

Community Tech NY

Learning Module: Don't Panic, Organize!

Participants will role play as residents of a neighborhood, offering resources and meeting needs. A hands-on activity will provide tools and techniques to prepare for emergencies. Participants will walk away with skills and practical approaches to make their communities more prepared and resilient.

Room setup:

- Round tables with 4 to 6 people each, more if the session is very full
- Each table has an envelope with scenario information (more below)
- Portable Network Kit or wireless router and microserver running Etherpad

Activity:

- Introduce scenario (5 minutes)
 - A major storm is coming
 - Each table represents a community hub - where residents of this neighborhood live or work, or have a connection to in some other way. The people sitting at each table are connected to that place in some way, which is explained in an envelope on their table.
 - Residents have until the storm hits to look through their envelope and prepare for the storm. What resources does their site have? What needs does it have? What do they know about other sites in the neighborhood -- those that will need help or have resources?
 - Participants will organize using a collaborative document hosted on a local wireless network.

PART I: ORGANIZING IN PLACE (10 minutes)

- Organizers put an info sheet on each table describing which community hub site they are representing, and what resources they have (see below under PREPARATION)
- Tables prepare, with their group only
 - Read through the sheet, analyze the resources and needs
 - Come up with a plan for the zone or site
 - Do people need to evacuate? How & where to?
 - Where are people with mobility or other challenges?