

Episcopal Diocese of New York  
Disaster Response Plan  
June 30, 2017

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# The Basics Everyone Must Know



# The most important slide in this presentation:

- Deaneries are asked to be prepared to respond to the most likely disasters to happen in their area.
- **Everyone is expected to be self-sufficient for initial 24-72 hours after a disaster.**
- Ensure that a plan is in place to provide for the safety of:
  - Parishioners, especially vulnerable populations
  - Church Furnishings
  - Church Documents

# Diocesan Response Plan's Objectives:

- The first objective of the Diocesan disaster response plan is to position congregations to be ready to respond to disasters in their communities.
- The second objective is for congregations to serve and support their community throughout the life cycle of the disaster.

# Basic Algorithm/Response Plan

- Make sure you and your family are safe and ok
- Make sure church property is secure
- Make sure your congregation is safe and ok
- Serve your wider community
  - Work with others in doing so



# Be Ready

- Take advantage of Episcopal Relief & Development's congregational planning templates *before* an event happens.
- <http://www.episcopalrelief.org/what-we-do/us-disaster-program/us-disaster-program-preparedness-resources>

# Asset Map of the Diocese

- Please help us complete the Asset Map of the Diocese so we know what resources your congregation can offer your community:
- [www.edny.episcopalassetmap.org](http://www.edny.episcopalassetmap.org)
- Please visit this site and follow the directions to register your congregation's assets on the map!

# MediaAlert: texting service

- The Diocese of New York is currently considering the use of AlertMedia in partnership with Episcopal Relief & Development for use in the event of a disaster.
- AlertMedia is a cloud-based disaster communications tool that sends and receives messages to large groups of people via SMS, email and voice calls.



# Flood Evacuation Zones

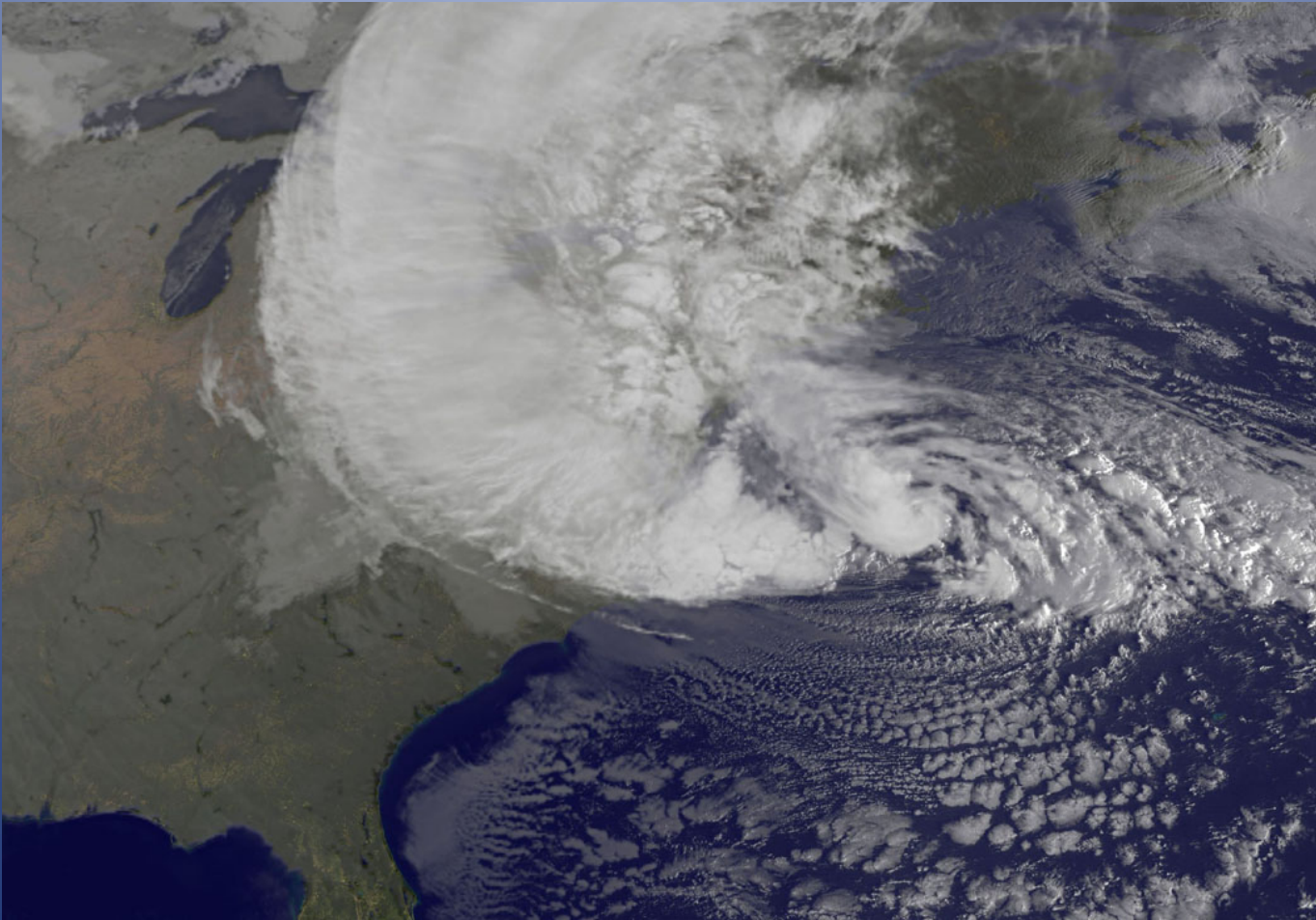
Click to see if your NYC Congregation or Parishioners are at risk:

