



Brainstorming Session Preparedness

December 1, 2012

Village of Hastings-on-Hudson



○ **Introduction**

- On December 1st, the Village government hosted a post-mortem on Sandy, detailed what worked, what did not and what we were seeking to do to address identified gaps.
- Additionally, we ran a brainstorming session looking for input from the public on things both the public and the village government could do better. The audience was divided into three groups of eight individuals, each with a moderator/scribe (Ellen Hendricx, Danielle Goodman, Niki Armacost). Each group focused on one of three topics identified: neighborhood resiliency, cross-village assistance, and communications.
- The following slides are edited versions of what was generated during the meeting as well as notes from emails and comments from people



Cross Village Preparedness

- Village needs to coordinate shelter. Blow-up beds. Electricity can be shared via power cords that need to be secured with electrical tape to guard against rains/ponding. Neighbors should consider opening wifi to neighbors. Also consider providing access to hot water, fridges for medication.
- Importance of coordinating at block, cluster, village levels.
- How to formalize local efforts (neighborhood, community, block)? Centralizing locally emails at block level, sharing at block parties. Through these informal meetings, you learn those that may need help.
- Can we mobilize youth? They could hand out flyers to those who don't have access to email, shovel driveways, help clear property. Use boy and girl scouts – reach out to the leaders. Through school (midnite run, etc.) groups could be mobilized as well. Trustees could be points of coordination? Find points of congregation and identify point people who might be able to help out.



Neighborhood resilience

- Question is how do neighborhoods organize? Big map of village for volunteer event where people can self-register and identify those willing to help coordinate at the neighborhood/few blocks.
- What is best way to meet neighbors? Knock on doors, create email lists, block parties, events where people congregate. Use mailers in tax bill, use of village calendar.
- Remind people in Village calendar that there is a village email, set up a village blog,
- 24 hour community center, library, high school. Shower facilities at High School. The school district should be better patched in to the efforts. Some kind of formal effort to support education during a long outage. Students who volunteer would get community service credits for helping out during a crisis. Use resident volunteers to help teach.
- Formal committee with muni government support. People who sign up to be point people would have some commitment.
- Come up with a structure to neighborhood groups and volunteers. Checklist for volunteers who are coordinating at a village level.
- Post-storm community service clean-up efforts could be structured and parceled out whether to students or adults.
- More formal the buddy system, the less difficult it is to ask/get help.



Communications

- Neighbor-to-neighbor communications. Set up groups (Doris Cooper has sample forms that includes contact information and special needs, e.g. oxygen tanks or disabled equipment). Rotating leadership responsibility so it is more manageable. Important to arrange this ahead of time. A “buddy system” set up well ahead of the event. Tech-savvy buddies who have accessibility to info.
- Report on a blog trees and wires down.
- Generator registry for first responders to know where there are gas/propane generators and also to know who does or does not need that help. Also to check on proper use. Also in terms of issues of sharing and noise.
- Blog on website where information could be put for generable accessibility like gas availability. Facebook registry for finding missing loved ones.
- Library may be a central resource that should be on generator. Consider use of solar or wind so you are redundant.
- Sharing generators?
- More general issue of pooling resources and community resiliency versus just individuals armoring themselves. What we care about is what a community can do whether than just individual.



Other thoughts

- Commercial availability issues. Which stores can offer food supply, medicine, gas, etc. Sharing information and identifying what is available.
- Diversity of housing choices
- Community Center as a center for volunteer activity, arts, activities so they can be nurtured and nurture. Participate. Purple Crayon?
- Group utilization of tree services
- Village Twitter feed for storm status
- Move parking to one side of street post-storm so emergency vehicles have full access.
- Civilians can help clean streets of small branches and limbs, flames yellow caution tape, other trash items.
- Post-storm, collect material carefully in piles for easier pick-up.