

CHILDREN & DISASTERS NEWSLETTER



MAY 2015 - ISSUE 5

Welcome to the May edition of the *Children and Disasters Newsletter*. Last month we highlighted earthquake preparedness, an issue that unfortunately was thrown into the global spotlight when massive quakes hit Nepal on April 25 and May 12. Our first article shares information on how you can contribute to the relief efforts. This month's issue also features a great resource out of the University of Missouri and, as always, you'll hear from members of our FEMA Youth Preparedness Council. This month's topic is flood safety. Find a full list of articles in this month's newsletter below:

- [ONE MILLION CHILDREN IN NEED AFTER NEPAL EARTHQUAKE](#)
- [RESOURCE ANNOUNCEMENT: UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI'S TERRORISM AND DISASTER CENTER](#)
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ONE MILLION CHILDREN IN NEED AFTER NEPAL EARTHQUAKE

Startling statistics continue to pour out of Nepal, measuring the devastation and lives lost following the country's 7.8 magnitude earthquake on April 25 and the 7.3 magnitude earthquake on May 12. Nearly one million Nepali children are urgently in need of assistance, according to the [United Nations' Children's Fund \(UNICEF\)](#). Many of the hardest-hit villages in Nepal are remote and difficult to reach, making it challenging to assess the full extent of the damage.

With staggering altitudes and a lack of critical infrastructure, relief logistics remain an enormous concern. Humanitarian organizations from around the world have rushed to aid the Himalayan nation; however, this influx of aid workers and supplies has been met with challenging conditions on the ground.

Many children have limited access to safe water, food, and sanitation, and as such are at great risk of waterborne diseases and malnutrition. To meet the urgent needs of these children, humanitarian relief organizations are mobilizing to provide assistance such as providing clean water, oral

rehydration salts, and zinc supplements.

If you are interested in contributing to the relief efforts in Nepal, the [FEMA Volunteer & Donate Responsibly website](#) highlights considerations you should take into account when contributing to disaster response efforts. In almost all cases, cash donations are the best way to support recovery efforts. Visit the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) website for a [list of non-governmental organizations seeking donations](#). And remember, earthquakes can also happen in the United States. Please visit the [America's PrepareAthon! website](#) to get [information on earthquakes](#) and other hazards that may affect your community.

RESOURCE ANNOUNCEMENT: UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI'S TERRORISM AND DISASTER CENTER

The *Children and Disasters Newsletter* was recently alerted by one of our readers about the remarkable work coming out of the [Terrorism and Disaster Center \(TDC\)](#) at the University of Missouri. According to its website, "TDC's mission includes providing national disaster mental health leadership, increasing disaster mental health public awareness, developing and implementing disaster mental health interventions, creating disaster mental health training protocols, generating disaster mental health resources, partnering with service providers, and collaborating with community partners on disaster issues."

We have included two great resources available from TDC, and you can check out their website for many more. Remember, we're always looking for reader input, so please share any preparedness resources or updates by emailing FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov.

Resilience and Coping Intervention (RCI): This group discussion guide is designed to assist practitioners in talking with children and adolescents about their thoughts and feelings regarding stressful events, such as disasters. Participants work in groups to identify strategies for effectively coping with disasters. You can [download the manual from the TDC website](#).

Helping Youth Cope with Media Coverage of Disasters Fact Sheets: These fact sheets provide overviews of how media coverage of a disaster may affect youth. The material includes suggested strategies for parents and teachers to address such effects. Resources are available in both PDF and video form through the links below.

Parents: [PDF](#) and [video](#)

Teachers and school staff: [PDF](#) and [video](#)

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS AND THE FEMA MOBILE APP

With the 2015 Atlantic Hurricane season starting on June 1, now is the perfect time for you to get prepared. Hurricane hazards come in many forms, including storm surge, heavy rainfall, inland flooding, high winds, tornadoes, and rip currents. By knowing your community's vulnerabilities and what actions you should take, you can reduce the effects of a hurricane. We urge families and communities to participate in [Hurricane Preparedness Week](#), May 24 through 30, and develop hurricane preparedness plans. We also encourage you to download the FEMA app, free on the [iTunes App Store](#) and [Google Play Store](#). Watch the video above to see how this mobile technology



The FEMA App: Helping Your Family Weather the Storm

can help you and your family “Weather the Storm.”

FEMA app features include:

- Alerts from the [National Weather Service](#)—Receive severe weather alerts for up to five locations across the U.S. and access information about how to stay safe.
- [Disaster Reporter](#)—Upload and share photos of damage and recovery efforts.
- Custom emergency safety information—Save a custom list of the items in your family’s emergency kit, as well as the places you will meet in case of an emergency.
- Maps of disaster resources—Locate and receive driving directions to open shelters and disaster recovery centers.
- Safety tips—Learn how to stay safe before, during, and after over 20 types of hazards, including floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, and earthquakes.
- Apply for assistance—Easily access [DisasterAssistance.gov](#) to apply for federal disaster assistance.
- Information in Spanish—The app defaults to Spanish language content for smartphones that have Spanish set as their default language.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT INCREASES COMMUNITY SAFETY

By Chris Brodbeck, Langhorne, Pennsylvania

My name is Chris Brodbeck. I live in Langhorne, Pennsylvania and attend ninth grade at Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School. Outside school, I dance, sing and act, and volunteer at church and in my town. I am an active Boy Scout in Troop 19 at Langhorne Presbyterian Church and I just got my Eagle Badge.