- <http://maps.nyc.gov/hurricane/>
- For all other Counties, check with your County Emergency Management Agency

# Go Bag Contents for each member of your household:

- Copies of your important documents in a waterproof and portable container (insurance cards, birth certificates, deeds, photo IDs, proof of address, etc.)
- Extra set of car and house keys
- Credit and ATM cards and cash, especially in small denominations. We recommend you keep at least \$50-\$100 on hand.
- Bottled water and nonperishable food, such as energy or granola bars
- Flashlight. Note: Traditional flashlight bulbs have limited lifespans. Light Emitting Diode (LED) flashlights, however, are more durable and last up to 10 times longer than traditional bulbs.
- Battery-operated AM/FM radio and extra batteries
- Keep a list of the medications each member of your household takes, why they take them, and their dosages. Medication information and other essential personal items. If you store extra medication in your Go Bag, be sure to refill it before it expires.
- First aid kit
- Contact and meeting place information for your household, and a small regional map
- Child care supplies or other special care items
- Lightweight raingear and Mylar blanket
- Pet food, pet supplies and pet medications.
- [http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/get\\_prepared/supplies.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/get_prepared/supplies.shtml)

# About Disasters



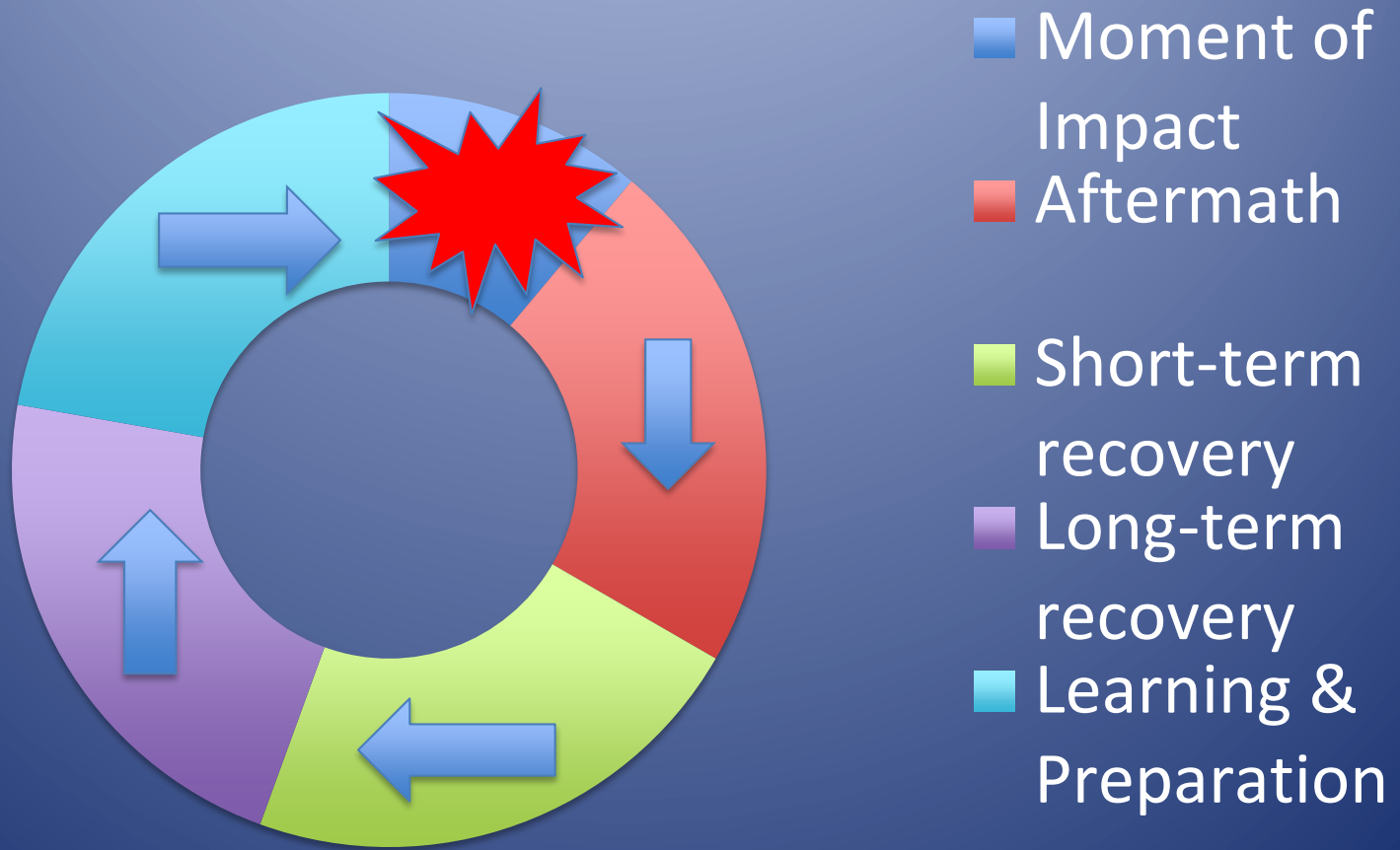
**Sandy, 2012**

# Disaster Definition

- A disaster is a condition that overwhelms the local resources available to cope with it.

