:30](#) Next Thursday you will be caught in an emergency flash flood between Park and First Street.
- Speaker 5: [06:35](#) What? No. No, that doesn't work. I'm busy then. Decline. Decline.
- Speaker 7: [06:41](#) Disasters don't plan ahead, but you can. It starts with talking to your loved ones about making an emergency plan. So, don't wait. Communicate. Get started today at nyc.gov/readyny or

call 311. Brought to you by New York City Emergency Management and the Ad Council.

Speaker 4: [06:59](#) You listening to "Prep Talk," the emergency management podcast.

Omar Bourne: [07:04](#) You are listening to "Prep Talk" and we are back. As we mentioned earlier, we were talking about flooding. Here to tell us more are Nate Mandelbaum, the section chief for emergency management at New York City Department of Environmental Protection. And, Jessica Sanchez. She is the deputy director of watch command here at New York City Emergency Management. Thank you both for being here. Nate, we're going to start with you. Can you share with our listeners your day to day role?

Nate Mandelbaum: [07:34](#) Sure, so I'm the section chief for emergency management at New York City's Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations. DEP is a pretty large agency. You know us best for providing 1 billion gallons a day of drinking water and wastewater services to the citizens of New York. My team is composed of two separate sections. One is the emergency communication center who interfaces with various federal, state, and local agencies who require coordination with the agency, as well as a unit comprised of emergency managers whose job it is to provide all forms of emergency management. In my division, we have an emergency communication center, very similar to that of watch command, as well as a number of emergency responders whose job it is to respond to emergencies, to coordinate them, to do planning, mitigation, training, and exercises, and all things emergency management.

Omar Bourne: [08:34](#) Sounds intense. Sounds like they have you busy on a daily basis. And, a lot of it sounds similar to what Jessica does here at watch command. So, for our listeners, Jessica, let's hear about your role.

Jessica Sanchez: [08:50](#) Sure. So, I help lead a staff of 35 people who are in charge of coordinating activity and who are in charge of issuing alerts to the public 24 hours, seven days a week. Watch command is the eyes and ears for the entire city, and we continuously provide information to other agencies as well as supporting City Hall in their decision making process.

Bushra Mollick: [09:11](#) That sounds really intense. If none of you have ever seen what watch command looks like. Jessica, I'm sure you're pretty busy every day, right?

- Jessica Sanchez: [09:16](#) Yes. Every day.
- Bushra Mollick: [09:19](#) Let's continue. So, we know the geography of New York City leaves us vulnerable to a number of flooding events. Can you both speak to some of the challenges the city faces regarding flooding?
- Nate Mandelbaum: [09:30](#) Sure, so flooding can be due to a number of causes including heavy rain, coastal flooding, and that can include high tides and storm surge as well as climate change. DEP is constantly analyzing data that we received from flooding concerns and investigating the cause of these complaints to better prevent flooding in the future.
- Omar Bourne: [09:49](#) Now, speaking about those challenges. Nate, tell us a little bit about what DEP does to address those challenges.
- Nate Mandelbaum: [09:58](#) Well, to address some of the challenges presented by floods, DEP has numerous multimillion dollar projects going on throughout the city. In fact, we recently announced infrastructure investments to tackle flooding in Bergen Beach, Brooklyn and Eltingville, Staten Island, just to name a few. And in 2015, the de Blasio administration made a historic commitment of 1.9 billion, with a B, billion dollars-
- Bushra Mollick: [10:21](#) Sounds good.
- Omar Bourne: [10:22](#) Sounds good.
- Nate Mandelbaum: [10:22](#) ... to build a comprehensive drainage system and alleviate flooding in neighborhoods throughout southeast Queens. With these projects and others, DEP is adding miles of storm sewers, hundreds of catch basins, and dozens of storm chambers to our existing infrastructure in various neighborhoods across the five boroughs to help alleviate street flooding. Another way DEP combats street flooding, particularly in Queens and Staten Island, is by building blue belts. These engineered waterways constructed on city owned property collect storm water from surrounding roadways and direct it towards enhanced wetlands, allowing the water to be naturally filtered in order to protect the environment.
- Omar Bourne: [10:59](#) I'm glad that you mentioned the catch basins because we're going to get into that question a little later. But, before we get to that, Jessica, I know New York City Emergency Management has established a flash flood emergency plan to mitigate the risk of floods. Can you tell us more about that?

