

Week of November 29, 2023












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***Special Edition***  
**Essential Preparedness Tips for Winter**

# Put a **FREEZE** on Winter Holiday Fires

It's fun to decorate for the winter holidays, but holiday decorations can increase your risk for a home fire. As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.

 <p><b>Half</b> of the home decoration fires in December are started by candles.</p>	 <p><b>More than 1/3</b> of home decoration fires are started by candles.</p>	 <p><b>Christmas</b> is the peak day for candle fires.</p>
 <p>Keep candles at least <b>12 inches</b> away from anything that burns.</p>	 <p>A dry Christmas tree can burn very hot and very fast.</p>	 <p><b>More than 1 in every 5</b> Christmas tree fires were caused by a heat source too close to the tree.</p>
 <p>Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect.</p>	 <p>Make sure your tree is <b>at least 3 feet away</b> from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, candles or heat vents. Also, make sure your tree does not block exits.</p>	 <p>Get rid of your tree after Christmas or when it is dry.</p>

				<p>For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit <a href="https://usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/holiday.html">usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/holiday.html</a> and <a href="https://nfpa.org/winter">nfpa.org/winter</a>.</p>
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**As we embrace the festive season and colder months, it's crucial to ensure our homes stay safe. Here's a quick checklist to safeguard against fire hazards:**

- 1. Inspect Heating Systems:** Schedule a professional check-up for furnaces, fireplaces, and heaters to ensure they're in top condition.
- 2. Keep Flammable Items Away:** Maintain a safe distance between decorations, curtains, and any heat sources to prevent accidental fires.
- 3. Test Smoke Alarms:** Check smoke detectors regularly and replace batteries to guarantee they're functional.
- 4. Candle Caution:** Use flameless candles or keep traditional ones away from flammable objects. It's possible to buy electric menorahs and kinaras, but if you prefer traditional candles place them on a non-flammable surface to catch the

melting candle wax, such as a tray lined with aluminum foil. Never leave lit candles unattended.

5. **Cooking Safety:** Stay vigilant while cooking, especially during holiday gatherings. Keep flammable items away from the stove.

6. **Electrical Awareness:** Avoid overloading circuits with holiday lights and decorations, and unplug them when not in use.

7. **Fire Escape Plan:** Ensure everyone in your household knows the fire escape plan. Practice it regularly, especially during the holiday season when the home layout may change with decorations.

8. **Outdoor Safety:** If using outdoor heating sources like fire pits or space heaters, maintain a safe distance from flammable materials. Never leave them unattended.

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### Did You Know?

Cooking is the leading cause of reported home fires and home fire injuries and the second leading cause of home fire deaths. Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve. Watch the video below from the Fire Safety Research Institute for more information and tips on how to cook safely during this holiday season and all year round.



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### Use Portable Heaters Wisely

If you use portable heaters in your home, it is important that you are doing so safely. Keep heaters on a solid flat surface at least three feet away

from anything that can catch fire, like curtains or furniture. Never leave them unattended, and always plug them directly into an outlet - avoid extension cords. Lastly, switch them off before leaving the room or going to bed. Watch the video below from FEMA for more information on staying warm and safe while using portable heaters!



## Cold Impacts: Vulnerable Populations

**NEWBORNS**      **ELDERLY**      **CHRONIC ILLNESS**      **OUTDOOR WORKERS**      **UNHOUSED**

Everyone is at risk from the dangers of extreme cold, but these groups are more vulnerable than most. Age and certain conditions make the body less able to regulate temperature.

- Dress in loose layers and cover all exposed skin
- Consume hot foods and warm drinks, but avoid caffeine and alcohol
- Limit or avoid time outdoors
- Check on family, friends and neighbors

weather.gov

## APPLY: Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Applications Are Open

HEAP helps low-income households meet the cost of heating their homes. The benefit can pay for fuel, your

utility source, and heating equipment replacement and repairs. The benefit is paid directly to the heating vendor or utility company.