*The American Red Cross*

# Life Cycle of a Disaster





# Interventions are tied to disaster phase:

- Impact: others' safety; presence
- Aftermath: assessing damage/loss of life; presence
- Short-term recovery: working with local authority to restore services/normalcy (new normal) stabilization; presence
- Long-term recovery: maintain hope, adjust to new reality; presence
- Preparation: learn from current disaster & work to mitigate the next.

# Recovery is a process and not an event

- While everyone wants to ‘be there’ when it happens,
- Pastoral presence is more needed in the space between short & long term recovery and over
- Long-term recovery

# Likely threats to Diocese

- Natural:
  - Fire
  - Severe Weather (drought, heat, tornado, hurricane)
  - Flooding
  - Climate change
- Human:
  - Terrorism
    - Mumbai style attack, with fire as a weapon
    - Vehicles as weapons
  - Violence on church property
  - Intolerance & hatred directed at Episcopal Churches

# Principles for Diocesan Response



Newtown, Ct.

# Guiding Principles:

- Use and leverage existing Diocesan structures wherever possible:
  - Geographic divisions for supply flow
  - Regional Deans & Deaneries are point people who identify and coordinate localized response
  - Disaster Management Team (see accompanying presentation) provides initial response & then transitions to supporting localized response.



# Response Parameters

- The local community is the target population to be served.
- Individual clergy and congregations are tertiary responders who are part of an organized response.

