CSL in Session

Places that serve us well every day serve us best when disaster strikes: Role of the library

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National Network of Libraries of Medicine

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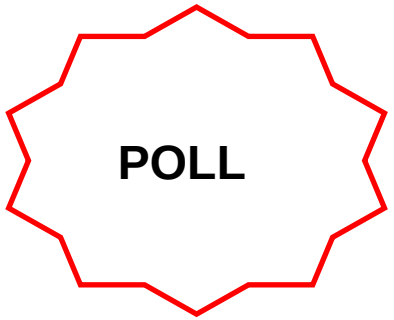
MidContinental Region

Colorado * Kansas * Missouri * Nebraska * Utah * Wyoming

Objectives

- Be knowledgeable about library roles in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.
- Describe the library's participation in community resiliency.
- Be aware of resources for emergency and disaster health information.

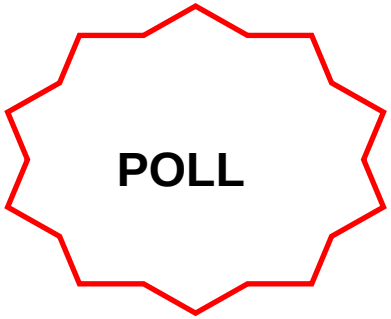


What the Research Shows

- People who believe themselves “prepared” for disasters often aren’t as prepared as they think:
  - Forty percent of survey respondents did not have household plans.
  - 80 percent had not conducted home evacuation drills.
  - Nearly 60 percent did not know their community’s evacuation routes.

Why Libraries?

- Libraries are everywhere.
- Libraries are now recognized by FEMA.
- Libraries are stable, longtime tenants.
- Library staff are experts at managing information and technology.



Emergency vs. Disaster

- Emergency is a localized event that is usually of short duration.
  - Colorado and California wildfires
  - Colorado and Midwest flooding
- Disasters are larger scale events, often regional or national in scope; effects are felt over a longer period of time.
  - Hurricane Katrina
  - Indian Ocean Tsunami

Preparing for Specific Hazards

- Biological Event
- Chemical Emergencies
- Radiation Emergencies
- Mass Trauma and Explosive Events
- Natural Disasters and Severe Weather
- Outbreaks and Incidents
- Psychological Effects

Biological Event

- Bioterrorism attack is the deliberate release of viruses, bacteria, or other germs (agents) used to cause illness or death in people, animals, or plants.
- Biological agents can be spread through the air, through water, or in food.
- Examples include smallpox virus, anthrax, plague, botulism.

Chemical Emergencies

- Hazardous chemicals are categorized by the type of chemical, or the effects of human exposure, including:
  - Poisons that come from plants or animals
  - Chemicals that cause severe blistering
  - Poisons that prevent blood from clotting
  - Chemicals that damage living tissue
- Common industrial chemicals include chlorine, ammonia, and benzene.
- Military chemicals include nerve agent Sarin, choking agent phosgene, and mustard gases.

Radiation Emergencies

- Radiation effects its toxicity on biological systems through ionization, which creates tissue damage by the generation of free radicals, disruption of chemical bonds, and direct damage to cellular DNA and enzymes.
- May contaminate homes, work places, and other resources, requiring extensive and costly remediation.
- Can be easily detected with equipment carried by many emergency responders.

Mass Trauma and Explosive Events

- A catastrophic event involving multiple injuries, deaths, disability, and emotional stress.
- Increased population density, mass transit, and mass gatherings create a potential for disaster casualties.
- Explosive devices are the most common because they are the easiest to create, obtain and use:
  - Bombings accounted for nearly 70 percent of all terrorist attacks in the U.S. and its territories between 1980 and 2001.

Natural Disasters & Severe Weather

- Earthquakes
- Extreme Heat
- Floods
- Hurricanes
- Landslides/Mudslides
- Tornadoes
- Tsunamis
- Volcanoes
- Wildfires
- Winter Weather

