# Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

(Revised 9/15/2017)

The New Hampshire Public Health Association (NHPHA) recognizes the key role public health plays in emergency preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. Public health emergencies may be natural, accidental, or intentional, and require collective action to prevent, respond to, and recover from. While public health has a role in all emergencies, governmental public health agencies provide leadership and support during outbreaks of infectious or vector-borne diseases; natural disasters or events stemming from chemical, radiological, or other similar causes; and other events where the main impacts are to human health.

- The H1N1 pandemic resulted in $4.1 billion in costs related to the public health response in the U.S., not including costs to the health care system[1]. Deaths from H1N1 are estimated to be 12,469 in the U.S. alone[2].
- In 2016 alone, extreme weather and climate disasters caused 297 deaths in the United States and $53.5 billion in economic damage[3].
- From 1986 to 2013, New Hampshire (NH) received 35 Federal Disaster Declarations related to natural hazards, the total cost of which exceeds $175 million[4].
- A 2013 survey of NH residents reported only 32% felt their household was well prepared to handle a large-scale disaster or emergency[5]. Many people believe there is a greater chance of a disaster affecting them in the future, yet most still remain unprepared for them[6,7].

Disasters and emergencies often result in significant impacts to the population's health, causing injuries, increases in disease, disabilities, deaths, psychosocial issues, and other health impacts.[8] To reduce or avoid such impacts, effectively protect health and safety, and enhance the resiliency of the people of NH, it is critical that a whole community approach be the focus of public health planning.[9] NHPHA supports policies that that work in conjunction with local and state emergency management, health care, and community-based organizations to[9-11]:

- Ensure communities are aware of their potential risks and what they can expect from Federal, State, and local government and other public health and safety responders.
- Educate and empower NH residents to prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural, human-made, and technological disasters.
- Support Regional Public Health Networks and NH's Healthcare Coalition to continue emergency planning, response, and recovery activities.
- Continue locally relevant, threat and hazard-specific outreach initiatives.
- Promote community contingency plans, communications plans, and coordination of public health, medical, and mental/behavioral health services, and other mass care needs for the whole community.
- Enhance critical public health and healthcare infrastructure and cyber resilience.
- Ensure prevention and mitigation of environmental and other emerging threats to health.
- Encourage the adoption of healthcare and public health continuity standards and practices as a way to build NH and the Nation's resilience.
- Promote new communication technologies for engaging diverse communities.

**Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery (cont'd)**

## References

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## Resources

- Ready NH https://www.readynh.gov/
- NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/hsem/
- NH Public Health Initiatives https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/iphnh/initiatives.htm
- Disaster Resilience: A National Imperative (2012) https://www.nap.edu/read/13457/
- FEMA Comprehensive Preparedness Guide 101 Version 2.0 https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/26335
- National Preparedness Goal https://www.fema.gov/national-preparedness-goal
- FEMA National Response Framework https://www.fema.gov/national-response-framework
- National Health Security Strategy and Implementation Plan 2015-2018 https://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/authority/nhss/Documents/nhss-ip.pdf