

Notes on 9/24/2018 MOPD: Disaster Resilience and Resource Network Quarterly Meeting

Notes

Introductions

The MOPD Disaster Resilience and Resource Network “Network” met on September 24, 2018. During this meeting MOPD Assistant General Counsel Eli Fresquez provided welcome remarks and talked about the background of the Network. Today’s meeting focused on preparedness and response for people with disabilities in the event of a coastal storm. Eli discussed how those plans impact marginalized populations.

Dennis Boyd, Andy Perlman and Chris Pagnotta from Emergency Management presented on emergency evacuations and sheltering.

Preparedness

- Presenters gave a broad overview of preparedness that starts about 4 days (or more precisely 110 hours) before zero hour, or when tropical storm force winds arrive.
- Preparedness includes a series of notifications to the people that are going to be working in the shelters and the evacuation centers as well as logistics planning around equipment and emergency supply stock piles.
- At 72 hours out, health care facilities become part of the evacuation plan.
- At 48 hours out, the evacuation orders begin. Evacuation centers and shelters open.
- Also at 48 hours, the Homebound Evacuation Operation (HEO) gets put into place to evacuate older adults and people with disabilities who are unable to arrange on their own to leave their homes pursuant to an evacuation order. HEO continues until the shutdown of public transit, around 8 or 6 hours prior to zero hour.

HEO has three levels of transportation accessibility:

1. Ambulatory (TAL1)
 - For people who are able to get to the curb-
 - Evacuated by MTA paratransit
2. Wheelchair (TAL2)

- For people who can sit in and be evacuated in a wheelchair, whether or not they use a wheelchair regularly
 - Evacuated by FDNY
- 3. Stretcher (TAL 3)
 - For people who can't sit up for any length of time
 - Evacuated by EMS
- The city's Advance Warning System (AWS) alert is an Emergency Preparedness initiative that supplements Individual communications (including press conferences).

Sheltering

NYC has:

- 450 hurricane shelters
 - Including accessible shelters, which are open to family members and companions of people with accessibility needs as well.
- 60 evacuation centers
- 8 special medical needs shelters for people whose medical needs do not require them to be in a hospital or health center during the coastal storm

Accessibility Highlights

- The city also has Disability, Access and Functional Needs Coordinators at each accessible shelter and all evacuation centers who are trained to take care of physical and programmatic accessibility issues.
- Emergency Management provides each shelter with a tablet equipped with real-time video remote interpreting (VRI).
- In-person ASL interpreters may also be requested.
- Separate rooms available for people who need less stimulation.
- Refrigerators available to accommodate people whose medications need refrigeration.
- Service animals and emotional support animals are allowed to stay with their person.
 - NYC Emergency Shelters also allow pets. The city's animal planning task force come to the shelters and bring crates and pet food and

water bowls, all things that people need to support their pets. Pets have a separate room in the emergency shelters.

Post Emergency Canvassing Operation (PECO)

Paul Gu, Post Emergency Canvassing Operation planner at the New York city Department of Health and Mental Hygiene introduced PECO, a citywide operation that deploys volunteer canvassers in the aftermath of large-scale disasters that may destruct power, water or heat or gas services for more than 5,000 households in a given area for over 48 hours. The volunteers aim to knock on every door of the impacted neighborhood and conduct surveys which will automatically identify whether the person is eligible for a referral to Emergency Management, the FDNY or and the Visiting Nurse Service as well as other agencies. PECO does not itself provide the services that may be required and is neither a search and rescue effort nor an ongoing wellness check for residents. Furthermore, the Mayor's Office has a Public Engagement Unit (PEU) that would handle smaller scale incidents.

PECO generates four types of referrals based on the survey responses:

1. Referrals to Emergency Management Unit for transportation from the residence to a shelter or to a medical facility.
2. Food and water delivery via a tiered approach with partner agencies
3. Referrals to Visiting Nurse Services for medical care
4. Referrals to Essential Services if the power or gas are out

Community and Individual Preparedness

Sam Lawson and Matt Puvogal from the New York city Emergency Management Community Preparedness Team presented, respectively, on community and individual preparedness. Community preparedness is what you do as a neighborhood and how organizations network. Individual preparedness is what you do for yourself or your family.

The Community Emergency Planning Boot Camp is a group training initiative for community organization representatives to learn the basics of community emergency planning. The first boot camp was successfully completed for the

Bronx with plans for a second boot camp to take place in southern Brooklyn in October.

Q&A

Q&A addressed questions about the training NYPD officers and PECO volunteers receive regarding people with disabilities as well as emergency preparedness registries of people with disabilities and other ways of collecting information on how to pinpoint people with disabilities and communities that may be more vulnerable.

Resources

- [My emergency plan](#) workbook
- Readynyc app on the [Apple](#) and [Android](#)
- [Notify NYC](#) website
- 311 (212-639-9675 for Video Relay Service, or TTY: 212-504-4115)
- [Know your zone](#)
- For organizations in the disability community: [Advance Warning System \(AWS\)](#)

Contact Information

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