Outbreaks and Incidents

- Contagious illnesses
- Foodborne illnesses
- Drinking water contaminants

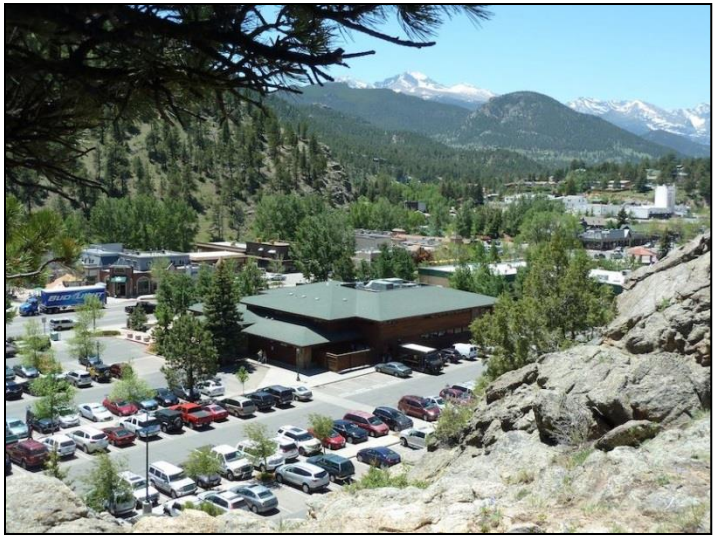
Psychological Effects

- Disaster events that seem to have the most significant mental health impact are those that:
  - Occur with little or no warning.
  - Pose a serious threat to personal safety.
  - Create fear of the unknown or delayed health effects.
  - Occur with uncertain duration.
  - Result from malicious intent (e.g., terrorism, which has an overriding objective to inflict psychological pain, trauma, anxiety, and panic).

Recent Outbreaks and Incidents

- Ebola Outbreak in West Africa
- Enterovirus 68
- Listeria/Cantaloupe Outbreak
- Washington Oso Mudslide
- Elk River Chemical Spill
- Gold King Mine waste water spill