My Eagle Project was putting color-coded reflective markers on fire hydrants in my town—the Boroughs of Langhorne and Langhorne Manor. I got this idea while visiting my brother at college where the hydrants were marked with poles and colored bands. The poles mark the hydrants in the snow and the bands identify the hydrants’ pressure. This seemed like a good idea.

Frank Farry is our Fire Chief and State Representative. He liked the idea of putting color-coded bands to assist the fire company in putting out a fire. This is when my journey began.

I worked with both the water and fire departments. We made sure every hydrant worked and repaired the broken ones. Some had to be replaced. We checked the flow rates of each hydrant twice—once for the fire company and once for the water company. After this effort, made longer by the polar vortex of 2013/14, my Troop and I were able to put the coded bands on the hydrants in September 2014.

This project is important for many reasons. My Eagle project ensured that all the hydrants in my

town work. The firefighters can better perform their duty safely. If there is a fire, one of my neighbors could be saved by something I helped create. One lesson, though, is that dealing with two agencies and a polar vortex is a very difficult job to do.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: THE NEXT GENERATION



AN ABUNDANCE OF CAREERS IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

By Alex Pasculle, Member Emeritus, FEMA Youth Preparedness Council

Have you decided that a career in emergency management is right for you? Maybe you're interested in this field, but you aren't sure which of the many career options you'd like to pursue. In previous months, I've mentioned quite a few potential emergency management careers—firefighter, emergency management director, police officer, EMT, emergency responder, communications officer, preparedness educator—but there are even more! Below are some additional options that I think are particularly interesting, but that you may not immediately connect with emergency management.

Telecommunications Operator or Emergency Dispatcher—When you dial 911, you probably take for granted that someone will answer. The people who receive emergency calls also communicate with first responders as they respond to the scene. They are a key component of the emergency management field.

Pre-Hospital Care Nurse, Transport Nurse, or Flight Nurse—In severe situations, patients may require transport to a hospital or between hospitals by ambulance or helicopter. In those cases, they require specialized care while in transit, and that's where Pre-Hospital Care Nurses, Transport Nurses, or Flight Nurses come in (there are many other job titles that fit this same general description).

Continuity of Operations (COOP) Planner—Just as individuals and families should have emergency response plans, every business should have a plan for how it will respond to and recover from a variety of situations, including natural disasters. Continuity of Operations Planners work with companies to help them develop such plans.

School Resource Officer—All kinds of emergencies and disasters can occur in schools, and when they do, School Resource Officers are there to help. This type of job is ideal for individuals who have an interest in emergency management and enjoy working with kids or young adults.

Emergency management includes a huge range of potential careers—careers that involve everything from teaching others how to stay safe in an emergency, to mitigating the impact of disasters, to responding to emergency incidents. All of these jobs have one thing in common though (and I think that commonality is the best thing about emergency management): No two days are ever the same, and you overcome new challenges every day!

COUNCIL CORNER: “TURN AROUND DON’T DROWN®”

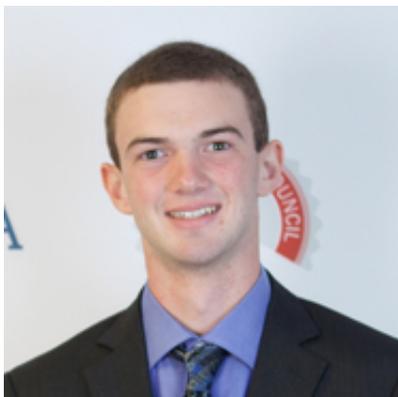
Whether it's traditional advertising or an emergency preparedness initiative, a marketing campaign's effectiveness can be measured using various techniques. One of the most powerful metrics is the level of recall and recognition, otherwise known as how well the campaign "sticks" in one's mind. When a safety campaign "sticks," communities, families, and individuals all benefit from the increase in public awareness. Last month, we posed the following question to the FEMA Youth Preparedness Council and we were thrilled that important flood safety information was top-of-mind for many of our Council members, as evidenced by a striking number of similar responses:

April showers bring May flowers, but sometimes the showers are too much! What is one way to stay safe in a flood?



"You should NEVER attempt to cross a roadway with water flowing over it. Don't assume that the road is still there when it could have easily washed out and you just can't tell. Remember to 'Turn Around Don't Drown'!"—**Austin Witt, Region VII**

"Turn Around Don't Drown. If you see heavy flood waters don't try to drive through it just turn around and find an alternate route. Keep in mind only 6 inches of water during a flood is enough to move a vehicle down the street."—**Matthew Mayfield, Region IV**



"Turn Around Don't Drown!"—**Obie Jones, Region VI**

The [National Weather Service's "Turn Around Don't Drown®"](#) campaign has become ubiquitous in the realm of emergency preparedness. Recalling critical safety information in the event of an emergency can strengthen communities and save lives, and a memorable slogan may be just what people need to remember appropriate protective actions. Thank you to the National Weather Service for a catchy and, more importantly, effective campaign!

CONTACT US

Email: FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov

Online at <http://www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness>

Disclaimer: The reader recognizes that the federal government provides links and informational data on various disaster preparedness resources and events and does not endorse any non-federal events, entities, organizations, services or products. Please let us know about other events and services related to youth preparedness that could be included in future newsletters by contacting FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov.

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