- Jessica Sanchez: [11:19](#) The flash flood emergency plan was created in 2007, and then later finalized in 2008. It's a plan that describes a coordinated response to possible flash flooding events in New York City. It contains ways to mitigate the effects it has on people, property, and addresses decisions and actions that will be required by each agency.
- Bushra Mollick: [11:41](#) That's right. Some of the agencies, so listeners, some of the agencies that we work closely with in regards to this flash flood plan actually includes, our agency, NYPD, FDNY, the Department of Environmental Protection, so that's a shout out to you right there, Nate.
- Nate Mandelbaum: [11:56](#) Thanks.
- Bushra Mollick: [11:56](#) We've got the Department of Sanitation, Department of Transportation. We've got the Department of Parks and Recreation and the MTA to help mitigate the impact of flash floods. So, this next question is for you Nate. Are there some areas of our city that are more prone to flooding? And if so, how does DEP work with our agency, so New York City Emergency Management, and other agencies to address these flood prone areas?
- Nate Mandelbaum: [12:21](#) Certainly. There are low lying flood prone areas scattered around the city. Before embarking on any infrastructure project in these areas, or other areas for that matter, DEP coordinates with our partners at DDC and DOT to review drainage plans and existing sewer networks, street configurations, road grading, et cetera, to see how we can best address these issues. As for storm coordination efforts, we work with NYSOM and periodically review the flash flood emergency plan and participate in the New York City hazard mitigation plan.
- Bushra Mollick: [12:52](#) Wow. And, really quick question, just for our listeners, can you just clarify what the DDC is?
- Nate Mandelbaum: [12:56](#) The Department of Design and Construction. They actually design the roadways.
- Bushra Mollick: [13:01](#) Oh wow. I think, something new. You learn something new.
- Nate Mandelbaum: [13:03](#) There's a lot that goes into making a road.
- Bushra Mollick: [13:05](#) Oh, I'm sure. I'm sure.

Omar Bourne: [13:09](#) Now Jessica, flash flood events can often happen with little or no warning. So, how does Emergency Management work to inform the public about the potential for a flash flood event?

Jessica Sanchez: [13:21](#) You can register for emergency notifications by the free Notify NYC mobile application by visiting nyc.gov/notifynyc or contacting 311.

Omar Bourne: [13:33](#) And yeah, download the app on your Android or, for people like me, who are iPhone users.

Bushra Mollick: [13:39](#) Android user right here.

Omar Bourne: [13:41](#) Oh, Bushra.

Bushra Mollick: [13:42](#) Don't Bushra me.

Omar Bourne: [13:43](#) And, Nate is also-

Bushra Mollick: [13:44](#) I got a good phone.

Omar Bourne: [13:44](#) ... raising his hand that he's an Android user, so-

Jessica Sanchez: [13:46](#) I am too.

Bushra Mollick: [13:47](#) Oh yeah. Oh. Three to one.

Omar Bourne: [13:48](#) Oh my goodness, I'm outnumbered.

Bushra Mollick: [13:49](#) You are outnumbered.

Omar Bourne: [13:51](#) This is not good.

Bushra Mollick: [13:51](#) You got to join the dark side.

Nate Mandelbaum: [13:51](#) You can either have a great phone or you can have an iPhone.

Omar Bourne: [13:54](#) Okay. Okay.

Bushra Mollick: [13:54](#) Shots fired.

