

DISASTER PLANNING/RECOVERY RESOURCES

NJ Office of Emergency Management

www.ready.nj.gov

NJ Long-Term Recovery Groups

www.nj211.org

NJ Disaster Mental Health Helpline

1.877.294.HELP (4357)

M-F 8am-8pm, Sat-Sun 10am-5pm

NJ Domestic Violence 24-Hour Hotline

1.800.572.SAFE (7233)

NJ Red Cross

www.redcross.org/nj

National - 1.800.RED.CROSS (733.2767)

NJ Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

1.877.CERT.411 (237.8411)

www.state.nj.us/njoem/citizen/cert.html

NJCBW

The New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women (NJCBW) is a statewide coalition of domestic violence service programs and concerned individuals whose purpose and mission is to end violence in the lives of women. Recognizing that violence against women in its various forms is a fundamental element in the oppression of women, the NJCBW focuses on the elimination of battering of women in New Jersey.



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NJ Statewide

Domestic Violence 24-Hour Hotline

1.800.572.SAFE

1.800.572.7233



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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & DISASTERS



THE IMPACT

Know the Facts

Be Prepared

New Jersey Coalition for
Battered Women

www.njcbw.org

WHAT TYPES OF VIOLENCE ARE LIKELY TO INCREASE AFTER A DISASTER?

Intimate partner violence and sexual violence. Women who were living in a violent relationship before the disaster may experience violence of increasing severity post-disaster, as they may be separated from family, friends, and other support systems that previously offered them some measure of protection. After a disaster these women may be forced to rely on a perpetrator for survival or access to services. Displaced women and children are often at risk of sexual violence as they try to meet their basic needs.

Child Abuse and Neglect. There is evidence that severe child abuse may increase after a natural disaster. Inflicted traumatic brain injury (TBI) is one of the most severe forms of child abuse, often leading to hospitalization and even death. In the six month period after Hurricane Floyd hit North Carolina, the rate of inflicted TBI in children under two showed a fivefold increase in counties severely affected by the hurricane, while in counties less affected or not affected, there was no increase in the rate. Other U.S. studies have also shown post-disaster increases in child abuse reports.

-World Health Organization, 2005

DISASTERS

Natural disasters like floods, hurricanes, and tornadoes can have devastating and lasting effects on individuals, families, and communities. Violence, specifically gender violence, often increases after a natural disaster. Domestic violence can be seen as an “ongoing disaster” happening at an intimate level. Therefore, the barriers and trauma that victims are already facing can be compounded by barriers and traumas specific to natural disasters. With isolation, financial dependence, and limited social networks already existing, victims of domestic violence are even more vulnerable when a disaster strikes.

Both domestic violence programs and survivors could benefit from planning for a disaster.

PHASES OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- **Preparedness** is taking action before an event to ensure you are ready for the emergency. These actions include developing your plan, training your employees and pulling together your disaster supplies.
- **Response** is the action that you take immediately in response to the threat, primarily to ensure everyone’s safety.
- **Recovery** includes actions taken to return to a normal or an even safer situation following a disaster.
- **Mitigation** involves taking the steps to prevent or lessen the effects of an emergency or disaster or, at least to reduce your risk.

PLAN for SAFETY!

Call your local domestic violence program to help you develop a PLAN.

THE BARRIERS

- Domestic violence will continue post-disaster and may escalate.
- Increased time spent with abuser due to normal activities being disrupted (i.e. work/school is closed)
- Once protective, the environment is now dangerous for a victim.
- Social networks are disrupted or destroyed.
- Disaster response may focus on the needs of the many & those in acute need.
- Local providers will be challenged to respond.
- Local services are overwhelmed.
- Communication lines to other supporting agencies may be down.
- Courts may be closed/cannot file for a restraining order.
- Shelters are full and lack privacy/confidentiality.
- Safety plan must be revised to account for disaster