

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

What Disaster Responders Need To Know

As a disaster responder and/or a healthcare provider, the likelihood that you will come in contact with a human trafficking victim is very high! Remember that anyone can be trafficked—men and boys, women and girls.

Disasters Increase the Risks of Human Trafficking

BEGINNING OF DISASTERS

- Disruption and chaos make it easy to exploit disaster survivors
- Perpetrators of trafficking may pose as responders offering survivors help with housing, food, or water

DURING DISASTERS

- Disaster survivors may engage in survival strategies that make them vulnerable to being taken advantage of
- Children may be separated, sometimes permanently, from their parents

AFTER DISASTERS

- Rebuilding and cleanup create new markets for cheap or free labor
- Disaster survivors may lose their main source of income and look for new types of work, including commercial sex

Recognize the Signs of Human Trafficking

LABOR TRAFFICKING

- Reports performing work duties in exchange for basic necessities (food, water, housing), rather than money
- Unable to freely choose where they live
- Identification documents are held by employer

SEX TRAFFICKING

- Reports providing sex in exchange for basic necessities (food, water, housing)
- Unexplainable injuries
- Reports being forced to engage in commercial sex
- Aged <18 and involved in commercial sex
- Reports unusually high number of sex partners

If you think someone may be a victim of human trafficking, call and/or encourage them to call the **National Human Trafficking Hotline: (888) 373-7888** to receive help, resources, and information.

