WHAT ABOUT THE NEXT EMERGENCY?

After the gas outage, the big question is …

How prepared are we for large-scale emergencies?

Our biggest risks are from CLIMATE CHANGE — the local effects of man-made pollution around the world that are dangerous to you, your family, and your community.

WHAT CLIMATE-RELATED DISASTERS WILL WE FACE HERE IN NEWPORT?

- Stronger & More Frequent Hurricanes
- Extreme Temperatures
- Stronger & More Intense Blizzards
- Sea Level Rise

When these climate-related disasters hit, WHAT IF...

- We Lose Power?
  - No light
  - No TV
  - No radio
  - No Internet
  - No well pumps
  - No home appliances
  - No air-conditioning
  - Limited or no hospital services

- We Lose Gas Pressure or Supply?
  - No heat
  - No cooking
  - No hot water
  - Frozen and/or burst water pipes

- There's Widespread Flooding?
  - Impossible to get off Aquidneck Island
  - Emergency response slow or cut off
  - Isolation — people stuck or stranded
  - Coastal Property Damage

- Drinking Water is Contaminated?
  - Salt water and/or sewage spills over into the city's water supply
  - Drinking water becomes scarce because of over-charging or empty store shelves

- Bridges are Closed?
  - Impossible to get off Aquidneck Island
  - Food, gas, and medical supplies cut off
  - Emergency response slow or cut off
  - Isolation — people stuck or stranded

WHAT WE CAN DO:

- Prepare to take care of ourselves and our community in an emergency
- Advocate for the resources we need before, during, and after an emergency
- Tell our public officials to plan WITH us, not WITHOUT us

For more information:
Newport HEZ Office
Florence Gray Center
1 York St., Newport, RI
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(401) 236-8344
COMMUNITY REPORT-BACK
2019 NEWPORT GAS OUTAGE STUDY

WHAT WE LEARNED FROM YOU

WE HEARD ABOUT GAPS AND BARRIERS IN THE CITY’S ABILITY TO SERVE COMMUNITY RESIDENTS AND TO MEET THEIR BASIC HUMAN NEEDS FOR...

- SHELTER
- FOOD
- TRANSPORTATION
- CHILDCARE
- And most importantly, INFORMATION

Many of you told us that it was hard to pay for extra expenses, even waiting to be reimbursed by National Grid, and some of you — especially Spanish-speaking residents — didn’t know about reimbursement.

You also said that some hotel staff were unwelcoming and even hostile to community members when they needed safety and support during a crisis.

WE HEARD YOU DESCRIBE THE ASSETS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY DURING THE EMERGENCY...

- DEEP LOCAL KNOWLEDGE
- SOLIDARIETY
- FLORENCE GRAY CENTER

- Getting information out to people quickly
- Organizing people
- Creative problem-solving

In the future: A Resilience Hub — a place for residents to prepare for and find resources before, during, and after emergencies

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