



# FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE DISASTER RESPONSE SUMMARY

2018

## INTRODUCTION

Food is essential when people find themselves in need after a disaster or emergency. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) can play a vital role in providing supplemental nutrition assistance when disasters occur by coordinating with State, local, and voluntary organizations to:

- provide food for shelters and other mass feeding sites,
- distribute food packages directly to households in certain situations, and
- approve State requests to operate a Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP).

FNS' Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) also have policies in place that allow State agencies flexibility in program design and administration to support the continuation of benefits to participants during natural or other disasters.

FNS can provide infant formula and food 96 hours after a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance and a request by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or a State agency.

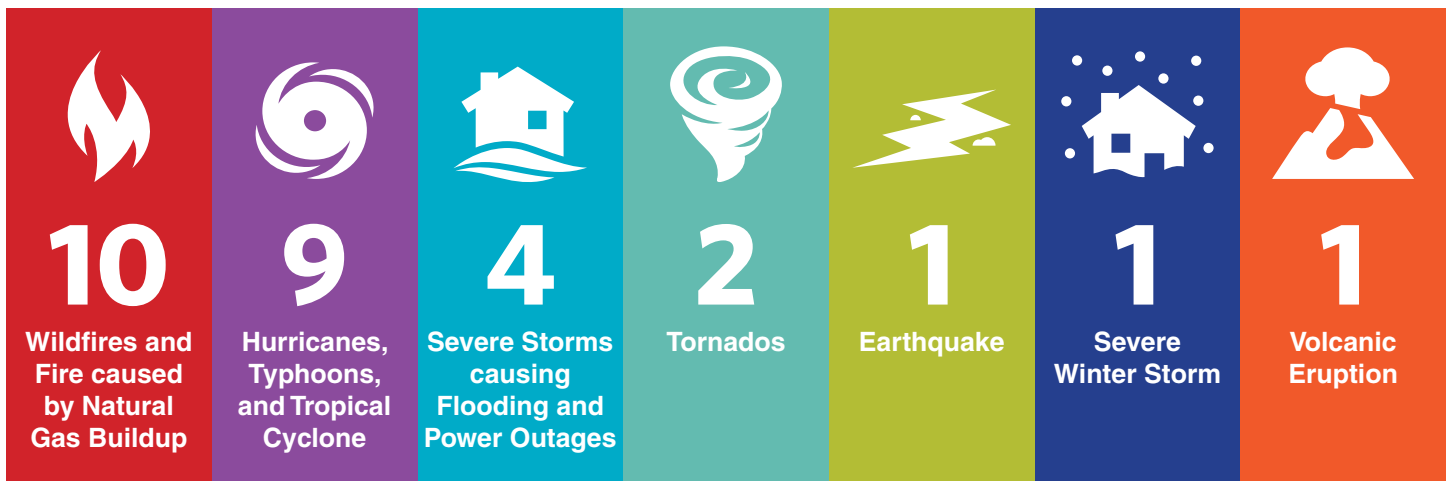
**In response to disaster situations local disaster relief organizations can request the use of existing USDA Foods inventories through State Distributing Agencies to provide food to shelters or people who are sheltering in place and who are in need of food.** Once retail food stores are operating, State agencies may request to operate a D-SNAP if the disaster area has received a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance and disaster survivors are still in need of nutrition assistance.

D-SNAP provides temporary nutrition assistance benefits to eligible disaster survivors and disaster supplements to ongoing SNAP households. SNAP replacement benefits are also available to ongoing SNAP households that lose food purchased with SNAP benefits due to an emergency or disaster.

## FNS 2018 DISASTER RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

**In 2018, FNS responded to 28 incidents in 19 States and territories.** These incidents included continued responses to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria; responses to Hurricane Florence in North and South Carolina; Hurricane Michael in Florida and Georgia; and four incidents in the Pacific: Tropical Cyclone Gita, Hurricane Lane, and Typhoons Mangkhut and Yutu, which affected American Samoa, Hawaii, and Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), respectively; numerous wildfires in California and

## FNS 2018 DISASTER RESPONSES BY INCIDENT TYPE



responses to more localized storms, tornadoes, flooding, power outages, an earthquake and a volcanic eruption. D-SNAP benefits were issued to survivors in response to the following incidents: severe storms and tornadoes in North Carolina, three major wildfires in California, the Kilauea East Rift Zone Volcanic Eruption in Hawaii, and Hurricanes Irma and Maria that affected Florida and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as Hurricane Michael in Florida and Georgia. To meet the needs of ongoing SNAP households impacted by disasters, FNS approved four States' requests to issue mass replacement benefits, and 13 States' requests for a timely reporting waiver. Note: Puerto Rico, which was impacted by Hurricane Maria, operated within its Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) to aid survivors through Disaster-NAP (D-NAP). Similarly, in the CNMI, the response to Typhoons Mangkhut and Yutu also operated under D-NAP.

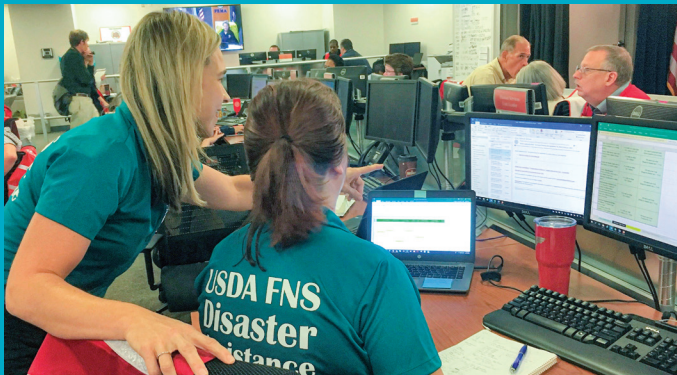
## USDA FY 2018 DISASTER NUTRITION ASSISTANCE EXPENDITURES

The following chart illustrates the total estimated FNS disaster nutrition expenditures provided in FY 2018, by program area. Note: Not all States requested replacement of USDA Foods. All numbers are provisional based on data available at the time of publication (May 2019).

USDA Disaster Nutrition Assistance	Expenditures in FY 2018
USDA Foods totaling 12,972,471 pounds	\$18,613,148*
D-SNAP and SNAP Supplements	\$1.4 billion**
SNAP replacement benefits	\$49.6 million
Puerto Rico Supplemental NAP Disaster Appropriation	\$1.27 billion
Puerto Rico and USVI Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 - Additional WIC Infrastructure Funds	\$14 million
American Samoa Disaster Relief Assistance Plan in response to Tropical Cyclone Gita	\$500,000
Infant Formula/Foods	\$4,930,648
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,757,643,797</b>

\*Includes \$2,084.76 in transportation costs

\*\* Total includes North Carolina's initial D-SNAP response to Hurricane Florence in FY18. The majority of operations occurred in FY19. FY=Fiscal Year



### Response to Hurricane Florence

USDA Food and Nutrition Service employees Cora Russell and Jacki Higgins serve at the FEMA National Response Coordination Center Emergency Support Function #11 desk during the response to Hurricane Florence, September 2018.



### Response to Hurricane Florence

The North Carolina Southern Baptist disaster feeding organization prepares meals to be distributed to survivors following Hurricane Florence.

For more information on FNS disaster nutrition assistance, including fact sheets, blogs, and other resources, please visit: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster>.

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