




Librarians as Information First Responders

Vermont Library Association 2018
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WHAT YOU SIGNED UP FOR:

“Create a disaster recovery support strategy for your community as a companion to your library’s own disaster recovery plan using free tools & resources specifically for librarians.”

Please note, we’re not going to talk about the library’s own recovery plan: this workshop is about being a resource for your community after a disaster.

- ★ Vermont Disasters (5 minutes)
- ★ Discussion: What is realistic for your community and *yourself*? (5 minutes)
- ★ Resiliency Partners (10 minutes)
- ★ Introductions (7 minutes)
- ★ Questions to ask, resources to use when planning (10 minutes)
- ★ Sharing, discussion, networking (8 minutes)

What are our
POTENTIAL
VERMONT
DISASTERS?

Most Vermont Communities are Vulnerable

<https://youtu.be/fKXR5NRs3dl>

Do you know which routes of travel in your community are most likely to flood? What hazards put your community at greatest risk?

Does your community have access to gasoline without needing electricity?

Do you have the phone numbers of community volunteers, local Fire & Rescue members, access to a telephone that doesn't require electricity?

Where could displaced locals temporarily be sheltered in the event of widespread displacement and/or community isolation?

What is REALISTIC for your community & yourself?

Maybe your library will stick to recommending
and providing reading materials:

<http://www.ala.org/alsc/publications-resources/book-lists/comfortingreads>

What is the appropriate role for your library to take to serve your community in the event of a disaster? Who from the library will be responding? Who from the library will be assisting? What if there is no electricity?

How are you all assisting/communicating with
your community's & other **EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONDERS?**

WHO WILL BE INVOLVED OR COULD BE HELPFUL?

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- ★ LOCAL & NEIGHBORING COMMUNITY FIRE & RESCUE VOLUNTEERS
- ★ FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
- ★ RED CROSS
- ★ STATE OF VERMONT HAZARD MITIGATION
- ★ COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
- ★ STATE POLICE
- ★ LOCAL GOVERNMENT, TOWN ROAD CREWS
- ★ LOCAL LIBRARY
- ❖ MEDICAL & MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
- ❖ FARMERS
- ❖ HORSE PEOPLE
- ❖ CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS
- ❖ SNOWMOBILE, 4-WHEELER OPERATORS AND CLUB MEMBERS
- ❖ HAM RADIO OPERATORS
- ❖ TRUCK DRIVERS
- ❖ GROCERS, GAS STATIONS, AUTO MECHANICS
- ❖ CHILD CARE PROFESSIONALS
- ❖ EDUCATORS & ENTERTAINERS

Mid-point.... ?!?!

INTRODUCTIONS

Have you lived through one or more disasters?

(briefly, please)

Where do you live?

Where do you work?

What is your name?

~Let's remember to leave room for the more introverted folks to chime in~

<https://youtu.be/F9W2FGgqH3o>

WHAT WILL PEOPLE COME ASKING FOR?

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Access to communication technology, primarily to look up information regarding aid, insurance claims processes, communicate with loved ones.

They'll also be seeking: advice for salvaging damaged family heirlooms, information about emergency aid, food safety, basic first aid and food preservation information, updates on hazardous circumstances, updates on unaccounted-for people/rescue efforts, opportunities to volunteer, ways to distract themselves and their children from the stress, temporary “day” shelter, a place to charge their cell phones, copiers, printers, safe drinking water.

They may even need help locating supplies such as: diapers, menstrual supplies, ‘depends,’ pet food, dry socks, clean underwear, toothbrushes, hairbrushes, towels, access to a clean restroom...

What kinds of SCENARIOS do we know are feasible?

[http://www.gocros.org/community-resilience-self
assessment](http://www.gocros.org/community-resilience-self-assessment)

What does Library “READINESS” look like?

Familiarity with digital resources, how-to handouts re: help, safety & salvage

Hard copy of important phone numbers, basic plan for chosen scenarios

On-hand supplies for extended service conditions

(paper, toner; staff food, water, bedding, toiletries, personal supplies, etc)

“On-the-fly” Programming strategy, program volunteer communication plan

Relationships with town partners

Training/discussion/mock exercises with volunteers, board

Physical collection development in addition to “Readiness” Programming

A plethora of online resources...

The American Library Association <http://libguides.ala.org/disaster>

National Institutes of Health/National Libraries of Medicine

https://disasterinfo.nlm.nih.gov/dimrc/dis_courses/info_roles/03-000.html

https://disasterinfo.nlm.nih.gov/dimrc/dis_courses/info_roles/index.html

The New Jersey State Library

<http://www.njstatelib.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/The-Librarian-Guidebook-Sept-10-Final-2.pdf>

https://www.njstatelib.org/services_for_libraries/resources/disaster_planning

<https://youtu.be/CjPITpNNPs>

The questions to ask to get started

Will the library just close down until an emergency has passed and normal operations are possible? If not, what services will continue to be offered under what altered circumstances? By whom, for how long? Paid or volunteer or some combination for staff who go beyond their normal paid schedules?

Will we choose to be ready with different impromptu programming schemes with on-call volunteers, and if so, to what extent, whom, how, where, etc.?

What additional resources are appropriate for the library to acquire and how will those acquisitions be funded? Should a special collection budget be added to existing collection development funds, for example...

ULTIMATELY, SOCIAL CAPITAL IS THE MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE: Who is *already geared up to serve the community* that the library will be working to partner with, support and complement? Which relationships could be strengthened? Resources enriched?

NETWORKING & TEAM-BUILDING = MANY HANDS

We have networks to tap into, especially *National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters* (<https://www.nvoad.org/>) & *CERT: Community Emergency Response Teams*, <https://www.ready.gov/community-emergency-response-team>

WHO WANTS TO START A VERMONT LIBRARIAN DISASTER RESPONDER SUPPORT GROUP?

<I will coordinate until a core group of volunteers takes leadership>

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<https://youtu.be/fa6ERdxyYdo>