**From Facilities to Trauma: Disaster Planning and Community Resiliency at Your Library**

**Learner Guide**

<https://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction/disaster-planning-community-resiliency.html>

**Event Description**: Recent catastrophes have highlighted the important role public libraries play in enhancing their community’s resiliency and post-disaster recovery efforts. Many community leaders now view libraries as ad hoc disaster recovery centers and recognize librarians as Information First Responders. This presentation will help you and your library embrace this new role as Information First Responders, who quickly enable people to get back to work, back to their lives, and ensure recovery of the community’s economic life. Learn what you need to prepare before disaster strikes, guided by New Jersey State Library’s [Disaster Preparedness & Community Resiliency Toolkit](http://www.njstatelib.org/services_for_libraries/resources/disaster_planning/), which has been emergency-tested by libraries. Your library can be at the forefront in providing that safe haven in times of crisis and helping your community return to normal life.

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| **What are your goals for viewing this webinar?** | |
| **Personal Goals** |  |
| **Team Goals** |  |
| **Library as Disaster Recovery Center** | |
| Libraries often serve as unofficial **Disaster Recovery Centers** (DRC).  What is an example where your library may have served your community in this capacity?  Make a list of other possible scenarios where your library **could serve** in this capacity: | |
| **Library as Information First Responders** | |
| Michele shared that at their recent conference, the Red Cross representative told them that the #1 need after a disaster is information. Based on these library staff skill sets, consider/discuss how the library can serve as **Information First Responders** for a community experiencing disaster:   * Great with technology * Able to deliver accurate information in a variety of formats & settings * Good at strategizing, problem-solving quickly * Library staff are often seen as more approachable than government agency staff * Libraries are trusted as information sources more than news media * Libraries are customer-service oriented * Library staff are members of the community, so often know more about those you’re serving than emergency response staff coming in.   What are other factors that make the library suited to support community resiliency? | |
| **Using a Disaster Planning Template** | |
| Using the [Disaster Planning Template](https://www.webjunction.org/content/dam/WebJunction/Documents/webJunction/2018-01/disastertemplate.docx) document from the Indiana State Library as a starting place, or the more detailed [Librarian’s Disaster Planning and Community Resiliency Workbook](http://www.njstatelib.org/services_for_libraries/resources/disaster_planning/) from the New Jersey State Library, and identify those areas that will require more discussions and planning as a team. Identify potential members of a committee to work on this: | |
| **Working with Emergency Management** | |
| The best way to be prepared is to create a relationship with your local office of emergency management to understand the risk assessment, mitigation, and preparedness planning in their area of coverage. Using the [Librarian’s Disaster Planning and Community Resiliency Guidebook](http://www.njstatelib.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/The-Librarian-Guidebook-July-21-Final.pdf) (pdf), review the Pre-Crisis Planning section to be prepared to explain the library’s potential role to Office of Emergency Management staff. | |
| **Other Potential Partners** | |
| List potential community partners you could connect with to discuss how the library can support community resiliency in times of crisis, and prepare to articulate the ways the library can support the needs of their clients/constituents.  1.  2.  3.  4.  5. | |
| **Action Plan: (include next steps, who, when, etc.)** | |
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