DISASTER READINESS FOR HOMELESS SERVICES PROVIDERS

During and After a Disaster: What to Check

Questions to build a shared understanding of conditions. THN refers to this shared understanding as situational awareness.

Check Your Operations

- [ ] Are staff safe and reachable?
- [ ] Is the facility safe and operational?
- [ ] Are utilities and communications working?
- [ ] Can participants access services?
- [ ] Can outreach activities continue safely?
- [ ] Are closures or temporary service changes needed?
- [ ] Have service changes been communicated?

Check Local Impacts

- [ ] Are people living outdoors exposed to unsafe conditions?
- [ ] Have housing damage or displacement been reported?
- [ ] Are shelters, housing programs, or other services disrupted?
- [ ] Are transportation or communication barriers affecting participants?
- [ ] Are requests for housing or other assistance increasing?
- [ ] Are new or continuing unmet needs emerging?
- [ ] Are recovery concerns beginning to appear?

KEY TAKEAWAY

Understand what is happening, who may be affected, and what concerns are emerging.

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Follow official emergency instructions and local emergency management guidance.