Estes Valley Library – Estes Park, CO

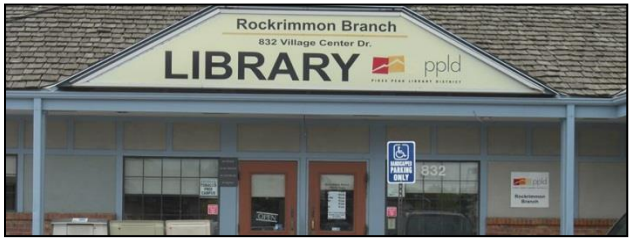


Photo/Estes Valley Library

AP Photo/Colorado Heli-Ops, Dennis Pierce

Pikes Peak Library District

Waldo Canyon Fire Photo/Denver Post



Rockrimmon Library Photo/PPLD

Black Forest Fire Photo/CNN

High Plains Library District – Weld County

AP Photo/The Greeley Tribune, Joshua Polson

Aurora Public Library – Aurora, CO

Photo/Denver Post

Photo/Denver Post

Photo/City of Aurora

Health Sciences Library – Aurora, CO

Photo/U.S. Air Force by Senior Airman Phillip Houk

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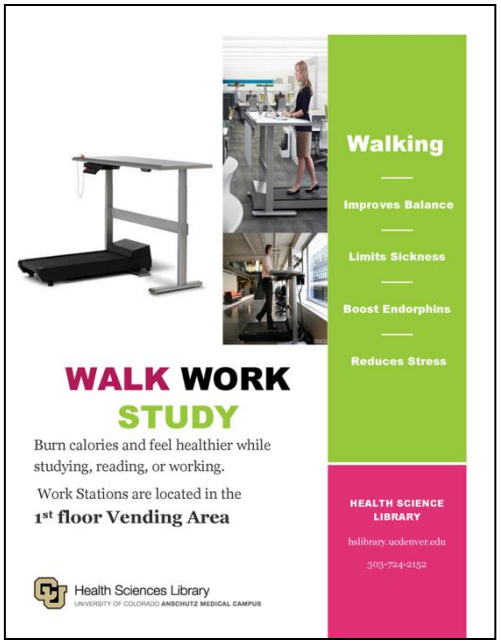
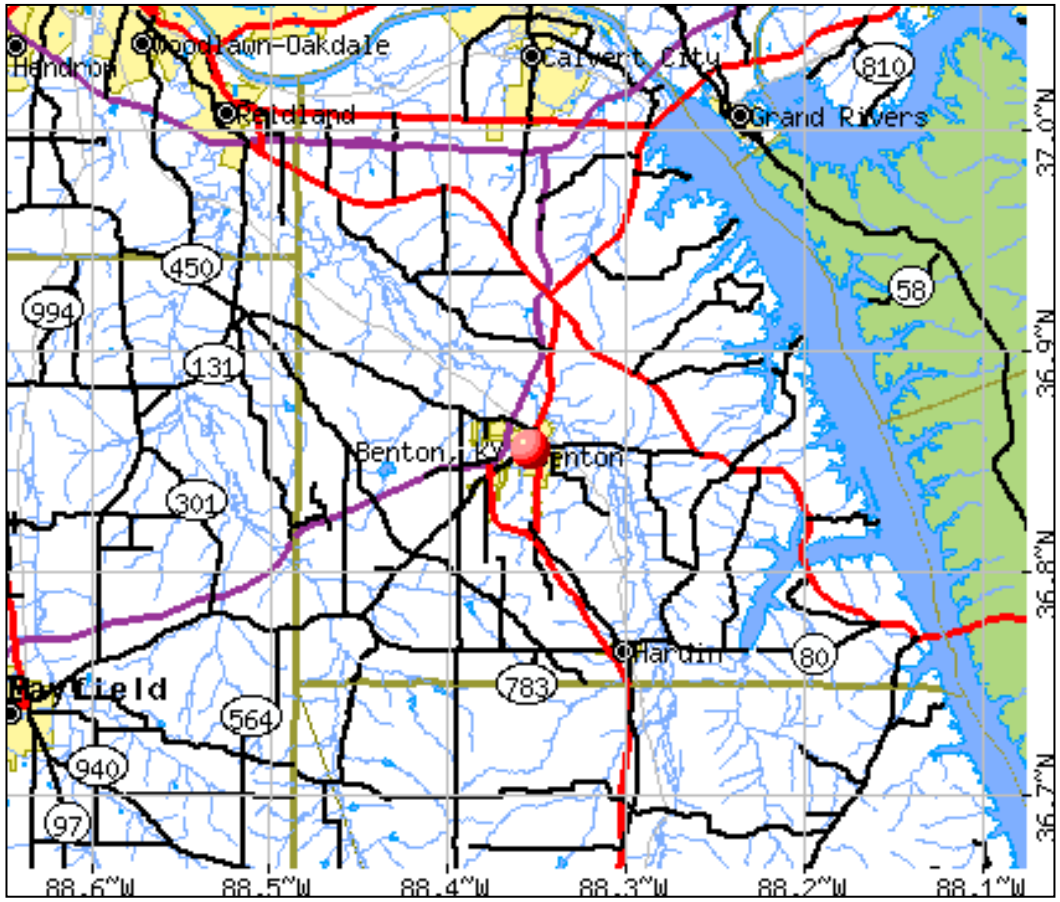
Community Resilience

- Economic Development
  - Early and adult literacy services
  - Employment and career services
  - Small business resources
- Social Capital
  - Community outreach
  - Universal services
  - Library as place
- Information & Communication
  - Formal and informal information exchange
- Community Competence
  - Community action
  - Partnerships

