

AARP National Rural Livability Workshop

Preparing for Weather and Disaster



Dorothy Dorton, AARP Alabama
Disaster Planning Before and After

Leslie Spencer, AARP Florida
Connecting in Community Post-Hurricane Michael

Sara Grant, Augusta Age-Friendly, Maine
Safe Sidewalks and Connected Communities

Betsy Armstrong, Age-Friendly Surry, Maine
Telephones are for Connecting: All-Volunteer telephone reassurance program

DISASTER PLANNING

BEFORE AND AFTER



WHY AARP ALABAMA??

- **HURRICANES:** Lower Alabama has been in the path of numerous major hurricanes in the past 50 years. Camille, Frederick, Ivan and Katrina all left significant destruction in the coastal area of Alabama.
- **TORNADOES:** Most recently, rural, central Alabama was hit by several tornadoes in March of this year, leaving 23 people dead, with 15 of those victims being over 50.

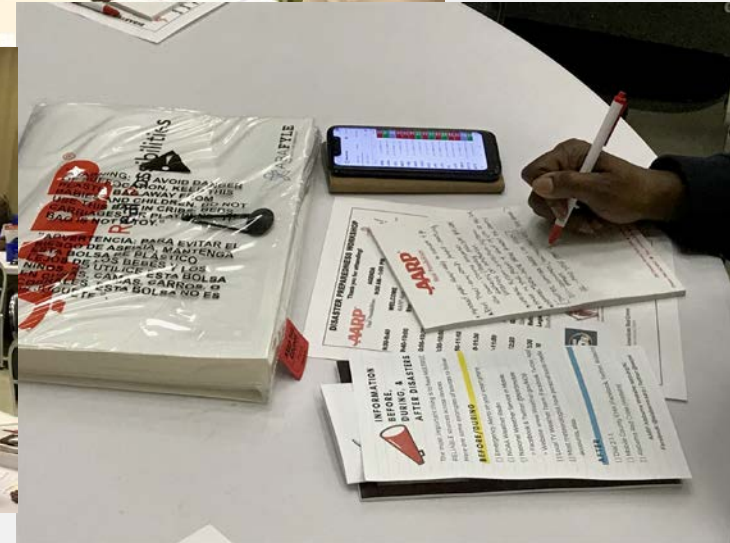
PLANNING: BEFORE

- AARP's Disaster Planning Workshop
 - Held in Mobile, Alabama
 - Held on June 5th, 2019
 - Special outreach to rural areas of Mobile County to encourage residents to attend
 - Local TV station featured the upcoming event
 - Social Media, AARP Community Newsletter, Fliers, Email Blast
 - Hosted by a centrally located community center for easy access for people in rural communities and those living across Mobile Bay in Baldwin County
 - Presenters were invited from local agencies and were also invited to have a resource table for handouts and giveaways
 - Keynote speaker was a popular local television meteorologist

PLANNING: BEFORE

- AARP's Disaster Planning Workshop
 - Keynote Speaker
 - John Nodar, local meteorologist, discussed what weather maps means and answered questions from the crowd
 - Agency Presenters
 - AARP ASD of Communications-Talked about how to stay informed before, during and after a hurricane/disaster
 - Area Agency on Aging-Caregivers guide to disaster planning
 - Red Cross Local Chapter-Disaster prep and shelter information
 - Mobile Co. Health Dept.-Health and safety issues after a hurricane
 - AARP ASD of Outreach-Discussed common after-disaster scams
 - So. Al. Volunteer Lawyers-Discussed important papers to keep, how to file insurance claims and how to file for FEMA

PLANNING: BEFORE



PLANNING: AFTER

- Lee County Tornado Response: On Sunday, March 3rd a large storm system moved through Alabama (and other southern states) spawning 6 tornadoes. The worst was an EF-4 tornado that hit in rural Lee County, Alabama and left 23 people dead – including 15 over the age of 50. This is a general timeline of AARP Alabama's response:
 - Everbridge message to volunteers-MONDAY
 - Initial social media response-MONDAY
 - Recovery page on state website-MONDAY
 - State VOAD calls-TUESDAY
 - Email to entire state-SATURDAY
 - Fraud spot on TV-WEDNESDAY MARCH 13th
 - TeleTown Hall on Disaster Recovery-THURSDAY MARCH 21st
 - Following weeks

PLANNING: AFTER



JoinRenewHelpMember BenefitsRewards for Good

AARP » AARP States » Alabama » Community

Alabama Disaster Relief & Recovery

By Evey Owen, March 21, 2019 12:44 PM



During the first months of 2019, multiple counties across Alabama have seen destruction by mother nature. From tornadoes to floods, our friends and family have been affected in all corners of our state.

