

Harris County

HCPHES

Public Health & Environmental Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Harris County Public Health Will Survey Cy-Fair Neighborhoods

March 7th Exercise to Assess Residents' Emergency Preparedness

Houston, Texas (March 5, 2015) – Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services (HCPHES) wants to know how well county residents are prepared for a variety of emergencies. To find out, HCPHES will be conducting a state based health department survey called Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER). Harris County staff and volunteers will be walking through Cy-Fair neighborhoods and knocking on doors in the 77429 and 77433 zip codes on **Saturday, March 7, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

The survey will include questions such as: do they have an emergency supply kit; do they have a working generator; does anyone in the household have a medical condition or disability that would make it difficult for them to evacuate; and if you have pets, what will you do with them if you have to evacuate? Survey respondents will not be asked to sign the survey or identify themselves, their address will not be included in the survey and their answers are confidential.

“The answers received from Cy-Fair residents to these questions will help us assess their community’s current level of readiness. It will also further emergency response planning and our ability to anticipate their needs during an emergency”, said Dr. Umair A. Shah, Executive Director of HCPHES.

Several agencies are providing volunteers for the survey teams or assisting with planning and coordination of the exercise: Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Medical Reserve Corp, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Harris County Commissioner Precinct 3 and 4, Harris County Sheriff’s Office, and Harris County Constables’ Offices, Precincts 3 and 4.

“Partnering with our community to gather information regarding their needs will allow us to plan for a better and faster recovery in an emergency situation” said Mac McClendon, Director of Public Health Preparedness and Response of HCPHES.

HCPHES is the local public health agency for the Harris County, Texas jurisdiction. It is involved in a wide variety of public health activities aimed at improving the health and well-being of the Harris County community. For more information, please visit HCPHES at www.hcphe.org.