PREVENTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

What Disaster Responders Need to Do
Disasters increase the risk of trafficking. As a disaster responder and/or health care provider, you are likely to come in contact with a trafficked individual.

Disasters Increase the Risk of Trafficking

READY
– Before the disaster, know where the at-risk populations are located and build relationships with leaders in those areas to proactively conduct outreach. Print any relevant materials ahead of time.
– Include information about trafficking in existing protocols and develop local and national referral processes.
– Incorporate trafficking information when training first responders.

RESPOND
– Create a social media strategy to educate on trafficking and post-disaster vulnerabilities. Disseminate information on tactics traffickers may use at shelters for staff and on cots for residents.
– Identify and report adults who may be experiencing trafficking to the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Identify a local reporting option as well.
– Identify and report any missing or unaccompanied children to local law enforcement, then the Unaccompanied Minor Registry. Provide interim care for missing or unaccompanied children.

RECOVER
– Abide by policies on disaster response procurement and labor protection. Incorporate training and information on trafficking to employers and employees.
– Use the Unaccompanied Minor Registry for reunification.

Be Aware of Potential Trafficking Schemes

LABOR TRAFFICKING
– Work that comes with perks that may be too good to be true (immigration assistance, extravagant wages); workers charged high fees to begin work
– False rebuilding or construction jobs advertised on social media
– Traffickers posing as disaster responders at distribution sites offering employment

SEX TRAFFICKING
– Offers to stay at a stranger’s home instead of a shelter
– Offers to make quick money to help support family and get back on one’s feet
– Offers of drugs when methadone clinics are closed during and after the disaster

If you think someone may be experiencing trafficking, call and/or encourage them to call the National Human Trafficking Hotline: 888–373–7888 to receive help, resources, and information.