For more information about eligibility and applying please click here:

<https://access.nyc.gov/programs/home-energy-assistance-program-heap/>



## REGISTER: Community Engagement Webinar Series

### Community Engagement Webinar Series Child Safety Webinar: Poison Control



In this workshop you will learn :

- Best practices for medication safety, cleaning/ chemical product storage
- Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning
- When to call 911 and when to call the Poison Center
- What questions to ask when you call the Poison Center
- How to avoid an unnecessary trip to the emergency department

This presentation will be led by Eduardo Torres a Community Health Educator with the NYC Poison Control Center of NYC's Department of Health & Mental Hygiene

Date: Monday - December 4, 2023

Time: 11:00 a.m. EST

Link: <https://bit.ly/HomeSafety2>

**NYC** Emergency  
Management

## Partner Spotlight: CIDA's CoSpire Cafe!

Watch the video below from the Community Inclusion and Development Alliance (CIDA), a Strengthening Communities Cohort #3 member, to learn more about this remarkable community in Bayside, Queens. CIDA works to increase equity and inclusion opportunities for children and families with

exceptional needs including disabilities, language and cultural barriers, and socioeconomic challenges. The CoSpire Cafe is a unique project to create employment and independent living opportunities for young adults with developmental disabilities.



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## General Info and Upcoming Events

### Stop the Bleed

Wednesday, December 6, 2023 | 12 pm - 1 pm ET OR 4 pm - 5pm ET

Join the Brooklyn Public Library and Maimonides Health for a virtual *Stop the Bleed* course on the first Wednesday of each month. *Stop the Bleed* provides people with the tools and knowledge to stop life-threatening bleeding in the event of an emergency situation. Bleeding is the number one cause of preventable death after injury, and the actions of immediate responders can be crucial in determining the outcome of the situation. The course focuses on the immediate response to bleeding, recognizing life-threatening bleeding, and appropriate ways to stop bleeding.



To register, [click here](#).

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### Dialysis in Disaster

Wednesday, December 13, 2023 | 1 pm - 2:30 pm ET

Please join the Region 2 National Preparedness Division and Quality Insights Renal Network for a

webinar on Dialysis in Disaster.

This webinar will address the role of the Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Planner at the NJ Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM) in assisting County AFN Coordinators, dialysis providers and patients, and other stakeholders before, during and after disasters. An overview of NJOEM's Register Ready will be provided as well. The End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Network 3's Regional Emergency Preparedness Coordinator will cover what dialysis is and how receiving treatment can be impacted by an emergency event. Learn from firsthand experiences and lessons learned during hurricanes Irma and Maria. Additional topics will include preparedness and planning considerations for dialysis patients, their families, emergency responders, and dialysis facility staff.



Registration: <https://fema.connectsolutions.com/dialysisdisaster/event/registration.html>

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## Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) Winter Webinar Series

Friday, December 8, 2023 | 3 pm ET

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Grant Programs Directorate (GPD) invites interested organizations to attend upcoming webinars regarding the [Nonprofit Security Grant Program \(NSGP\)](#). The NSGP is a competitive grant awarded to nonprofit organizations at high risk of a terrorist or other extremist attack for the purposes of facility hardening and other security enhancements.



To register for the webinar, [click here](#).

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## APPLY: Working Group Grant Opportunity

The Mayor's Office of Climate & Environmental Justice and the NYC Department of Environmental Protection, with Rebuild by Design and One Architecture and Urbanism, are launching an open call for individuals and organizations who have lived or professional expertise to recommend strategies and policies to address the increasing rainfall in New York City. Apply by **December 11** to express interest in joining a working group.



**Rebuild will provide non-government participants with a stipend of \$1500 at the completion of this process.**

Email Rifal Imam at [rimalam@rebuildbydesign.org](mailto:rimalam@rebuildbydesign.org) with any questions.

Learn more and apply by [clicking here](#).

## COVID-19 vaccines are still our best defense against the virus.



Over **600 million COVID-19 vaccine doses** have been given in the U.S. Studies show the COVID-19 vaccines are **safe** and have **prevented millions of hospitalizations** and **saved millions of lives**.



### Everyone age 6 months and older should get an updated COVID-19 vaccine.

The COVID-19 vaccines:

- Can reduce how severe your symptoms are if you get sick from COVID-19.
- Reduce your risk of being hospitalized and dying from COVID-19.
- Reduce your risk of developing long COVID.

While anyone can become very sick from COVID-19, vaccination is especially important — and lifesaving — for people who are age 65 and older, are pregnant, or have certain health conditions or disabilities.