We know it will take weeks, months and years to recover from the damage that's been done. AARP Alabama will be here to help you with information and resources as move forward and start to rebuild.

During this time of recovery, this page will offer information on what Alabamians age 50+ may need, what resources are available, and what tools and tips can help you heal and recover as fast as possible.

Do you or someone you know need help with damage?

Please encourage anyone with storm damage and unmet needs to **contact 2-1-1 or call 888-421-1266**. You can also **text 888-421-1266** or chat with someone by visiting **211connectsalabama.org**. Once 2-1-1 knows your needs, they can pair you with volunteers to assist.



AARP Alabama @AARPAL · Mar 15
Fake charities pop up quickly after natural disasters. Scammers jump at the opportunity to exploit our sense of wanting to help. AARP AL & @AGSteveMarshall Office want to help educate you about giving responsibly. Thank you @wsfa12news!
>> WATCH here: spr.ly/6013EkyvB



AG Steve Marshall @AGSteveMarshall · Mar 15
Today, I joined Lee County District Attorney Brandon Hughes, Lee County Sheriff Jay Jones, and Home Builders Licensure Board Director Chip Carden to warn home-repair scammers: Stay out of Alabama, because we will catch and prosecute you to the fullest extent of the law.

AARP Alabama Retweeted
Lee County EMA @LeeCountyEOC · Mar 22
DISTRIBUTION ONLY

Providence Baptist Church, 2807 Lee Road 166
10am - 6pm M-F

Nazareth Baptist Church, 4454 Lee Rd. 166
9am - 2pm M-F

Smith's Station Fire Station #1, 50 Lee Rd. 430
8am - 5pm EST
Smith's Station
(CLOSED SUNDAY)

10
10

AARP Alabama Retweeted
Lee County EMA @LeeCountyEOC · Mar 22
VOLUNTEER RECEPTION CENTER (VRC)-MINIMUM AGE OF 14 FOR VOLUNTEERS

ALL VOLUNTEERS must report to this designated area for dispatch to areas in need.

Monday - Saturday Closed on Sunday

VRC Smith's Station

DISASTER PLANNING

BEFORE AND AFTER

BEFORE: Dorothy Dorton, ASD Outreach Lower Alabama
ddorton@aarp.org

AFTER: EVELY BELL OWEN, ASD Communications
eowen@aarp.org



The background is a light blue gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across it. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a 3D appearance. They are located in the top left, top center, and bottom right areas of the slide.

CONNECTING IN RURAL COMMUNITIES POST HURRICANE MICHAEL

LESLIE SPENCER, ASSOCIATE STATE DIRECTOR, AARP FL

ON OCTOBER 10, 2018, HURRICANE MICHAEL MADE LANDFALL ON THE NORTH FLORIDA PANHANDLE COAST BETWEEN PANAMA CITY AND MEXICO BEACH. WITH WINDS NEARING 150 MPH, MICHAEL WAS THE STRONGEST HURRICANE TO EVER HIT THE PANHANDLE.



- THE STORM WAS GONE IN SIX HOURS & CARVED AN 80-MILE WIDE SWATH OF LOSS AND DESTRUCTION ACROSS THE PANHANDLE. RECOVERY COULD TAKE 10 YEARS.