Omar Bourne: [13:57](#) All right. But yeah, you can download. For our listeners, feel free to go to the App Store or Google Play to download the app. You can also call 311. And, one thing that I want to mention during flash flood emergencies we work closely with National Weather Service, and they will actually send out a wireless emergency

alert, a WEA, we like to call it in the industry. That's the message that pings your phone, that [ringing sound] that you hear to warn you about an impending flash flood. So, there's different ways in which we work together with National Weather Service and other agencies to get the word out that there's going to be flash flooding. Now, Nate, next question. Clearing debris from catch basins. You mentioned the catch basins earlier. Now, that can be a very effective way to reduce the risk of flooding. There are approximately 140,000 catch basins. Is that correct?

Nate Mandelbaum: [15:00](#)

That is correct.

Omar Bourne: [15:01](#)

My goodness. Those are a lot of catch basins-

Nate Mandelbaum: [15:04](#)

That is a lot of catch basins.

Omar Bourne: [15:04](#)

... around the city. That's correct. That can be a difficult undertaking to clear all of those catch basins. So, how does DEP ensure that the catch basins are cleared prior to potential flooding?

Nate Mandelbaum: [15:15](#)

So, prior to potential flooding, DEP crews move from neighborhood to neighborhood cleaning every catch basin along the way, and removing debris that might otherwise clog sewers or pollute local waterways. Public outreach is also available through the DEP website and there's a 311 portal to allow the public to report debris on basins or clogged catch basins. Also, DEP has a catch basin inspection unit that annually inspects every single one of those 140,000 plus catch basins. Additionally, last year our two agencies launched a new partnership where we teamed up to combat water related emergencies through New York City Emergency Management's Community Emergency Response Teams, otherwise known as CERT's. Through this partnership, teams provide community support to monitor and respond to water emergencies and assist in various roles. CERT volunteers help to report suspected water conditions to 311, clear leaves and other debris from the catch basin before and after heavy rains, patrol and provide preparedness education for the rain hazards.

Omar Bourne: [16:15](#)

And, that's a shout out to our CERT teams, and we see the valuable training that they take and how that can be effective in helping the community to really go out there and help clean catch basins and to work with DEP to do that. So, we appreciate the work that our CERT volunteers, that they do on a daily basis and specifically before emergencies.

Bushra Mollick: [16:41](#) Yeah, and just really quick, shameless plug here, but if you're interested in becoming a CERT volunteer checkout nyc.gov/cert.

Omar Bourne: [16:48](#) We love shameless plugs, so that's okay.

Bushra Mollick: [16:50](#) Shameless plugs.

Omar Bourne: [16:50](#) Yeah.

Bushra Mollick: [16:52](#) No, but definitely, it really is a great program and they do their very best to help out the city. So Jessica, I actually have this question for you. So what, if any, resources does New York City Emergency Management provide to DEP to assist with the clearing of these catch basins?

Jessica Sanchez: [17:08](#) I would say the biggest resource we provide to DEP is information. We have our own responders that are giving us real time road reports and we provide that information to DEP if we have a large water condition in a certain area. And, we're also filtering through social media. We look for photos from the public to see if there are issues that we're unaware of and we provide that information to DEP.

Bushra Mollick: [17:38](#) That's really interesting. I think people don't realize that we are looking at all of this content. We're listening, right?

Jessica Sanchez: [17:43](#) Yes.

Omar Bourne: [17:44](#) So, I want to switch gears to personal preparedness. Nate, what are some of the things that people can do to prepare before a flood?

Nate Mandelbaum: [17:55](#) Well, there's really a lot you can do. So, if there are low points around the foundation of your home or other pathways to unprotected garages or basement doors below street level, water can find its way into your home. Additionally, concrete sidewalks and patios are impervious surfaces that don't absorb storm water. So, creating green spaces and using porous paving stones around your home can help reduce the amount of storm water run off your property sends to the sewers. You can also reduce the risk of flooding by sealing cracks in foundation walls and considering the use of appropriate barriers. Sandbags can be a cost effective option to block water from entering some of the spaces in your home.

Nate Mandelbaum: [18:30](#) Other barrier options may include window wells, flood walls around your doors, and floodgates at driveway entrances.

