



# **DISASTER READINESS DISCUSSION**

## **PARTICIPANT PACKET**

**Developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)  
Individual and Community Preparedness Division**

# INTRODUCTION

**Individual disaster preparedness is very important to the health of a community before, during and after disasters. When members of a community take steps to get ready others will follow, resulting in a stronger, more resilient community. But how do we get started?** Are the members of your community prepared for the next disaster or emergency; do they know how to get ready? With everything else going on in life, is it even possible for them to take action?

The answers to these questions are very important, both in your hometown and across the Nation. The goal of this discussion is to gather stories, thoughts, and ideas about preparedness. After the discussion, the completed worksheets will be shared with national preparedness leaders so that they may tailor the kinds of information and advice shared with all communities, *and more specifically communities that may not have heard these messages in the past, or may find current messaging difficult to use or apply.*

You are critical to this process, and we thank you for your willingness to contribute to this effort. These worksheets will help us learn what is working, what isn't, and how best to reach community members. Your participation will help us reach people in all walks of life and improve emergency preparedness throughout the Nation.

**We appreciate your help!**

Sincerely,

The Individual and Community Preparedness Team at FEMA

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## HOW I GET INFORMATION

1. **Which disasters have affected your community in the past?** (select all you can recall)

- |                                    |                                   |                                       |                                       |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hurricane | <input type="checkbox"/> Tornado  | <input type="checkbox"/> Earthquake   | <input type="checkbox"/> Terrorism    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flooding  | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire | <input type="checkbox"/> Winter Storm | <input type="checkbox"/> Power Outage |

2. **Where do you get your information about disasters? In general, how do you find out what is going on?**

- Local television** Which station(s)? \_\_\_\_\_
- National television** Which station(s) / program/personality? \_\_\_\_\_
- Radio** Which station (s) /program/personality? \_\_\_\_\_
- Internet** Which sites? \_\_\_\_\_
- Newspaper(s)** Which newspapers? \_\_\_\_\_
- Social media networks** Please circle those you use most often to get information:  
Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Email**
- Other individuals** Please circle those you get your information from most often:  
Friends, relatives, neighbors, doctors, teachers, parents, religious leaders or groups, government  
spokespersons, boss/supervisors, coworkers, Other( people or groups): \_\_\_\_\_
- Ready.gov**
- Flyers, pamphlets, posters, community bulletin boards, billboards, signs**
- Community meetings**
- Community fairs**
- Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**3. What is the best way for you to get safety alerts and warnings? Why is this the best way?**

**4. What information would you like to know to get ready for an emergency or disaster?**

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

5. When you learn a tornado, hurricane, wildfire, severe storm, or other disaster is possible in the near future, how do you find out what to do?

- Local television** Which station(s)? \_\_\_\_\_
- National television** Which station(s)? \_\_\_\_\_
- Radio** Which station/program/personality? \_\_\_\_\_
- Internet** Which sites? \_\_\_\_\_
- Newspaper(s)** Which newspapers? \_\_\_\_\_
- Social media networks** Please circle those you would most likely use: Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, other:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Email**
- Other individuals** Please circle those you would most likely ask:  
Friends, relatives, doctors, teachers, church leaders, government spokespersons, boss/supervisors,  
other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Ready.gov**
- Flyers, pamphlets, posters, community bulletin boards, billboards, signs**
- Community meetings**
- Community fairs**
- Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## SAFETY MESSAGES

6. Please check the box next to the messages that you have heard or seen before. Where did you hear or see them?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Messages	Where did you hear it or see it?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't wait. Communicate. Make your emergency plan today.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Drop, Cover, and Hold On	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Run. Hide. Fight.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stop, Drop, and Roll	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Turn Around Don't Drown®	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prepare.Plan. Stay informed.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	If You See Something, Say Something™	

## OTHER MESSAGES

7. What other safety messages have you heard? Where did you hear or see them?

Messages	Where did you hear it or see it?

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## ARE YOU READY?

