

Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Program (NEPP)



Mission: To support communities and neighborhoods in becoming self-sufficient and self supporting in times of disaster or local emergencies.

Vision: Florida communities and neighborhoods will be prepared, self-sufficient and resilient to all hazards.



Purpose: The NEPP is responsible for organizing and educating communities to increase their level of preparedness in handling all types of emergency incidents. City and county emergency services may be overwhelmed after a significant disaster. It may be 72 hours or longer before a community receives assistance. In the spirit of unity and neighbor-helping-neighbor, communities are encouraged to become involved in preparedness activities. Communities are selected/targeted based on an evaluation of vulnerable populations served such as non-English speaking communities, faith-based organizations, homeless coalitions, etc., to determine those most at risk. The goal is to increase their preparedness and resilience efforts and maximize return on investment.

Program Authority/Funding: The department received funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Cooperative Agreement.

NEPP aligns with:

[Florida Public Health and Health Care Preparedness 2014-2017 Strategic Plan](#)

Goal 7: Community and Health Care System Resilience

[CDC Public Health Preparedness Capabilities](#)

Capability 1: Community Preparedness, Function 2 - Build community partnerships to support health preparedness

Capability 2: Community Recovery, Function 2: Coordinate community public health, medical and mental/behavioral health system recovery operations

Objectives:

- Engage and mobilize small neighborhood teams to help foster self-sufficiency at the neighborhood residential level.
- Prepare community teams to collaborate strategically in planning, communicating, sharing information, and coordinating activities before, during, and after a biological, natural or man-made emergency.
- Utilize personal and community empowerment strategies to keep residents and automobiles off the road in disasters.
- Minimize the impact on health care facilities.
- Increase individual and neighborhood emergency preparedness.
- Teach communities how to organize as NEPP communities.
- Structure teams to provide the flexibility to respond to a variety of circumstances.

- Provide training opportunities for team leadership, communications and damage assessment.
- Provide training opportunities for first aid, home care, and emergency preparedness.
- Organize special projects and events to promote and strengthen community partnerships with groups such as American Red Cross (ARC), Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), and the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC).
- Assisting communities transition to sustained participation once financial support from the state has ended.

2013-2014 Highlights:

- Community emergency preparedness plans have been developed to prepare more than 163,461 Florida residents.
- The program executed 13 Memoranda of Agreement for 2013-2014 NEPP communities.
- There are currently 13 communities in five counties representing six sustaining counties and six startup communities.
- Monthly conference calls were held with county health department NEPP coordinators to review program deliverables and milestones, discuss upcoming events and address questions and concerns.
- The NEPP online toolkit was regularly updated and enhanced with more tools and resources to assist participating communities and points of contact.
- A community lead from a participating NEPP community made a presentation at the annual Governor's Hurricane Conference regarding emergency preparedness, response and recovery challenges faced by Hispanic communities.
- Each community emergency preparedness plan scored at least 94 percent in meeting the required plan elements and related expectations.

Partners: County health departments, apartment complexes, faith-based groups, local government officials and emergency management, community centers, Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), homeless shelters, retirement centers, neighborhoods, fire departments, American Red Cross and the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

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For more information on the Florida Department of Health, Division of Emergency Preparedness and Community Support, Bureau of Preparedness and Response, Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Program (NEPP) go to: www.floridahealth.gov/preparedness-and-response/community-preparedness/neighborhood-emergency-preparedness-program or go to: www.floridahealth.gov and enter "Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Program" in the search box.