Conversation Guide

The following questions build on areas of need identified through NorthNet Library System’s recent Recovering Together survey and are aimed at helping your library to be more prepared in the event of a community-wide disaster. Despite significant agreement that disaster planning is important, many survey participants were unsure about their library’s plans for disaster response and recovery.

These questions may be used by library leaders and staff committees to help with ongoing planning or serve as the basis for staff trainings. When it comes to disaster preparedness and recovery, it’s important to have the entire library community involved.

- What type of emergency and disaster plans does your library have in place?
- How are these plans communicated with staff, volunteers and community members?
- How can the library do a better job of engaging staff and volunteers in disaster preparation? What training or staff development opportunities are available?
- How prepared is your library to help lead recovery efforts following a disaster?
- Who in the community will your library partner with to assist in recovery?
- How is your library building and strengthening relationships with community partners before a disaster?
- What questions do staff and volunteers have related to the library’s plans for disaster response and recovery?

Additional resources for planning and preparedness will be available in 2020 on NorthNet’s new Recovering Together website. Updates will be shared via NLS listservs and at northnetlibs.org.