**8. What steps have you taken to get ready for an emergency or disaster? How about your neighbors or family members?**

	<i>You</i>	<i>Your neighbors and family</i>
Made a family emergency communication plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Made a family emergency evacuation plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Practiced what I/they will do in an emergency or disaster	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Talked with family members/neighbors about how to get ready	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Set aside food and water for an emergency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Set aside medicine for an emergency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Put important papers in a safe place	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Insured property and/or belongings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Made my apartment/house/property safer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**9. Realistically, what can you do NOW to get ready for an emergency or disaster that might happen LATER?**

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**10. Do you think you are as ready for emergencies as other people in your community?**

- I'm probably LESS prepared for emergencies than most people I know.
- I'm probably JUST AS prepared for emergencies most people I know.
- I'm probably MORE prepared for emergencies than most people I know.

**11. What would inspire you to do more to get ready?**

- Group and community activities, such as \_\_\_\_\_
- School assignments and activities, such as \_\_\_\_\_
- Classes/trainings on \_\_\_\_\_
- More information on what to do to get ready, such as \_\_\_\_\_
- Knowledge of what my neighbors or family have done to get ready
- Advice on cheap, low-cost methods to prepare
- Knowledge on how to use items I already have to get ready
- Knowledge of how a disaster may impact me
- What I can do to protect myself and my family
- Other ways that will inspire me: \_\_\_\_\_

**12. Has this meeting sparked your interest in getting ready for disasters?**

- Yes
- No

**13. Does it seem easier or harder to get ready for disasters after having this discussion?**

- Much harder
- A little harder
- About the same
- A little easier
- Much easier



# TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

These meetings will be successful only if a wide range of community members are involved in the process. Please help us understand who is participating by providing us with some information about yourself.

**OPTIONAL QUESTIONS.** Please answer as many questions as you'd like.

**1. What is your gender?**

*Male*      *Female*      *Non-binary/third gender*      *Prefer not to say*

**2. What is your age group?**

*8–12*      *13–15*      *16–18*      *19–24*      *25–34*  
*35–49*      *50–59*      *60–69*      *70–79*      *80 or older*

**3. How do you identify your race/ethnicity? (select all that apply)**

*African-American/Black*      *American Indian*      *Asian*      *Hispanic/Latino*  
*White/Caucasian*      *Two or more races*      *Pacific Islander*      *Other: \_\_\_\_\_*

**4. Do you have a disability or a health condition that might affect your ability to prepare for an emergency situation?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Please Describe \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Describe your household.**

*Live alone*      *Live in an assisted-living facility or group home*      *Live with roommate/housemate*  
*Live with spouse/partner only*      *Live with spouse/partner and children*      *Live with school aged children*  
*Live with Adult Children*      *Live with my parent(s)*      *Live with my grandparent(s)*      *Live with other family members*

**6. What was your household income last year?**

*Less than \$10,000*      *\$10,000 to \$25,000*      *\$25,001 to \$35,000*      *\$35,001 to \$50,000*  
*\$50,001 to \$75,000*      *\$75,001 to \$100,000*      *More than \$100,000*      *Do not know or prefer not to say*

**7. Do you belong to any organizations (Social, Volunteer, Faith-based, Fraternal orders, etc.?)**

\_\_\_\_\_

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# CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE

You have been asked to participate in a discussion group organized by a third party, the findings of which will be shared with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The purpose of the group is to understand why some individuals do not take steps to prepare for emergencies. The information learned in the discussion groups will be used to design tools, messages, and training for communities to take steps to prepare for future disasters.

You can choose whether or not to participate in the discussion group and may stop at any time. Although the discussion group will be documented, your responses will remain anonymous and no names will be included.

There are no right or wrong answers to the discussion group questions. We want to hear many different viewpoints and would like to hear from everyone.

1. I understand this information and agree to participate under the conditions stated above.
2. I understand that this study is for research. It may offer no direct benefit to me.
3. I understand that participation in this study is voluntary. I may refuse to participate or I may withdraw at any time without creating any harmful consequences to myself.

Name of Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions about the use of the feedback shared by meeting organizers from your discussion and others taking place across the United States should be directed to Marvin SaintPreux, Individual and Community Preparedness Division, FEMA, at [marvin.saintpreux@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:marvin.saintpreux@fema.dhs.gov).