Emergencies come in many sizes, from a frayed wire next to the stacks or a broken water line in the ceiling of the library, to the tornados and floods that devastate whole counties. Similarly, the National Library of Medicine (NLM) provides resources which focus on different aspects of preparing for, working through and recovering from emergencies of all kinds.

**FOR LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS**

- **The NN/LM Toolkit**

  The National Network of Libraries of Medicine* (NN/LM) has created a Toolkit that includes:
  - NN/LM emergency preparedness and response plans (with links to the emergency preparedness pages in each of the eight regions of the NN/LM)
  - Calling for help
  - High state of library readiness features
  - Library disaster stories
  - Training opportunities
  - Writing your disaster plan

  This is an excellent place to start to look for plans, events, stories, and support materials to help in preparing for emergencies. Visit [http://nnlm.gov/ep/](http://nnlm.gov/ep/) for more information.

  *The NN/LM includes among its membership public libraries and other organizations that share health information with their communities.

- **Emergency Access Initiative**

  The NLM Emergency Access Initiative (EAI) is a partnership of the NLM, the NN/LM, and the Professional/Scholarly Publishing Division of the Association of American Publishers and other publishers. EAI provides temporary free access to full text articles from major biomedicine titles to healthcare professionals, librarians and the public affected by disasters and/or providing assistance to the affected population(s). Available at: [http://eai.nlm.nih.gov/](http://eai.nlm.nih.gov/)

- **MLA Disaster Information Specialist Program**

  For librarians seeking to specialize in this field, the Medical Library Association (MLA) is creating a Disaster Information Specialist (DIS) Program ([http://www.mlanet.org/education/dis/](http://www.mlanet.org/education/dis/)).
This collaborative effort explores and promotes the role of information specialists in the provision of disaster-related information resources to the workforce and communities. To learn more and/or to become involved, visit: http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/dimrc/disasterinfospecialist.html

- **Community Preparedness Award**

For Network members seeking to become active partners in their communities' emergency preparedness, response and recovery planning programs, NN/LM Greater Midwest Region (GMR) is offering a Community Preparedness Award (http://nnlm.gov/gmr/funding/). Librarians outside the GMR, check with your regional NN/LM office (http://nnlm.gov/) for possible funding opportunities.

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**FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND FIRST RESPONDERS**

- **DIMRC**

DIMRC (http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/dimrc.html) is NLM’s Disaster Information Management Research Center. In addition to links to the NN/LM Toolkit and other materials specifically for librarians, the DIMRC site includes:
  - Disaster types and topics
  - Emergency response tools
  - Disaster health literature
  - NLM disaster information research
  - Collaborations, partnerships and health organizations

This excellent resource is focused for those preparing for potential disasters which affect more than just the library. The site also contains links to disaster apps and mobile optimized web pages and to emergency and disaster health information from other U.S. Government organizations.

Materials specifically focused for health professionals and first responders include CHEMM, REMM and WISER.

- **CHEMM**

CHEMM, the Chemical Hazards Emergency Medical Management (http://www.chemm.nlm.nih.gov/) site is the newest addition to the disaster preparedness collection of databases. The goal of this site is to enable first responders, first receivers, other healthcare providers, and planners to plan for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of mass-casualty incidents involving chemicals. Additionally, CHEMM is downloadable so as to be available during an event if the internet is not accessible.

- **REMM**

REMM, the Radiation Emergency Medical Management database (http://www.remm.nlm.gov), like CHEMM has a downloadable
component. This site provides guidance about clinical diagnosis and treatment of radiation injuries during radiological and nuclear emergencies. Topics include: kind of emergency, initial event activities, patient management algorithms, management modifiers, and tools and guidelines.

- **WISER**

WISER, the Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders (http://wiser.nlm.nih.gov/) was the first of these emergency-oriented databases. This program is downloaded to a mobile device and is a system designed to assist first responders in hazardous material incidents. WISER provides a wide range of information on hazardous substances, including substance identification support, physical characteristics, human health information, and containment and suppression advice.

Emergencies are on the horizon, they will happen. The only choice we have is whether or not we will be prepared for them. Take time now – before the disaster strikes – to review the available materials and prepare yourself and your library for the possibilities. Also consider being a part of the preparations that are happening in your community. The NLM will help.

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This project has been funded in whole or in part with Federal funds from the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, under Contract No. HHS-N-276-2011-00005-C with the University of Illinois at Chicago.