INCREASED CHALLENGES POSED BY HURRICANE MICHAEL - COMMUNITY

- FIRST HURRICANE TO HIT THE PANHANDLE SINCE 1992; STRONGEST STORM TO HIT US
- MANY OLDER & VULNERABLE RESIDENTS DID NOT WANT OR COULD NOT EVACUATE
- LARGE INLAND RURAL AREAS IMPACTED
- MANY RESIDENTS IN THESE RURAL AREAS WERE UNKNOWN TO PROVIDERS & RESCUE PERSONNEL



INCREASED CHALLENGES POSED BY HURRICANE MICHAEL – COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORTATION

- TOTAL LOSS OF ELECTRICAL GRID FOR GULF POWER
- TOTAL LOSS OF CELL TOWERS
- LACK OF ACCESS TO AREAS DUE TO LOSS OF PINE FORESTS



INCREASED CHALLENGES POSED BY HURRICANE MICHAEL: HOUSING

- 90% OF HOMES IN BAY COUNTY ALONE WERE DESTROYED OR DAMAGED
- RENTS HAVE DOUBLED; STOCK DEPLETED
- FEMA RENTAL ASSISTANCE ENDED IN APRIL
- FEDERAL HOUSING DOLLARS HAVE BEEN TIED UP IN DISASTER RELIEF BILL WHICH WAS NOT SIGNED UNTIL 8 MONTHS AFTER STORM




AARP FL & AARP FOUNDATION RESPONSE

- IMMEDIATELY BEGAN WORKING WITH LOCAL SERVICE PROVIDERS TO DETERMINE NEEDS - SHORT & LONG TERM
- REGULAR RADIO PROGRAMMING
- MEMBER MAILING WITH KEY INFORMATION
- WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA PROVIDED DAILY UPDATES





CONSIDERATIONS FOR DISASTERS IN RURAL AREAS

- PRE STORM SEASON – PLANNING AND PREPARATION BETWEEN GROUPS TO DEVELOP RESILIENCY
 - POST STORM – RELIANCE ON NON-TRADITIONAL FORMS OF COMMUNICATION
 - OVERSHARE DISASTER PLANNING INFORMATION
 - NEW PARTNERS – UTILITY WORKERS; LINEMEN; USPS
 - AS COMMUNITIES REBUILD HOW CAN RESILIENCY BE BUILT BACK IN TO THE COMMUNITY
- 

THANK YOU

QUESTIONS? MORE INFORMATION?

LESLIE SPENCER

ASSOCIATE STATE DIRECTOR
ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

AARP FLORIDA

LSPENCER@AARP.ORG

Safe Sidewalks & Connected Communities

Sara Grant, LMSW

Chairperson

Augusta Age Friendly Committee

Augusta, Maine



Augusta Age Friendly Committee

Capitol City of Maine - Founded in May 2016
by Robert “Bob” and Carol MacDougall
2017 Andrus Award recipients



Photo by: AARP Maine

Action Planning

Year One – Goal Setting

- Identified a need for programs to
 - Ensure safety of residents over winter months
 - Addressing social isolation for residents
 - Revive the true meaning of community
- Developed two programs in 2017:
 - **Sand Buckets Program**
 - **Clear Paths Program**

Sand Buckets Program



Photo by: Joe Phelan, Kennebec Journal

- Approached businesses for bucket donations - collected 350 buckets
- Advertised program, Meals on Wheels, and word of mouth
- Enroll mid-October to mid-November
- Deliveries start the week after Thanksgiving
- Year One: **73** residents
- Year Two: **101** residents
- Second Year – recruited enrollments at voting booths on Election Day