Directing storm water from your roof and porch away from the foundation walls of your home is critical to keeping your basement dry. Clean your gutters regularly to prevent storm water from overflowing onto the walls and connect downspouts to appropriate drains. Consider installing a rain barrel as an alternative method of capturing storm water. You and your neighbors can also help reduce flooding by disposing of litter properly and by carefully removing leaves or trash from catch basin grates before or during a rain event. All of these helpful hints can be found in our homeowner's guide to rain event preparedness. You can find that on our website.

- Omar Bourne: [19:11](#) Yeah. You mentioned the website. So, for our listeners who may want to log on and get some more information, where can they go?
- Nate Mandelbaum: [19:18](#) Sure. It's www.nyc.gov/dep.
- Omar Bourne: [19:28](#) Wonderful. And, we're talking a lot about New York City, but there's a lot of practical information within what Nate just shared with us that anyone across the world can use. Having sandbags, making sure that you're clearing your leaves before rainfall. And, one of the interests in things that Nate talked about was catching the storm water. Because I grew up in Barbados, and I remember when it rained, my grandmother would put a bucket outside-
- Bushra Mollick: [19:59](#) Oh wow.
- Omar Bourne: [19:59](#) ... various points. And, as the rain kind of fell off of the roof, we would catch that water and then we would use it to water plants and for other stuff. So, that's quite interesting.
- Bushra Mollick: [20:11](#) Oh wow. Environmentally-friendly grandma. I like it.
- Nate Mandelbaum: [20:14](#) You can also check our website. Every now and again, we're giving those away for free.
- Bushra Mollick: [20:18](#) Those buckets? Or, free water.
- Omar Bourne: [20:20](#) I'm going to tell my-
- Nate Mandelbaum: [20:20](#) Rain water collections.

Omar Bourne: [20:21](#) I'm going to tell my 91 year old grandmother who lives in Barbados still, God bless her soul, to check the DEP website and get more information.

Bushra Mollick: [20:29](#) Shout out to granny.

Nate Mandelbaum: [20:31](#) Shipping and handling costs apply.

Omar Bourne: [20:32](#) Oh yeah? Do they?

Bushra Mollick: [20:33](#) Oh my god.

Omar Bourne: [20:35](#) I'll take it back with me the next time I visit.

Bushra Mollick: [20:38](#) Now, I've got a general question for the both of you. So, how about during a flood? What are some key tips people should remember?

Jessica Sanchez: [20:45](#) Yeah. So, if you're caught in the rain, you want to avoid trying to walk through and drive through flooded areas. The National Weather Service has a slogan that says "turn around, don't drown." So, make sure you turn around and don't drown. And, as well, if you're in any immediate danger, always remember to call 911.

Omar Bourne: [21:04](#) Nate.

Bushra Mollick: [21:04](#) That's an important tip.

Nate Mandelbaum: [21:05](#) Sure. So, one thing that we would like to tell our listeners is, number one, always report street and highway flooding to 311. Obviously 911 if there's a life threatening emergency. This is how DEP gets its information and we know where to respond during an event. What homeowners can also do is take a look to see if the catch basin that is in that area might be covered with debris, in which case you could possibly alleviate the flooding condition yourself by raking the debris off of the basin.

Omar Bourne: [21:33](#) Wonderful. That's great information. And, of course, if you are in New York City, as we mentioned earlier, make sure you're signed up for Notify NYC because that's where we share the emergency information regarding flooding.

Bushra Mollick: [21:46](#) Yeah. And, I think it's also a really interesting reminder for our listeners how closely all of our agencies work together to make sure that New Yorkers are safe. So Nate, what you were just

saying with making sure the public sees these flooded roads or streetways, and then they call 311 and then they let you know. So, it's really sort of-

Nate Mandelbaum: [22:02](#)

Absolutely.

Bushra Mollick: [22:02](#)

... this like, I've used this word all the time, I think it's one of my favorite words, but we all work in a symbiotic way to make sure that the city is always up and running. Right?

Nate Mandelbaum: [22:11](#)

Absolutely.

