



# KCER Watch

**Safety and Health Topics: Emergency Preparedness Bulletin**

**March 2018**

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## Hot Topics

### Grant Funding Available to Help Communities Prepare for, Withstand, and Recover from Disaster



When disaster strikes, the immediate concern of all responders is, and should be, how to help people meet their basic, urgent needs, like food, water, and shelter. But how a response is conducted can have significant impact on how the community recovers, and how fast. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation wants to better understand how communities bounce back from hardship and develop resilience. The foundation will fund two to four community-partnered research projects for a total of \$1.4 million in funding to study and advance the science of resilience.

**Read More:** <https://goo.gl/uJiS9G>

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### Taskforce Will Help Assess and Address Unmet Needs of Elderly and Disabled in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands

Months after Hurricanes Irma and Maria hit Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, survivors of those storms are still struggling with day-to-day living. The elderly and people with disabilities continue to have unmet needs. In response, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) created the Aging and Disability Taskforce to assess and address unmet social service needs for these at-risk populations.

**Read More:** <https://goo.gl/5gNkQb>

## If You Are 65 Years and Older, Here is What You Should Know and Do this Flu Season

Hospitalizations because of the flu are the highest among people aged 65 and older. If you're 65 or older, getting vaccinated against the flu *every* year is essential because the influenza viruses change and evolve. Also, aging causes a natural decline in the immune system, decreasing your body's immune response and increasing your need for the annual vaccine. Although the flu season has peaked, flu activity is still high and is expected to continue for several more weeks. In the link below, find tips on how you can protect yourself.



**Read More:** <https://goo.gl/iQpcjR>

## Education/Communication

### Cleaning Your Home After a Major Storm



The aftermath of a major storm can sometimes be the most difficult. Debris, flood waters, power outages, tree limbs, glass, and even snow all pose a major risk to your home and health once the blizzard, tornado, or wildfire is over.

Storm cleanup is different from regular cleaning. You should always wear protective gear and take safety measures to ensure no one gets hurt. Find guidelines to follow for cleaning after a disaster in the link below.

**Read More:** <https://goo.gl/DmNugF>

## Prepare for An Outage Before It Happens



Preparing for a power outage should start long before an outage happens. A bit of careful planning can go a long way towards protecting and caring for your family and home. Follow the tips in the link below, and you'll be ready when the power goes out. Be prepared and emerge from a power outage with little or no harm done.

**Read More:** <https://goo.gl/hM4Mia>

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## Drones Helping in Puerto Rico

Did you know that drones are equipped with cameras and other sensors that can help with a variety of tasks in an emergency? Right now, in Puerto Rico, where hundreds of thousands of people are still in the dark following Hurricane Maria, drones are helping to get the lights back on.

**Read More:** <https://goo.gl/BzmjGv>



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[www.kcercoalition.com/kcerwatch](http://www.kcercoalition.com/kcerwatch)

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