Safe Water & Natural Disasters

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This presentation provides a brief overview of CDC’s role in safe water disaster mitigation, response, and recovery. Examples from Hurricane Harvey and Irma/Maria are used for illustration.
Recent Natural Disasters

In recent years, the United States has experienced an unprecedented number of disasters that have challenged the Nation’s ability to respond and recover.
Quick Comparison: Response & Recovery

Response
• Restore critical services
• Fix the problem
• Field work
• Task-based work
• A sprint

Recovery
• Build long term capacity
• Help fix the problem
• Office work
• Project-based work
• A marathon
Safe Water & Natural Disasters

There are multiple disaster-related safe water scenarios, each requiring a specialized approach for response and recovery.
CDC Safe Water Areas of Interest

- Private wells
- Municipal systems
- Other unregulated systems
- Hauled water
- Shelters
- Health facilities
- Responder health
Partner Federal Agencies & Organizations
Private Wells

Addressing issues related to private well inundation: emergency disenfection
Identifying flooded wells following Hurricane Harvey
Partnerships are critical in restoring municipal water services
Unregulated Sources

Residents collecting untreated water after municipal services lost
Collecting Water Samples
Portable Water Laboratory
Simple but effective water filters
Residents of Utuado, PR waiting to obtain a water filter
Working with partners to provide ceramic water filters
Health facilities

Rapid water quality assessments performed to return facilities to operational status
Inspecting water quality at a health facility
Ensuring safety of emergency water sources for residents and responders
Capacity Building

Building local capacity to address safe water issues, Rincon, PR
Hemodialysis patients are some of the most vulnerable following disasters.

Water Quality & Hemodialysis
Emerging Issues in Disaster-Related Water Safety

Emerging issues in disaster-related water safety
Other Recent CDC/DHHS Projects – Puerto Rico

- Healthy homes capacity development
- Asthma research plan
- Physician migration assessment
- Rabies control
- Informal review of Paradise WDS Recovery Plan
A Quick Recap

• Natural disasters present numerous challenges for disaster response and recovery. CDC is working with partners to ensure access to safe water for all.
Thank you!