

Quick recap

The meeting focused on emergency food planning and response across Cape Cod communities, with participants sharing their experiences and roles in food distribution systems during crises like COVID-19. The group explored various aspects of emergency food coordination, including storage solutions, distribution networks, and communication strategies, while identifying key stakeholders and organizations involved in food access. The discussion concluded with plans for future meetings to address community self-reliance and emergency response coordination, including considerations for underserved populations and cross-organizational collaboration.

Next steps

- [Sandi: Bring up the topic of Joint Base Cape Cod freezer space and emergency food storage at the Military Community Support Network meeting and identify relevant contacts.](#)
- [Andrea: Type up notes for Sandi to share at the Military Community Support Network meeting regarding emergency food storage and contacts.](#)
- [Andrea: Reach out to Kathleen Kolva \(community liaison\) and other relevant contacts at Joint Base Cape Cod for information on freezer space and coordination for emergency food storage.](#)
- [Shireen/Andrea: Attempt to locate and share the list of organizations involved in the Senators Task Force/emergency response network from previous notes/emails.](#)
- [All participants: Send any information found about municipal emergency plans \(especially regarding food\) in their towns to Rita/Andrea for documentation.](#)
- [Andrea: Check with wildfire planning contacts to see if food should be included in those initiatives.](#)
- [All participants: If noticing towns/resources with good emergency planning examples \(especially regarding food\), send information to Rita/Andrea for inclusion in notes.](#)
- [Rita/Andrea: Send out email with findings from this meeting and notes to all participants.](#)
- [Andrea: Host drop-in sessions on Tuesdays \(8:30-9:30 on Zoom\) for additional input/documentation from participants.](#)

Summary

Emergency Food Planning and Response

The group discussed their experiences with emergency food planning and response, sharing personal and professional stories from COVID-19 and other crises. Rita introduced Theme 2, focusing on emergency planning and response for food supply, storage, and access. Participants, including Andrea, Kim, Harry, Tricia, Fernando, Shareen, Stan, and Sandi, shared their roles and experiences in emergency food systems, highlighting community efforts, challenges, and adaptations during crises..

Emergency Food and Seafood Planning

The meeting focused on emergency food access and seafood distribution planning in Barnstable County. Participants discussed how organizations have become more prepared for emergencies since COVID-19, though many still lack formal plans. Shareen highlighted Chatham Harvesters' role in coordinating seafood distribution during emergencies, while Edye mentioned an existing emergency fund for Cape Cod. The group explored options for emergency refrigeration and freezing of seafood, with Stan and Edye noting their organizations' generator-equipped facilities. They also discussed the potential to coordinate with Joint Base Cape Cod for emergency storage space, with Sandi offering to gather more information from a military community support network meeting.

Cape Cod Emergency Food Coordination

The group discussed emergency food access coordination across Cape Cod communities, exploring how various organizations and municipal plans address food distribution during emergencies. They identified key players including the Cape Cod RTA, United Way, Red Cross, churches, and community organizations, while noting that most town emergency management plans do not specifically mention food access. The discussion highlighted the need to better integrate food access into emergency response plans, with suggestions to reach out to town emergency coordinators and explore how organizations like WIC, elder services, and DTA could play a role in emergency food distribution.

Cape Food Services Coordination

The group discussed coordination of food services across Cape towns, noting that while some areas like the Outer Cape have effective local coordination, overall coordination across the region could be improved. Kimberly highlighted that during COVID, Falmouth had particularly efficient weekly meetings involving police, fire departments, and service centers, while Harry mentioned better coordination in the Outer Cape towns of Truro and Provincetown. The discussion also touched on the role of town health agents in food access, with Kimberly noting that some health departments have become more involved in food-related initiatives, particularly in the Outer Cape.

Emergency Food Storage Planning Discussion

The group discussed emergency and disaster plans, focusing on food storage recommendations and acquisition during power outages. Shareen mentioned that the Board of Health has town-specific protocols for food storage, while Rita noted that municipal plans often lack detailed food-related elements. The discussion highlighted the need for clearer food storage guidelines and identified Harry as an informal resource for emergency food access. Sandi inquired about the inclusion of food planning in wildfire initiatives, which Andrea agreed to investigate further.

Emergency Food Distribution Planning

The group discussed emergency food distribution networks and communication plans for underserved communities. They identified various organizations and networks, including the

Hunger Network, community leadership groups, churches, schools, senior centers, and immigrant resource centers. Shareen highlighted the importance of local food resources, while Sandi suggested potential collaborations with 4H for educating youth on life skills like fishing and foraging. The discussion concluded with a brief mention of information sharing about disaster plans, though this topic was not fully explored.

Pandemic Emergency Response Coordination

The group discussed emergency response coordination during the pandemic, with Shireen and Andrea confirming they had information about a network of organizations that met regularly for emergency response, including county and municipal groups along with non-profits. Edey suggested this could become part of the Hunger Network's work, while the discussion revealed that the Salvation Army had redirected resources away from Cape Cod to Boston during COVID, contrary to expectations. The group also raised questions about whether tribes and grassroots immigrant organizations had emergency plans and whether these were being shared regularly.

Cape Cod Emergency Planning Stakeholders

The group discussed emergency planning stakeholders on Cape Cod, identifying key organizations including police, fire departments, town managers, health divisions, the Council on Aging, harbor masters, and the Army Corps of Engineers. They clarified that AmeriCorps responds to emergencies through CHIP (Community Health Initiatives Program) (or possibly through Chip Reilly?) coordination, while FEMA's food access funding has been frozen. The discussion concluded with a review of disaster management planning requirements, noting that public meetings, interviews, and outreach activities should be conducted at convenient times for the public.

Emergency Communication and Community Resilience

The group discussed emergency communication strategies during COVID, including public forums, information hotlines, and community alert systems. They explored how different communities managed emergency food supplies and transportation during disasters, with Sandi mentioning emergency department coordination and Andrea suggesting connections with national organizations like Convoy of Hope. The conversation ended with plans for future discussions on community self-reliance on January 12th, with drop-in sessions scheduled for Tuesdays between meetings.