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September 14, 2018

NEWS RELEASE

Public Health Department Begins CASPER Assessment on Preparedness

EL PASO, Texas – Today, Department of Public Health staff and volunteers headed out of basecamp (Wyndham Hotel Airport) to begin the process of interviewing more than 200 households as a part of the Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER).

Those contacted via a knock at their door will be asked questions regarding whether the home is equipped with an emergency kit, if they would be ready to evacuate, and if they have a plan if they are separated from other family members.

“With the current disaster taking place along the East Coast because of Hurricane Florence, this CASPER event addresses the very same things facing residents in that part of our country,” said Department of Public Health Preparedness Program Manager Ruth Castillo. “We don’t have many wide-scale emergencies in El Paso, so when there are major events in other parts of the U.S. it’s important we seize on the opportunity to use them as a local reminder.”

Planning for the CASPER began months ago and is part of the City’s events to recognize National Preparedness Month which takes place every September.

The study is being conducted by the Department of Public Health Preparedness Program in cooperation with El Paso Police Department, 9-1-1 dispatch and various other agencies including the Texas Department of State Health Services and the El Paso City/County Office of Emergency Management.

Residents who are contacted today or tomorrow are asked to cooperate with those conducting the survey. If they do, they will receive a free emergency preparedness kit bag which will help them overcome a future emergency.

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