# What resources do we have that can be deployed to help?

- **Real Estate:** We have 198 Churches and Parish Halls throughout the Diocese that could be useful in a disaster as Family Assistance Center, staging area, shelter, or refuge.
- **The People** of the Diocese
- **Volunteers** from the wider Church and beyond

# Our Response Assets:

- The parish hall or church as a staging area, community gathering place, respite center, refuge for children - whatever is needed.
- Deep roots in the Community
- Known and trusted presence
- Relationships with local interfaith community
- Asset Map Participation [[link goes here](#)]

# Components of EDNY Disaster Response

- Clearly defined mission & parameters for responding
- Response structure: people, geographic, systems
- Training
- Local affiliations with local emergency & volunteer agencies
- Communications: internal & external
- Awareness of deployable resources & how to get them where needed.
- Inventory of Churches and Parish Halls.

# Geographic Area (198 Parishes)

- Mid-Hudson (54)
  - Orange (18)
  - Sullivan (3)
  - Dutchess (24)
  - Ulster (9)
- Region II (64)
  - Rockland (10)
  - Putnam (5)
  - Westchester (49)
- NYC (80)
  - Bronx (24)
  - Manhattan (47)
  - Staten Island (9)



# Deaneries

- **Bronx East**
- **Bronx Northwest**
- **Bronx South**
- **Dutchess North**
- **Dutchess South**
- **Dutchess East**
- **Episcopal Community of Central Orange (ECCO)**
- **God's Outpost (GO)**
- **Hudson Valley**
- **Manhattan Central**
- **Manhattan Lower**
- **Manhattan Midtown**
- **Manhattan North**
- **Multi-Vocational**
- **Richmond**
- **Rockland**
- **Ulster**
- **Westchester Central**
- **Westchester Hudson North**
- **Westchester Hudson South**
- **Westchester SawMill**
- **Westchester Shore**

# Some Particulars of Preparation



There is always an unexpected issue

# Evacuation Plans

- Have three components:
  - Parishioners
  - Church Documents
  - Church Furnishings

# Parishioners

- Shut-Ins
- Elderly
- Special Needs
- Small Children

# Church Documents

- Parish Registers
- Original letters from Bishops, Deeds, Land Grants, etc.
- Historical documents of the Parish
- Computer backups
- Insurance coverage information: property, flood, liability, etc.
- Can all go to Wayne Kempton, the Diocesan Archivist, [archives@dioceseny.org](mailto:archives@dioceseny.org); (212) 316-7419



# Church Furnishings

- Communion silver
- Vestments
- Linens
- Church Bibles
- Icons
- Artwork

# Being Ready



Breezy Point, as Sandy made landfall

# Disaster Resource Websites

- New York State:

<http://www.dhSES.ny.gov/oem/>

- New York City:

<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/em/index.page>

# For Further Information



West Webster, NY, Dec. 24, 2012

# Emergency Contacts:

- **The Reverend Stephen Harding**, Disaster Response Coordinator: 917 301-0267 [mail4harding@gmail.com](mailto:mail4harding@gmail.com)
- **Mr. Nicholas Richardson**, Bishop's Staff Liaison: 212 316-7520 [nrichardson@dioceseny.org](mailto:nrichardson@dioceseny.org)
- **Mr. Michael Rebic**, Director of Property Support: 212 316-7428 [propsup@dioceseny.org](mailto:propsup@dioceseny.org)
- **Church Insurance Fund**: Service & Information (800) 293-3525; To submit a claim, call (800) 223-5705

# Disaster Management Team

- The Rev'd Susan Fortunato
- The Rev'd Stephen Harding
- Mr. Darrell Hayes
- Mr. Nicholas Richardson
- The Rev'd Deacon Geri Swanson
- The Rev'd Peggy Sullivan



# Finally,

- Thank you for helping your community and the Diocese be prepared for the next disaster.
- Please call or email the Rev'd Stephen Harding with any further thoughts, questions, or offers to be part of the Disaster Management Team. [mail4harding@gmail.com](mailto:mail4harding@gmail.com)  
917 301-0267