



The American Red Cross, a long-time partner of Rx Response, provides support to Super Storm Sandy survivors in the Long Beach vicinity. (Photo by Andrea Booher/FEMA)

Key Actions of Rx Response and Supply Chain Partners following Super Storm Sandy

- Increased visibility of the Pharmacy Status Reporting Tool enabled nearly 200 pharmacies in the New York and New Jersey area that were not registered for the PRST to register so the status of their pharmacies will be visible in future disasters.
- Rx Response is working with N.Y. health officials in a post-Sandy debriefing to discuss opportunities to enhance collaboration and bolster pharmacy response in future disasters.
- PhRMA member companies donated over \$11 million in cash, medicine and supplies to Super Storm Sandy relief efforts. PhRMA is the biopharmaceutical supply chain member that initially established Rx Response.
- Rx Response members and affiliated organizations alerted elected leaders to Rx Response's activation of the Pharmacy Status Reporting Tool. This helped officials and storm survivors with real-time information about how patients could get their medicines by understanding where the nearest open pharmacies were located.

Disaster Response Program Created by Biopharmaceutical Supply System Plays Major Role in Helping Super Storm Sandy Victims Maintain Access to Medicine

The biopharmaceutical supply system created Rx Response in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina to help ensure the continued flow of medicine to patients following a major disaster. In developing Rx Response, all members of the biopharmaceutical supply chain were recruited to participate, ensuring that federal and state officials had a single point of contact for the entire pharmaceutical supply chain.

Rx Response is proud to showcase its important work following Super Storm Sandy in this Special Report.

Super Storm Sandy Activation Solidifies Rx Response Status as Vital Homeland Security Asset



A home destroyed by Super Storm Sandy is covered with debris at Breezy Point, Queens, N.Y. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. William Adams)

As Super Storm Sandy threatened the U.S. east coast, Rx Response leaders were actively monitoring the storm's track. When Super Storm Sandy made landfall, Rx Response was elevated to its highest alert level, *Engaged*, and the program's Pharmacy Status Reporting Tool (PRST) was activated. The PRST maps open pharmacies in disaster areas on the Rx Response website using an interactive Google map. As Sandy moved in land, Rx Response and key federal, state and local agencies coordinated information sharing and response. These efforts earned high praise from numerous officials, including Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, who called Rx Response officials to thank them for Rx Response's contributions.

In the weeks and months following Super Storm Sandy, emergency managers and public health leaders at the federal and state level continue working with Rx Response to assess lessons learned and plan for even greater coordination in future disasters.

Rx Response's Work with Federal Emergency Managers

- Rx Response is the only private sector group asked to participate in key daily conference calls with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Program to answer questions and brief HHS officials on the status of the biopharmaceutical supply chain.
- During a CIP call, a request for recharging stations for people without power who were relying on battery powered medical devices was announced. Rx Response relayed the request through its members, the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) and the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA). Walgreens and several independent pharmacies offered assistance with Rx Response notifying HHS that help was available.
- HHS needed to know the status report of Pfizer's Voriconazole (VFEND), used to treat patients impacted by the recent Meningitis outbreak. With Pfizer's input, Rx Response was able to report no disruptions in the drug's availability.
- Following federal activation of the Emergency Prescription Assistance Program (EPAP) in New York — allowing pharmacies to provide free or steeply discounted prescriptions to citizens with no health insurance — HHS asked Rx Response to quickly disseminate the information to its members.
- After HHS found that pharmacies were prohibited by federal law from waiving co-pays for Super Storm Sandy survivors with little or no cash, HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Rear Admiral Nicole Lurie, MD, asked Rx Response to notify its retail pharmacy partners that the federal government had relaxed co-pay restrictions.

Biopharmaceutical Supply Chain Resources Following Disasters

In the event of a disaster, Rx Response provides valuable information to Americans on the status and locations of open pharmacies in affected areas with its Pharmacy Status Reporting Tool, available at www.RxResponse.org. Rx Response also offers the Prescription Medication Wallet Card, an online tool patients



The destructive force of the ocean is visible on Mantoloking, N.J., where Super Storm Sandy buried cars and knocked houses off of their foundations. (Photo by Andrew Stamer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)



Medical supplies are readied for Super Storm Sandy relief. (U.S. Air Force Photo by T.C. Perkins Jr.)

and everyone can use to document current prescriptions. This is especially helpful if a person is forced to leave their home due to a disaster and uses medicine that requires a refill. This is also available at www.RxResponse.org.

The Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA), a program developed by Rx Response member PhRMA, provides assistance to individuals having difficulty affording prescription medicines. The program also considers applicants who may be unable to afford their medicines as a result of a disaster. Information about PPA is available online at www.pparx.org, or by calling 1-888-ppa-now (1-888-477-2669).