## Weathering the Storm: A Step-by-Step Scenario Planning Tool for Small, Rural, and Under-resourced Communities

Not all communities face disasters equally. For under-resourced, rural, or overlooked areas, an extreme weather event can be more than a disruption—it can be life-altering. This tool is designed to guide your leadership team through realistic weather-related scenarios, help you visualize the impact, ask critical preparedness questions, and plan for help in advance.

Use this tool to uncover your community's unique risks, assess your level of readiness, and identify the partners and resources you'll need to respond effectively and recover with confidence.

| ✓ | Hazard Type | Who Could Be Most Affected? | What to Prepare For | Preparedness Check | Yes | No | Unsure |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ | Extreme Heat | Older adults, medically vulnerable residents, people without A/C | Power outages, heat-related illness, limited cooling access | Do we have accessible cooling centers onsite or nearby? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| | | | | Have we identified and can we check on heat-vulnerable residents? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| ☐ | Flooding | Residents in low-lying areas, trailer homes, those near water | Property damage, road closures, loss of access to services | Have flood-prone areas been mapped and shared with the community? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| | | | | Do residents have clear evacuation and shelter information? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| ☐ | Hurricane/ High Winds | Households in older or mobile homes, residents in coastal areas | Evacuation, debris, communication failures, structural damage | Is there a shelter plan in place with pre-identified locations? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| | | | | Do we know who needs help evacuating, including transportation? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| ☐ | Severe Winter Weather | Those without heating systems, rural families, isolated seniors | Power loss, snowed-in homes, frozen pipes | Do we have warming centers designated and staffed? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| | | | | Do we have a plan to reach or assist isolated households during storms? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

EM DISASTER SOLUTIONS

| ✓ | Hazard Type | Who Could Be Most Affected? | What to Prepare For | Preparedness Check | Yes | No | Unsure |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ | Tornado | Mobile homes, those without basements or storm shelters | Rapid onset damage, injury risk, power and communication loss | Are there known and accessible shelter areas or safe rooms? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| | | | | Do warning systems reach all parts of the community, including non-English speakers? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| ☐ | Wildfire | Rural areas near woodlands, residents on dead-end roads | Evacuation, smoke inhalation, blocked roads | Are evacuation routes identified and accessible year-round? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| | | | | Are property owners educated on defensible space or risk reduction strategies? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| ☐ | Power Outage | Residents using medical devices, low-income families | Food spoilage, medical emergencies, loss of communication | Do we track residents who rely on power for medical needs? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| | | | | Do we have access to backup power or generators for key facilities? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

EM
DISASTER SOLUTIONS