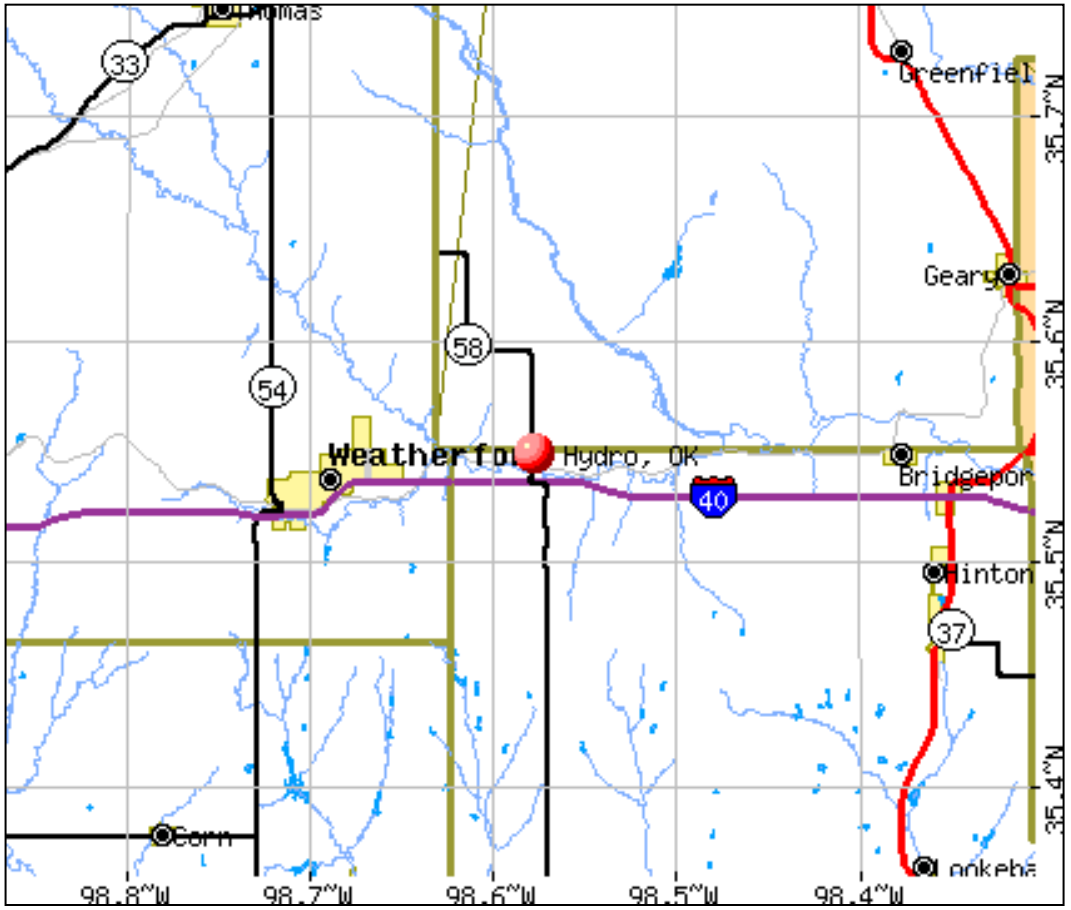
Year Round Participation



Public Library/Public Health Partnership



Public Library/Emergency Responder Partnership



Get Active in Your Community

- Strengthen and expand medical and pubic library partnerships.
- Encourage, strengthen and/or expand library partnerships with first responders.
- Provide access to emergency management information tools and resources.
- Integrate and involve libraries into their communities' emergency preparedness, response, and recovery planning.
- Promote and publicize the role libraries can play in emergency preparedness.
- Make libraries part of the nationwide effort to encourage communities to take steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and schools.

Strengthen and Expand Medical and Pubic Library Partnerships

- E-resource support
- Continuity of service
- Knowledge sharing

Encourage, strengthen, expand partnerships with first responders

- Libraries have a role to play at each stage - planning, response, recovery.
- Libraries run the risk of being forgotten or ignored by other stakeholders if they do not take a proactive role.
- Promote what you do best: INFORMATION!

Integrate and Involve Libraries

- Organize Community Day events
  - First Aid/CPR training
  - MedlinePlus demonstrations
  - Disaster preparedness pathfinders
  - Team building exercises
  - Disaster preparedness for pets
  - Family communication plans (Ready.gov)
  - City maps (Evacuation routes, important markers)
  - Disaster kit giveaways
  - Disaster plan consultations
  - Survivor storytelling
  - Kids' book reading/puppet show
  - Disaster scenario
  - Relevant videos/movies

How Libraries are Getting Involved

- Public library/medical library partnerships to provide health information to the community.
- Conduct health information searches for the public, healthcare and public health workforce.
- Host sessions on emergency preparedness; inviting speakers and experts.
- Offer library space (community crisis center, communications center, day care).
- Provide books and reference material to evacuation shelters.

How Libraries are Getting Involved

- Collection managers of disaster-related resources.
- Government partners (FEMA, Red Cross, provide internet access for online assistance).
- Advocate services librarians can provide during an event to administration.
- Aid other institutions in disaster area to help salvage damaged collections.
- Assist with emergency preparedness grant writing.

How Libraries are Preparing

- Assessing risk.
- Raising awareness of safety and security issues.
- Arranging for a backup library.
- Determining core services and resources.
- Prioritizing highly valued materials and identifying preservation and salvage resources.
- Identifying top 3 core services.

NN/LM Emergency Preparedness and Response Toolkit

- Goal to help libraries continue their services despite incidents that disrupt normal operations.
- Alerts and reports
- Core resources
- Disaster training, supplies, recovery companies
- Risk assessment information and maps
- Library disaster stories
- Model MOU/MAA
- Pandemic planning
- Promotion materials

Objectives Revisited

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Thank You!

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