Get an updated vaccine, even if you have had COVID-19 or been vaccinated before. The updated vaccines protect against current variants and strengthen your protection, which can decrease over time. Side effects from the vaccine — including headache, fatigue and soreness at the injection site — are generally mild to moderate and go away within a few days.

Most New Yorkers can still get a COVID-19 vaccine for free. For people with insurance, most health plans — including Medicaid and Medicare — will cover vaccination at no cost. Scan the QR code or visit [vaccinefinder.nyc.gov](https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov) to find a vaccination site, including sites offering free vaccines for people without insurance.

Get your annual flu shot too. It is safe to get the COVID-19 and flu vaccines at the same time.

In addition, staying home when sick, testing, masking and washing your hands are important ways to reduce your risk of COVID-19 and other viruses. If you have questions about COVID-19 vaccination, call 212-COVID-19 (212-268-4319) or talk to your health care provider.



9.23

**FINAL CALL: Symposium Presenter**





PATH TO PREPAREDNESS:  
EMPOWERING COMMUNITY ACTION

# The 12th Annual Community Preparedness Symposium

CALL FOR PRESENTERS



**March 6, 2024**



**Baruch College  
New York, NY**

Scan the **QR code** or visit  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NYC-EM2024Symposium>

Submission Deadline:  
December 1, 2023



## Request for Proposals: Financial Service Provider for Strengthening Communities

NYC Emergency Management (NYCEM) is seeking a qualified vendor to provide financial management, and financial services for the City's Strengthening Communities Program. This will involve facilitating financial relationships with community and faith-based networks per year while maintaining contracts with existing networks to provide grant funding through NYCEM.

The selected financial services vendor will be charged with distributing funds received from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery, received by The City, to eligible networks, tracking all funds distributed and reporting on all expenditures.

For more information, [click here](#).

## We Are Hiring! Join the NYC Emergency Management Team



**New York City Emergency Management (NYCEM)** is responsible for coordinating citywide emergency planning and response for all types and scales of emergencies. It is staffed by more than 200 dedicated professionals with diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise, including individuals assigned from other City agencies.

**Our Mission:** NYC Emergency Management helps New Yorkers before, during, and after emergencies through preparedness, education, and response.

**Our Jobs:** NYC Emergency Management has a variety of vacancies within multiple bureaus across the agency – the jobs summaries below are simply a selection of the jobs available. For full job descriptions, go to [NYC.gov/jobs](https://www.nyc.gov/jobs), or scan the QR code below to be taken to the NYCEM Careers site to learn more.



**BUREAU: Community Engagement**

**Immigrant Engagement Specialist, \$57,500-\$65,000- Job ID# 607082**

The Community Engagement Specialist position requires a creative individual who has demonstrated excellent community development and communication skills. In addition to being a strong presenter, they must be able to manage and coordinate multiple projects and initiatives simultaneously. This position requires someone who has a working knowledge of New York City, its immigrant community and has shown commitment to developing community resilience. The selected candidate will be expected to work non-traditional hours to meet program needs including some evenings and weekends.

**BUREAU: Logistics**

**Logistics Program Manager, \$65,000-\$74,000 – Job ID# 592096**

New York City Emergency Management Department is looking for an innovative person with a passion for emergency management logistics. Applicants shall have a background in one or more of the following areas: emergency management logistics, humanitarian/mass care response logistics, mutual aid coordination, ground support logistics, logistics planning and/or other sectors of the logistics industry that would be able to contribute to NYCEM's disaster logistics planning and response efforts.

**BUREAU: Office of the Chief Financial Officer**

**Finance Specialist, \$57,500-\$65,000 – Job ID# 607058**

The Finance Specialist will work as part of the Finance Unit under the Office of the Chief Financial Officer and will be expected to support all related division activities. Under the direction of the Deputy Director of Finance, the Finance Specialist will administer grant funds and monitor spending for various bureaus and divisions within NYC Emergency Management.

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**Learn More About NYC Emergency Management Community  
Preparedness - <https://youtu.be/L250wy3o6r4>**

NYC Emergency Management Communications Network | 165 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, NY  
11201

[Unsubscribe intergov@oem.nyc.gov](mailto:unsubscribe@oem.nyc.gov)

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