Omar Bourne: [22:12](#)

And, can I just say that I love when you use that word, symbiosis, because, as I always say, it's the only thing that I remember from my science classes anyway. So, but you know what? We've enjoyed this conversation and, as we've said, April showers, they do bring May flowers. So, we're hoping more for May flowers and less for flooding but, as Bushra read in the sit report, we may be in for a lot of rain in some parts of the country. So, the steps and the tips that we took here today and that you heard can help you prepare before a flood emergency. We are not done yet. What's up next, Bushra?

Bushra Mollick: [22:56](#)

It is rapid response time.

Speaker 4: [23:00](#)

It's time for "Prep Talk" rapid response.

Bushra Mollick: [23:05](#)

It is rapid response time. And, if you are a first time listener, it is simple. Omar and I will ask our guests a few questions and they will give the first answer that comes to mind. Let us get into it.

Omar Bourne: [23:14](#)

All right, Nate, we're going to start with you. What is the one emergency item that you cannot live without?

Nate Mandelbaum: [23:21](#)

Omar, that'll be water.

Jessica Sanchez: [23:23](#)

You stole my answer.

Nate Mandelbaum: [23:24](#)

We're always pushing the water.

Omar Bourne: [23:27](#)

I have to say that every time we ask this question on the episode, at least one person says water. Jessica, how about you? What's the emergency item that you cannot live without?

Jessica Sanchez: [23:38](#)

Water.

Omar Bourne: [23:38](#) Yeah?

Jessica Sanchez: [23:39](#) That's what I was going to say. Water.

Omar Bourne: [23:42](#) We're two for two here.

Bushra Mollick: [23:43](#) That's fine. We can have the same answer, right? We all have to stay hydrated. So Jessica, let's start with you on this one. What is your favorite TV show or movie?

Jessica Sanchez: [23:51](#) So, right now my favorite show is "Grace and Frankie" on Netflix.

Omar Bourne: [23:56](#) Never heard of it. Justin, who one of our producers is giving a thumbs up. So, apparently he likes it. And Nate, what about you? Favorite show or movie.

Nate Mandelbaum: [24:06](#) So, maybe you knew this about me. Maybe you don't. But, I don't actually own a television.

Omar Bourne: [24:12](#) Okay.

Nate Mandelbaum: [24:13](#) So, for the last 15 years or so, I have not owned a television. So, prior to that, it was "Seinfeld."

Omar Bourne: [24:20](#) This is my guy right here.

Bushra Mollick: [24:22](#) Oh my god.

Omar Bourne: [24:22](#) Round of applause.

Nate Mandelbaum: [24:23](#) I changed my name to Mandelbaum after the "Mandelbaum, Mandelbaum, Mandelbaum."

Bushra Mollick: [24:27](#) Are you serious? No, you're not.

Nate Mandelbaum: [24:30](#) No. I'm not serious.

Omar Bourne: [24:31](#) The best-

Nate Mandelbaum: [24:33](#) That would seem like a lot of work to get to that joke, don't you think?

Omar Bourne: [24:36](#) The best comedy ever. "Seinfeld." Shout out to Jerry Seinfeld if you are listening to "Prep Talk"-

Bushra Mollick: [24:44](#) That's debatable.

Omar Bourne: [24:44](#) ... which you probably aren't, but shout out to Jerry Seinfeld anyway. Next question. What is currently on your playlist? Jessica, start with you here.

Jessica Sanchez: [24:53](#) So, I have a large mix of music that I listen to from Spanish music to classic rock, a little bit of old 90's, early 2000's hip hop. So, just a mix of everything.

Omar Bourne: [25:09](#) Are you an Ozuna fan?

Jessica Sanchez: [25:11](#) No.

Omar Bourne: [25:11](#) Oh.

Bushra Mollick: [25:11](#) What?

Jessica Sanchez: [25:12](#) Right. It's so typical. I should be, right?

Omar Bourne: [25:14](#) Not necessarily.

Nate Mandelbaum: [25:16](#) So, I don't know if you knew this about me, but I don't actually own a radio. No, I'm just kidding. Actually, I'm a classic rocker. All things classic rock. If you're a New Yorker, I'm a 104.3 guy. And, I'm a little bit, I do have two kids, so I have that and the "Greatest Showman" soundtrack.

