# CHILDREN & DISASTERS
## NEWSLETTER

FEMA

## July 2016 - ISSUE 7


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## FROM THE FIELD

### Workshop Series Prepares Childcare Facility Staff

Earlier this year, the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region V partnered with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services–Region V, Administration for Children and Families (ACF), and Office of Head Start to create and host a four-part workshop series about emergency preparedness for childcare center directors and employees in Chicago.

During the workshops, participants discussed ways to better prepare their facilities for emergencies like storms and manmade disasters in the event that one occurs while children are on campus. Participants planned escape routes for their facilities and also developed action plans to leverage resources in close proximity to their facilities. These activities encouraged participants to look outside their own facilities to collaborate with nearby hospitals, schools, houses of worship, and retail stores.

Childcare center staff from throughout the city were enthusiastic about their takeaways from the series. “This workshop has opened my eyes to the world of emergency preparedness,” said one participant. “I’ve learned valuable information that can help to make my center more prepared for emergencies.”

If you’d like more information about ways that childcare centers can stay prepared and better serve

their communities, visit the Office of Head Start's Emergency Preparedness Manuals. Workshop leaders also highly recommend accessing the resources available at Ready.gov and Listo.gov, GearUpGetReady.org, and America's PrepareAthon!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Be Recognized for Efforts in Youth Preparedness

FEMA would like to feature anyone who is an ambassador for youth disaster preparedness. If you would like to be included in an upcoming issue of the Children and Disasters Newsletter, please send your name, a recent photo, and a brief description of how you are making a difference to FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov.

Due to legal requirements, we can only accept submissions from youth who are 13 years of age or older. By sending your information and photo to us, you acknowledge and agree that any information you provide, including any photo, may be viewed by the general public. FEMA reserves the right to edit, abridge, or format stories for any reason and to remove or decline to post any story or photo. By submitting a story, you are agreeing to all of these terms and conditions.

### Youth Win Video Challenge

Earlier this year, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response invited people ages 14–23 to submit a creative 60-second video showing how they help others stay safe for the "My Preparedness Story: Staying Healthy and Resilient" video challenge. Submissions show young producers across the country demonstrating how they protect their families, friends, pets, and communities during disasters, and inspire others to do the same.

Samantha Johnson, 23, from Anchorage, AK, was declared the $2,000 Grand Prize winner for her video featuring our Nation's least densely populated state. Other winners include:

- 2nd Place: Roxanne Scott, 22, from Sierra Vista, AZ.
- 3rd Place: Zain Hashmat, 16, from Meridian, MS; and a team led by Michael Truong, 18, and Hung Le, 18, from Arlington, TX; and Michelle Alvarez, 18, Vivian Nguyen, 18, and Kyle Vu, 18, from Grand Prairie, TX.
- Honorable mentions: A team led by Manuel Calabrese, 18; Claudia Cabrera, 15; Jennifer Lopez, 16; Nicole Lera, 16; Claudia Bacallao, 18; and Betsy Estevez, 16, from Marathon, FL; and Abby West, 18, from Centennial, CO.

### Ready Girl Joins Forces with Marvel in Comic Book Debut

New York City Emergency Management's Ready Girl has teamed up with members of Marvel's Avengers™ to launch her own comic book. With Captain America, Miss Marvel, and Iron Man, Ready Girl fights off an impending storm. Caused by the villain Whirlwind, the storm threatens the safety of residents in Brooklyn, NY.

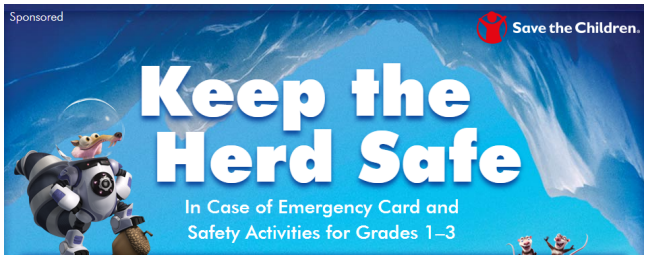
*Photo courtesy of New York City Emergency Management and Marvel Custom Studios*

As part of the comic book launch, Ready Girl and Iron Man visited third graders to help teach them how to prepare for severe weather and be their families' heroes for safety.

For tips about how to prepare for hurricanes and other emergencies, visit www.nyc.gov/emergencymanagement, and stay tuned for Ready Girl's next adventure.

## RESOURCES

### Brief Kids on ICE Concepts




In partnership with Scholastic, Save the Children recently released "Keep the Herd Safe," which includes fun, educational classroom activities and worksheets, a family resource sheet, and Save the Children's My In Case of Emergency (ICE) Card.

The resources were inspired by Ice Age: Collision Course™. The website also includes an animated public service announcement and the Prep Step song and music video. Visit www.scholastic.com/ice to download the materials today!

### Learn from Achievements in Youth Resilience

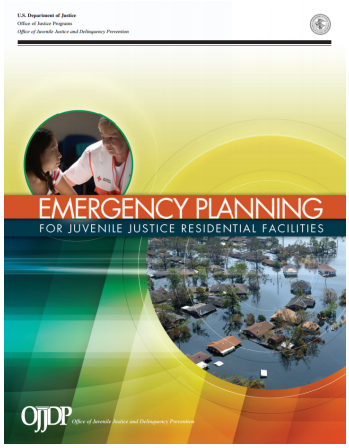
The 2016 National Preparedness Report is available now. It covers the Nation's progress toward strengthening its preparedness, including among youth.

Featuring varied initiatives like a Modern Blanket Toss program in Fairbanks, AK, and Latino Children's Day activities in Los Angeles County, CA, the report proves just how integral youth are to preparedness efforts throughout the Nation. Click here to read the full report to gather inspiration for your efforts.

### Protect Juvenile Offenders from Disasters

The U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention recently published "Emergency Planning for Juvenile Justice Residential Facilities."

It is the first comprehensive planning guide to address the specific needs of children, youth, and families involved in the justice system during an emergency. The guide covers topics like establishing communications procedures and providing mental health services and medical care.




[Download](#) your free copy now.

## Teach Kids to Cope with Severe Weather

Developed by the [Ozark Center](#) in cooperation with the [National Child Traumatic Stress Network](#) and the [Missouri Foundation for Health](#), Help Kids Cope, an app by the University of California-Los Angeles, provides age-appropriate communication prompts for parents and guardians to talk with their children about the natural disasters they may face, from earthquakes and extreme heat to floods, landslides, and windstorms, among others. The app helps parents and guardians know how best to support their children throughout a disaster—whether sheltering-in-place or evacuating to a designated shelter—and how to help the family to heal after reuniting.

The app is currently available for [free download](#) to Apple devices in the app store.

## CONTACT US

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

**Online:** www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness

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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.