

FAQs

Hurricane Michael – Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER)



The goal of the Florida Department of Health in Bay County (DOH-Bay) is to better understand the impact Hurricane Michael had in your community and identify what the needs in the community are and design programs and arrange resources that are specific to your community and your needs. We want to hear from you, because although you may think you are only ONE person, you are an important part of this community- and if we are able to hear from everyone we will be hearing the voice of the community. We want to help answer your questions regarding the assessment and hope we have done so below. **If you need additional information, please contact DOH-Bay at 850-872-4455.**

What is CASPER?

Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER)

- Developed by CDC to assist health departments in conducting a community needs assessment.
- Designed to provide quickly and at low cost, household-based information about an affected community's needs after a disaster in a simple format to decision-makers.

What are the objectives of CASPER?

The primary goals of the CASPER are to rapidly obtain information about the needs of an affected community and to assess changes in needs during the response or recovery period. The main objectives of CASPER are to:

- produce household-based population estimates of needs for decision-makers,
- determine the critical health needs and assess the impact of the disaster on the community,
- characterize the population residing in the disaster area including any ongoing health effects,
- evaluate the effectiveness of relief efforts using follow-up CASPER,
- assess the economic, physical health and mental health impact of Bay County residents post-Hurricane Michael, and
- assess the knowledge of and perceived barriers to accessing health resources among Bay County residents post-Hurricane Michael.

What are the dates and times for the Bay County survey?

- Tuesday, October 22, Wednesday, October 23, and Thursday, October 24 from 2 – 7 pm

When is a CASPER conducted?

During a disaster, the local, state, or regional emergency managers or health department officers may decide to initiate a CASPER when at least one of the following conditions occurs

- the effect of the disaster on the population is unknown,
- the health status and basics needs of the affected population are unknown, or
- when response and recovery efforts need to be evaluated.

Why should you participate?

- When you make the time to take the DOH-Bay survey, you are making your voice heard about the needs of residents.
- Make your voice heard about health concerns, needs, and practices.
- This will help build better health programs for you and for present and future generations.

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What type of questions will be asked?

The survey has about 35 questions and will take about 20 minutes to complete. Questions will relate to topics such as:

- Hurricane Preparedness
- Health care and medication access
- Mosquito problems
- Mold
- Respiratory Illnesses
- Chronic diseases
- Depression

Will surveys identify participants in any way?

- Interviews are completely confidential.
- No identifying information will be taken.
- Address is not recorded with answers.

Who are the volunteers for CASPER?

- Most volunteers are DOH-Bay or Florida Department of Health employees. Some volunteers are from the Bay County Medical Reserve Corps. Other volunteers are from DOH-Bay's community partners.
- All volunteers will complete training prior to the CASPER survey.

How are homes selected for CASPER?

- Homes are selected randomly from census tracts. We will be going to 20 census tracts and surveying 7 homes in each.
- We visit selected household three times and leave materials behind. If unable to make contact, we will select a replacement.
- If a household refuses to participate, we will select a replacement.

Will results be shared?

- The overall results from the CASPER will be shared with the community, DOH-Bay's community partners, and Department of Health and other state agencies.
- Again, no personal or identifying data will be taken or shared.
- We are only looking for trends in health-related needs following Hurricane Michael.

Can we participate in the survey online?

- For this survey we are looking only for answers from those households who have been randomly selected in the Census tracts identified. This will help us make sure that the data is representative of the community with specific sampling.
- In the future there will be a Community Health Improvement Plan survey that will have an online survey that Bay County residents can participate in.