



Following the Storm:

Following Super Storm Sandy, many communities were faced with the need for quick clean-up but at the same time had employees and staff that were overwhelmed with storm damage. By preplanning and preparing for disaster, the community is able to cover both sides and take care of everyone and everything.

First and foremost, safety should always be the primary concern for everyone. As the Manager your job is to think about both sides of the storm response. One, the business side of the response, ensures that the municipality receives all the possible assistance. The other side, the employees and constituents, is the human side of the event. Both sides are equally important because the business thinking will indefinitely provide for the citizens of your area.

In order to best provide for your municipality, there are some key elements to concern yourself with for your jurisdiction. Documentation is the basis for everything and that does mean everything. If you document all of your expenses and procedures you are sure to benefit from the available funding from the Federal government following a storm. Your staff will be performing beyond their normal capacities and your purchases or procurement may also exceed the typical expenses of normal business hours. The first 72 hours are especially important to track if you have storm-created debris in your jurisdiction. So the rule of thumb is to keep up with all of the receipts from all of the departments within your municipality to include the fire and police departments. You must relate this information to all of your municipal employees to ensure that nothing is missed, Even if power is lost, you will be best served to track all of the employee's time even if it is with pen and paper.

On the other side, a City Manager should think about their constituents and employees in a human sense in order to ensure their basic needs are being met following a storm. It can become overwhelming to determine all of the important aspects to remember to think about so it is best to follow some basic and necessary tips. It starts with everyday needs such as shelter, food, and clothing.

Some basic tips to utilize and disseminate are as follows:

1. Determine whether your house is habitable and safe. Shut off gas and water if possible.
2. Reach out and ensure all family members are safe and do not need medical treatment or medications.
3. Obtain ample water supply for each family member.
4. If you power is out, use all of the perishable food for meals first and open your refrigerator and freezer as little as possible.
5. Ensure that you have sufficient supplies for your pets to include food, water, and medication.
6. Gather all of insurance information to process any damage that might have occurred to your property.

Of course, depending on the extent of damage, the issues may be extensive but everyone must cover their basic needs initially. It is essential that as a manager, you lead the efforts of securing your business services, employees, and constituents.

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