

# 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

- Train staff on the National Defense Authorization Act, which prohibits trafficking in government contracting.
- 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.

