

# “Is everyone alright?”

These are the first words many of us say when we are told a loved one has been in an emergency. As employees of ASPR, we ask this question in relation to large-scale disasters. We ask it every day. And we ask it in a thousand ways. From the hospitals in your community to the halls of Congress and everywhere in between, we engage people in discovering together how best to bounce back from disaster with health intact. We do this so that when you ask “Is everyone alright?” you have a greater chance of hearing the most reassuring answer possible: “Yes.”

## When we say “everyone” we mean entire **communities.**

It is our job to see to it that communities across America — including yours — are better able to stand up to disaster and get back to everyday life as quickly as possible when actual events threaten public health. To do this, ASPR brings innovative approaches to every relationship we build. We foster a two-way understanding of capabilities with everyone we meet. And, quite simply, those relationships allow us to get exactly the right people to work together at the right time. The result? We are building a strong track record of keeping communities ahead of potential health threats and able to respond quickly and capably during emergencies.

## Why **ASPR?**

Housed within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ASPR is uniquely situated at the crossroads of public health and medical readiness. Central to ASPR is our unwavering belief that American communities withstand disaster best when they come together in advance to ensure the systems they use every day are able to not only withstand disaster, but to bounce back and become stronger than ever.

## “Health that stands up to disaster.”

ASPR works tirelessly to see to it that American communities reach and maintain health resilience in the face of disasters and other significant threats to public health.

Here are just a few ways we do this:

- We move appropriate personnel and equipment needed to care for people in your state within 24 hours of an official request for federal assistance.
- We help communities attain flexible, all hazards capability rather than prepare for a limited set of scenarios. We provide guidance and grants to hospitals and healthcare coalitions to plan for disasters including how to adapt effectively to related surges in patient volume.
- We advocate broad inclusion of the local resources in preparedness efforts. Doing so better addresses the needs of diverse and vulnerable populations during disaster.
- We foster truly refreshing collaboration among leaders in Washington resulting in more effective strategies. To assure policies work in the real world, we insist on total inclusion and recognition of local-level voices.

## Standing by your side

Turn the page to learn more about ways ASPR is helping communities like yours strengthen health resilience.



## We **help** communities get better faster.

ASPR may be best known for effectively responding during health emergencies, when, from our command center, we bring to bear all of the health and medical resources of the federal government to assist your community when you need it.

As committed as we are to our response capabilities, we are equally dedicated to the upfront work we do to strengthen your community's resilience against health threats — well in advance of specific emergencies. ASPR leads and assists in ways unlike any other federal office. We convene and focus national attention on anticipating and introducing medical countermeasures to a range of threats, as well as removing barriers to local implementation of innovative solutions.

## **Stand** with us.

ASPR is helping communities across America master empowering approaches to disaster health preparedness. The goal is "community resilience," which is another way of saying that the right know-how and preparation makes it possible to not only protect community health and get back to everyday life, but to become stronger than you were before. More resilient communities are better able to safeguard health through disaster and beyond.

### Have you crossed paths with **ASPR?**

Here are just a few examples of the many ways ASPR's impact is felt in communities across America:

#### ***Ahead of disaster***

A regional coalition of healthcare facilities crafts a joint plan for treating each other's patients in case one is hampered during an emergency.

A local university helps shape a national policy that will allow researchers to pinpoint the most crucial decisions leaders can make to best protect lives as disasters unfold.

Federal funding readies a local manufacturing facility to quickly produce pandemic flu vaccines over the next twenty-five years.

#### ***During disaster***

An overwhelmed emergency department welcomes teams of medical professionals from ASPR's National Disaster Medical System, or NDMS, increasing capacity to care for storm survivors and giving hospital staff their first break in 24 hours.

ASPR investigates internet-generated rumors and verifies a local nursing home is in need of immediate assistance during a disaster.

Local pharmacies participate in an emergency program to dispense vital prescriptions for the uninsured at no cost to the patient, allowing dozens of patients to replace necessities, such as inhalers, lost during a flood.

For recent, real-world examples of how ASPR is helping to build more resilient communities, visit us at [www.phe.gov](http://www.phe.gov). You can reach us at (202) 205-2882 or [aspr@hhs.gov](mailto:aspr@hhs.gov).