

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS IN CYPRESS, TX



## Background

In March 2015, Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services (HCPHES) conducted a **Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER)** in Cypress, TX. The goal of the CASPER was to assess the community's level of emergency preparedness. Households within the Cypress, TX community were randomly selected and residents were asked to complete a survey on household emergency preparedness. A summary of the results from the Cypress, TX CASPER is published below.

## Objectives

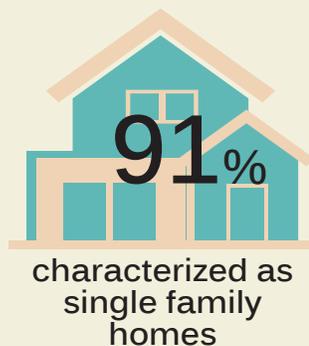
- Assess the *perceived level of preparedness* within the Cypress, TX community.
- Describe the *types of emergency plans* Cypress, TX households had in case of an emergency.
- Identify focus areas/topics for possible *public health education* related to emergency preparedness.
- Evaluate the *level of awareness* that Cypress, TX residents have for HCPHES and the resources it provides to Harris County residents.

## Response Metrics

- Total number of households approached = **565**
- Total number of completed interviews = **169**

Although 565 randomly selected households were approached, not all selected households completed an interview. This was due to residents not being home at the time, residents not answering the door, and/or residents opting out of participating in completing an interview.

## Demographics



## WHO IS HCPHES?

Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services (HCPHES) strives to protect health, prevent illness and injury and promote healthy communities in Harris County, TX.

Healthy People,  
 Healthy Communities...  
 a Healthy Harris County!

## Key Findings

on preparedness and chronic disease:

**19%** of households indicated having at least 1 resident with a **chronic medical condition**.

**27%** of these households indicated using **powered medical equipment**.

**49%** of these households said that they **had an alternate power source**, like a portable generator.

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

## IN CYPRESS, TX

### Emergency Plans and Supplies

- The vast majority of Cypress, TX households (93%) reported that they **felt at least somewhat prepared to handle an emergency.**
- 87% of households reported **having copies of important documents in a safe place.**
- Less than half of households (47%) reported **having a planned meeting place for their family members** in case their home or neighborhood was inaccessible after an emergency.
- Most households had the recommended **5-day supply of non-perishable food (83%) and medications (83%),** but fewer households had the recommended 5-day supply of drinking water (55%).
- The most commonly reported reason for not having the recommended 5-day supply of non-perishable food, water and medications was **lack of storage space (26%).**

### Communication and Accessing Information

- A majority of Cypress, TX residents plan on using cell phones or email to communicate during an emergency. Other methods include: tablets, social media and landlines.
- Residents reported that they would use the internet, radio, text messaging and the television as their main sources of information during an emergency.
- While few households reported having visited the HCPHES website, more than half of Cypress, TX residents reported after completing the survey with an HCPHES representative, that they would now seek information from HCPHES on information regarding hurricanes/tropical storms, floods, radioactive materials release, chemical spills, disease outbreaks, acts of terrorism, and prolonged power outages.

### Preparing Your Household for an Emergency

- Want to ensure that you and your family are prepared to handle an emergency, but don't know where to begin? Check out [www.hcphe.org](http://www.hcphe.org) and [www.readyharris.org](http://www.readyharris.org) for helpful preparedness planning resources.

### Top 3 Emergencies

that residents reported most likely to impact households in Cypress, TX:

79%  
**hurricanes/  
tropical  
storms**



45%  
**forest/  
brushfires**



42%  
**floods**



Thank you to our **partners** worked with us on this project:

