



# Human Trafficking and Natural Disasters: Preparation, Action, Recovery

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North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission  
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# Traffickers

Commodify another human being for their own gain and are highly adaptable to changing environmental conditions.

**Natural disasters disrupt systems, displace people, and create chaos. Traffickers exploit the upheaval.**

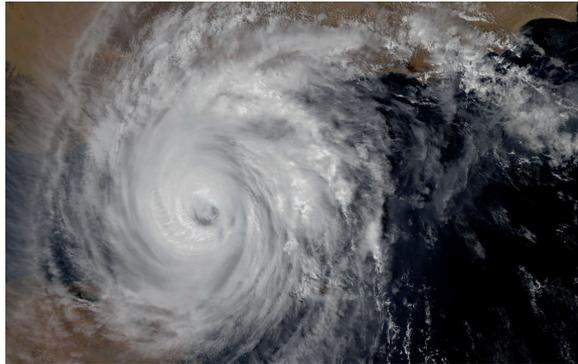
Individuals are often recruited into HT with promises of something desirable such as love, money, shelter, food, and employment.

Greenbaum et al., 2018, citing Reid, 2016

**The urgency of meeting basic needs pre-, during, and post-disaster can create distinct vulnerabilities in populations at risk.**

# Vulnerabilities Associated with Natural Disasters

- Loss of housing/displacement
- Inability to safely meet basic needs
- Separation of families; disruption of social networks
- Loss of income
- Impacts may be emergent, short term and/or long term as with some communities who are still recovering post Hurricane Matthew, 2016





**I know a way you can  
make some quick cash.**

**#WATCHforTRAFFICK**

**LOVE146**  
END CHILD TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION



# Lures

**“I know a way you can make some quick cash.”**

**“Don’t want to stay at the shelter? We’ll take care of you.”**

**“We’ll hold your ID.”**

**“We’re looking for pretty girls who want to make quick money and get back on your feet after Harvey.”**

**“Can’t get in touch with family? I’ll help.”**

**“Stop worrying. You’ll get paid.”**

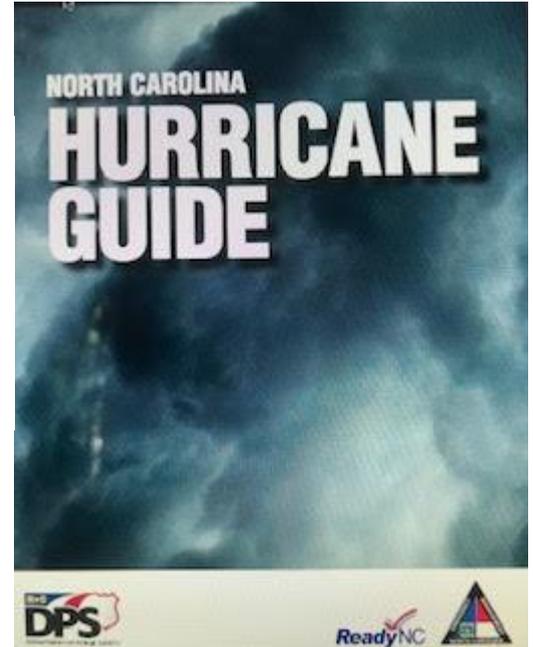
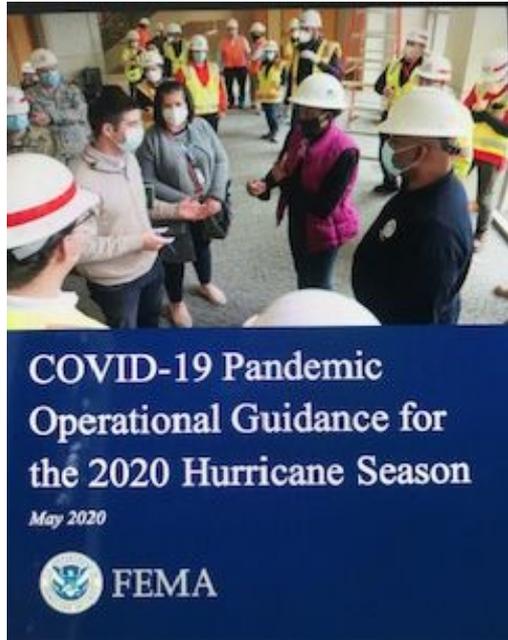
**“You think I gave you all that help for nothing?”**

**“We’ll take care of housing, transportation, and everything you need.”**

**“We’re legit. Check out our website.”**

**“If you don’t cooperate, I’ll ....”**

# Federal and State Response Guides to Natural Disasters during COVID-19



# Natural Disasters during the COVID-19 Pandemic

## NCDPS (Shelter)

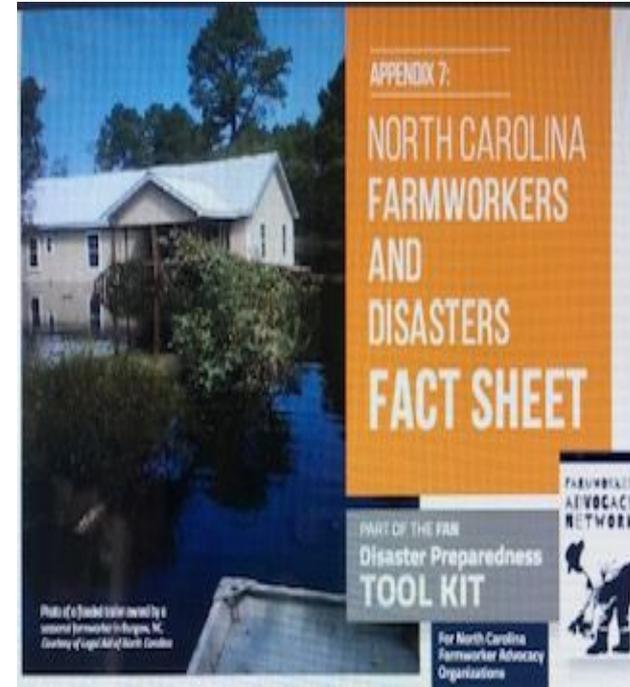
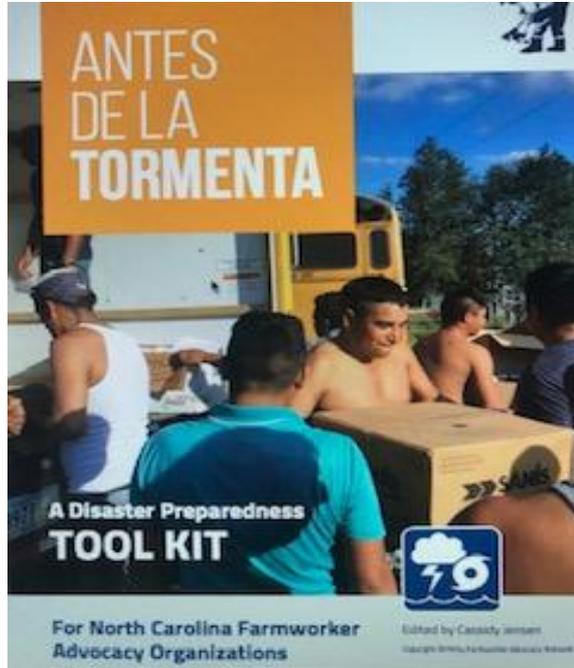
- Make a plan to stay with family or friends at a safe place inland, or at a hotel, if you need to evacuate.
- Social distancing will reduce the capacity at shelters this year. Shelter space in many counties will be limited and should be only considered as a last resort.
- Non-congregate sheltering options like dormitories, campgrounds or other facilities where people can maintain distance may be in use during the COVID-19 pandemic. Follow your local government website and social media channels for sheltering information.
- Shelters may not offer cots for sleeping, only safe refuge until a storm passes. Plan to bring your own amenities like food and bedding.

# Preparation and Response: Salvation Army Disaster Relief Services



- Training
- Food service
- Emotional and spiritual care
- Emergency Communications
- Disaster social services
- Donations management
- Recovery

# NC Response to Natural Disasters: Farmworker Advocacy Network Toolkit



Bilingual, Spanish/English  
Produced in response to Hurricanes Florence and Michael in 2018

# Workshop Series: Partnerships for Disaster Resilience in Latino Communities

- Thursday, August 27 at 3:30 PM – “How do Latino community leaders and organizations respond to disasters in 2020?” featuring AMEXCAN, Black River Health Services, and Episcopal Farmworker Ministry.
- September 3, 2020 at 3:30 PM – “How do public agencies respond to disasters in 2020?”
- September 10, 2020 at 3:30 PM – “Your Rights During a Disaster”

REGISTER: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DisasterPrepWorkshops>

CITY OF HOUSTON MAYOR'S OFFICE

# Anti-Human Trafficking Division

SYLVESTER TURNER, MAYOR

HOME

THE ISSUE

OUR APPROACH



TOOLKITS

RESOURCES

NEWSROOM

**Toolkits** <https://humantraffickinghouston.org/toolkits/emergency-disaster-response-toolkit/>

## Emergency Disaster Response Toolkit

# Resources included in the Houston Toolkit

- Shelter letter for evacuees
- Shelter Monitor training
- Cot notes
- Post Katrina Case Studies
- Corporate Risk Mitigation
- Lessons learned

## Collection of Resources for Natural Disaster Toolkit

- **Purpose:** The toolkit will provide a framework to inform protocol and messaging in the event of a natural disaster in order to streamline and inform effective service provider response and prevent exploitation in the Immediate Aftermath and Rebuilding Periods.
- **NCCAHT Members to submit resources by September 10, 2020**
- **To Include:**
  - **Information on the Intersection of Human Trafficking and Natural Disasters**
  - **Available Trainings and Information on Best Practices for Response**
  - **Comprehensive Listing of Available Resources for Vulnerable Populations and Trafficking victims**
  - **Signage, Handouts, Messaging**
  - **Protocol for Coordinating Response**
- **NC Coalition Against Human Trafficking, NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault, and NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence to Collaborate of Planning**

# NC Human Trafficking Commission

## Questions and Contact Information:

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