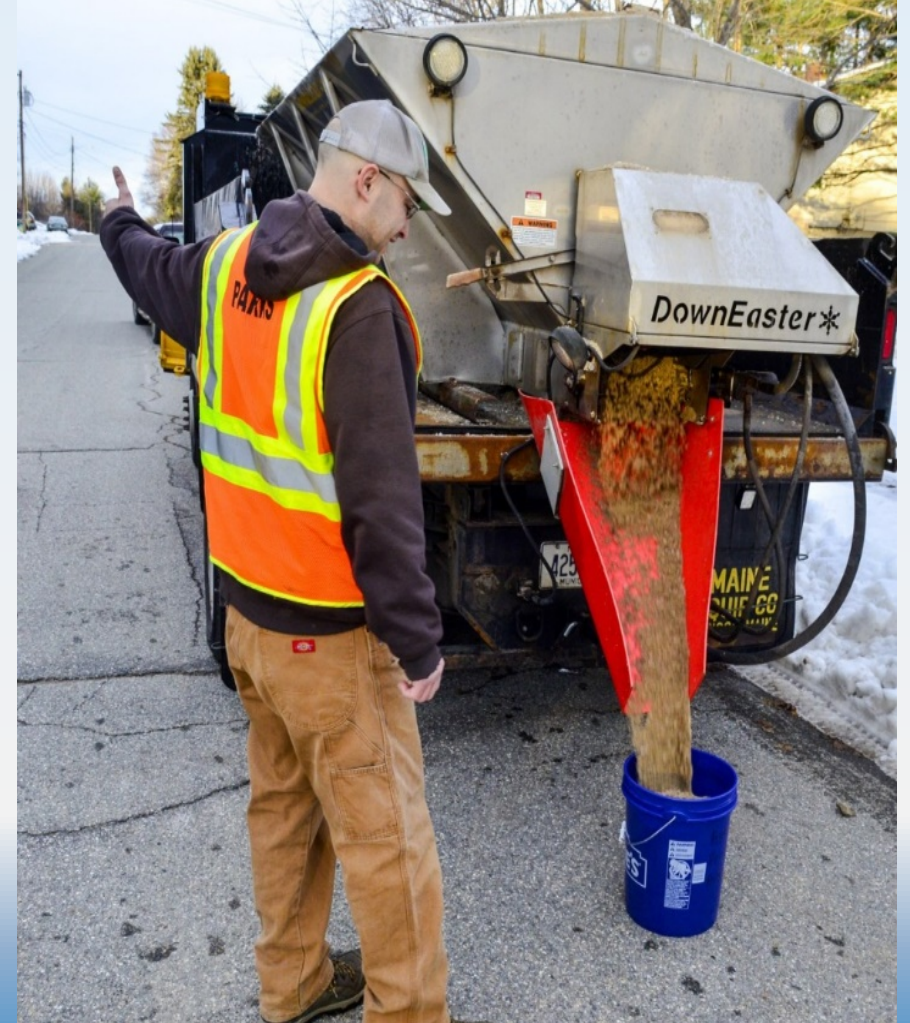
Sand Buckets Program



Refills:

January &
February

*Also
available
upon
request*



Photos by: Joe Phelan, Kennebec Journal

Clear Paths & Connected Communities

Volunteer Shoveling Program ~ Friends of Augusta Age Friendly Committee

Year One: 13 Officers with Augusta Police Department

(2017) 4 Volunteers

37 Residents within the City of Augusta

Snowfall: 83.9 inches

Year Two: 3 Officers with Augusta Police Department, including Chief Mills

(2018) 2 Officers with Kennebec County Sheriff's Department *supervising:*

7-10 inmates - Work Release Program with Kennebec County Jail

6 Volunteers

49 Residents

Snowfall: 79.1 inches



The Power of Volunteers



Photos by: Kennebec Journal Staff



Augusta Age Friendly Committee

Email: augustaagefriendly@gmail.com

Facebook: @augusta.age.friendly2016

Sara Grant, LMSW – Chairperson

ADRC Manager w/ Spectrum Generations

Email: sgrant@spectrumgenerations.org

Phone: (207) 620-1633



Telephones are for Connecting: All-Volunteer Telephone Reassurance Program

Betsy B. Armstrong
Age-Friendly Surry
Surry, Maine



Maine winters can be interesting -
as well as long and ISOLATING!



Can you shovel?

Even if you can, what good will it do?

Telephone challenge:

who is your provider?



Physical Isolation:

Be prepared,

hunker down,

know your neighbors!

Social Isolation:

Resistance,

denial,

typical 'Old Mainer'

RUOK?

Wellness calls:

Would YOU self-identify?

Neighbor Call-Around:
Matching 'phone buddies',
...Speed dating?

Learning to let it go....

respecting individual wishes and
resistance

Unexpected revelations;

alone but not lonely or without resources

Supporting the Neighbor Network
and stitching up holes in the Net!

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Thank you

Questions? More Information?

Betsy Armstrong
Age-Friendly Surry

luxorites@gmail.com

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