Bushra Mollick: [25:37](#) All right, so this next question is one of my favorites because I love to eat. What is your favorite meal. So Nate, what's yours?

Nate Mandelbaum: [25:42](#) That is hands-down sushi. No question. In fact, I already placed my order. I'm actually picking it up literally right after this show.

Bushra Mollick: [25:51](#) Oh wow. What did you order?

Nate Mandelbaum: [25:52](#) Well, that will be a salmon avocado roll, a tuna avocado roll, and a cherry blossom role, which is tuna, salmon, and avocado, mixed.

Bushra Mollick: [26:02](#) That sounds very intense.

Nate Mandelbaum: [26:04](#) Yeah. I didn't realize the show was getting all personal. I wasn't prepared for this.

Omar Bourne: [26:10](#) We like to give our listeners an inside look into our guests.

Bushra Mollick: [26:14](#) Yeah, emergency managers-

Nate Mandelbaum: [26:14](#) No ginger, ever. Only wasabi.

Bushra Mollick: [26:18](#) Oh wow.

Omar Bourne: [26:18](#) I got to say I'm not a sushi person, but to each his own, I guess.

Nate Mandelbaum: [26:23](#) And barbecue. I'm into barbecue.

Bushra Mollick: [26:26](#) Sushi and barbecue.

Nate Mandelbaum: [26:27](#) Yep. Not together. That'd be awful.

Bushra Mollick: [26:28](#) Not barbecued sushi.

Nate Mandelbaum: [26:29](#) Don't do that together.

Bushra Mollick: [26:29](#) That's disgusting, right? Jessica, what about you?

Jessica Sanchez: [26:33](#) Mashed potatoes, breaded chicken cutlet, and a nice salad on the side.

Omar Bourne: [26:38](#) Wow.

Nate Mandelbaum: [26:39](#) All right.

Jessica Sanchez: [26:39](#) My favorite.

Bushra Mollick: [26:40](#) How do you make your mashed potatoes? Do you like them creamy or chunky?

Jessica Sanchez: [26:43](#) Creamy.

Bushra Mollick: [26:43](#) Oh yes.

Nate Mandelbaum: [26:45](#) Interesting.

Omar Bourne: [26:46](#) All right. Well, the last question here. Sum up the work that you do in one word. Nate.

Nate Mandelbaum: [26:55](#) Important.

Omar Bourne: [26:57](#) You do have a very important job.

Nate Mandelbaum: [26:58](#) We provide a billion gallons of water to the city in a system that has been in place for well over a hundred years. It takes a lot of emergency management, it takes a lot of planning. It takes a lot of work with both internal into the DEP and outside of the DEP to keep that water moving.

Omar Bourne: [27:15](#) And, we appreciate the work that you do to make sure that we have nice clean water here in New York City.

Nate Mandelbaum: [27:22](#) Best in the country.

Omar Bourne: [27:22](#) There you go. Jessica, how about you?

Jessica Sanchez: [27:24](#) I think his response was more than one word. Operational. One word. Operational.

Omar Bourne: [27:32](#) Shots fired, maybe.

Bushra Mollick: [27:33](#) Oh, yeah.

Omar Bourne: [27:35](#) I like it.

Bushra Mollick: [27:35](#) Things are getting heated.

Omar Bourne: [27:36](#) Well, we appreciate having both of you on the show today to talk about how our listeners can prepare before flood emergencies, and also what the city is doing. And remember, if you need more information, nyc.gov/dep. Lots of great valuable information on that website, and nyc.gov/emergencymanagement as well. All the information that you need to know about how you can prepare and what the city is doing to help you with flood emergencies.

Bushra Mollick: [28:09](#) And, really quick guys, don't forget, please subscribe to the Notify NYC app. Download the app for your phone or subscribe to Notify NYC by visiting nyc.gov/notifynyc.

Speaker 1: [28:25](#) That's this episode of "Prep Talk." If you like what you heard, you can listen to any time online or through your favorite RSS feed. Until next time, stay safe and prepared.