



Infant Feeding DURING DISASTERS



BREASTFEEDING matters because...

It can be impacted if stopped for even a short period of time. Breastfeeding cannot be put on 'hold' until the disaster is over.

It protects infants from the risks of using contaminated water supplies during a disaster.



It can help protect against respiratory illnesses & diarrhea, which can be fatal to displaced families.

Breast milk is available all the time without needing other supplies.

Barriers to BREASTFEEDING during a DISASTER



Lack of lactation support, whether it is a new mother or a mother with a newly-weaned baby.

Being away from home - displaced or having to relocate.

Being separated from people who usually support the mother.

Lack of privacy, security, comfort, dim lights & quiet in emergency shelters.

BREASTFEEDING benefits

Breastfeeding Mothers



Reduce their risks for:
- Ovarian cancer
- Breast cancer
- Type 2 Diabetes

Breastfed infants



Have a reduced risk of:
- SIDS
- Lower respiratory infections
- Type 2 diabetes
- Asthma
- Obesity

Workforce & environmental



- Infants have less illness so mothers miss less work
- Less trash & plastic waste compared to formula & bottle supplies

Communities who promote breastfeeding*



- Could save \$13 billion annually
- Prevent 1,000 deaths per year
**(for 90% of women for their babies first 6 months of life)*

How RESPONDERS can help

Ensure access to healthcare providers with lactation experience.



Assure mothers that breastfeeding can provide sufficient nutrition for babies when other foods aren't available.

Create safe locations for pregnant & breastfeeding women.



Keep families together.



Provide water & food for breastfeeding mothers



As a last resort, ready to use infant formula in a disposable cup should be the alternative.



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Office of Human Services Emergency Preparedness & Response

For more information visit
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ohsepr>

References: 1. 2011 Surgeon General's Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding: <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/calls/breastfeeding/index.html>
2. American Academy of Pediatrics Infant Feeding During a Disaster: <http://www2.aap.org/breastfeeding/files/pdf/InfantNutritionDisaster.pdf>
3. La Leche League International: <http://www.llli.org/faq/emergency.html>