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**NYC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT'S LATEST 'PREP TALK' EPISODE
HIGHLIGHTS HAZARD MITIGATION**

#PrepTalkNYC {Click to listen to [episode 24](#)}

January 24, 2019 — If you are looking to reduce your risk for hazards this year, look no further. In the latest “Prep Talk” [episode](#), special guests Heather Roiter and Melissa Umberger provide expert perspective on how New York City works to reduce the impacts of natural and man-made hazards, ranging from winter weather and hurricanes to cyber threats and chemical releases. The guests discuss the new 2019 Hazard Mitigation Plan [website](#), developed to represent the City’s plan for accessing hazards that pose a risk to its people and infrastructure, and strategies for reducing the impacts of emergency events. The guests also offer tips on how listeners can take steps to reduce the impact of everyday risks. For more information on how you can prepare visit, nyc.gov/emergencymanagement. You can listen to the latest [episode](#) on [SoundCloud](#) and [iTunes](#), and [subscribe now](#) to stay up-to-date on the latest episodes.

Profile

Heather Roiter is the executive director of Hazard Mitigation and Recovery at NYC Emergency Management. Since joining in 2007, Heather has led the development and execution of various plans and tools related to emergency management, evacuation, and risk reduction. This ongoing effort has given her technical expertise in assessing NYC’s risks from hazards and leading the City’s coordination for over \$250M in FEMA hazard mitigation grants. Her other initiatives include the Interim Flood Protection Measures Program to deploy temporary flood protection at 45+ sites. She holds a B.S. in demography from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a M.S. in urban planning from Columbia University.

Melissa Umberger is the deputy director of Hazard Mitigation and Recovery at NYC Emergency Management. In this capacity, Melissa oversees the planning and coordination of hazard mitigation and recovery planning. Currently, she is responsible for leading the development of 2019 Hazard Mitigation Plan update, which will move away from a document-based plan to a web-based plan to better communicate risk to the public and assist agencies with mitigation investment. Melissa holds a master's in city and regional planning & historic preservation from Pratt Institute.

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