



CONSULAR ROUNDTABLES

In 2011 FEMA initiated the Consular Roundtable program to enhance community and personal preparedness in the large foreign-born population living and traveling in the U.S. In partnership with the Department of State's Office of Foreign Missions, local and state emergency management agencies and key voluntary organizations to share critical information on what assistance could be available to foreign nationals caught up in a disaster—whether from government or from voluntary agencies. Since its inception, numerous Roundtables have been conducted, attended by nearly 2,000 Consular representatives. The millions of resident and visiting foreign nationals are served by timely and appropriate information on disaster preparedness. The Workshops allow FEMA and its partners from local and state emergency management, and voluntary agencies, to explain how the Embassies and Consulates around the nation could serve as critical nodes for disseminating vital information to either residents or visitors from their countries. Topics covered include:

1. **WHOLE OF COMMUNITY**: As the US government agency responsible for coordinating the national response to major or catastrophic events, FEMA fosters a team approach to emergency management. We recognize that we are just one part of the nation's emergency management team – along with state and local officials, tribal governments, non-profits, the private sector, the faith based community, and most importantly, the public. The Consular Community has direct connections to a very large segment of our communities, and as such, serves a critical role in ensuring their safety.
2. **PERSONAL PREPAREDNESS REQUIRES GOOD INFORMATION**: At FEMA, we know that a government-centric approach to effective disaster response misses the most important sector – the public, and a public that is prepared. It is critical that every person have access to accurate and timely information about possible or pending disasters, in order to minimize the impact on themselves, their families and their communities. That's why our top priority, no matter what time of year, is encouraging all members of the public to be prepared. FEMA needs your help to make sure your citizens understand the risks they may encounter when living or visiting the U.S.
3. **SERVICES AVAILABLE THROUGH GOVERNMENT AND RELIEF AGENCIES**: Whether through Federal, State or Local government, there are types of immediate, life-saving assistance that are available to anyone impacted by a major disaster. While some Federal programs are limited to U. S. citizens, non-citizens nationals and qualified aliens, immediate emergency life-saving assistance such as evacuation services, shelter and food are available to all in need. The robust and extensive voluntary agency community also provides a wide variety of services and assistance to anyone in need due to a disaster.

For further information, contact FEMA International Affairs at [FEMA-International @fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-International@fema.dhs.gov).

"FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards."