Two Facts to Think About:

- Governmental agencies and Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOADs) offer ample resources, clearly articulated response plans, best practices, and trusted procedures; but they often lack ties to local faith communities.

- Religious leaders are trusted members of the community but often lack resources and emergency management expertise.

HowCALM® brings these networks together so that they communicate, coordinate, and cooperate, to relieve human suffering and serve people impacted by disasters.

Visit www.howcalm.org and see how it works:
LOGIN: faithleaders   PASSWORD: tour

A Critical Management Tool

Think for a moment how disaster planning, response, and recovery would be enhanced if you knew the following:

- How well are your houses of worship prepared?
- What are your faith community’s available assets?
- What is your faith community’s level of preparedness?
- How can your faith community serve others in need?
- Who will coordinate assistance?
- Where can your faith community find outside help?

HOWCALM® can help answer these questions and empower your faith community to take action and serve your religious leaders, members, and the public in times of crisis. Your participation is vital to ensuring that your community, state, and nation are well-prepared and resilient.
New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS)

ABOUT NYDIS
Created in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS) is a 501(c)(3) faith-based federation of service providers and charitable organizations that work in partnership to provide disaster readiness, response, and recovery services to New York City.

Since 2006, HOWCALM® participants have partnered with NYDIS to assist faith communities throughout the city to better respond and deploy their assets during disasters. After the April 2007 Nor’eastern in Staten Island, the August 2007 tornado and floods in Brooklyn and Queens, and the March 2008 crane collapse in Manhattan, NYDIS’s ability to promptly offer onsite response and recovery services was significantly enhanced by the wealth of data in the HOWCALM® database.

NYDIS’S PROGRAMS FOR HOWCALM® USERS:

- **Disaster Chaplaincy & Spiritual Care Worker Program**: This program trains and credentials chaplains and spiritual care workers for deployment by NYDIS. Created for NYDIS member faith communities in collaboration with Episcopal Relief and Development, the training program is open to all faiths. This initiative provides for spiritual and emotional care at disaster sites, mass care facilities, and points of dispensing (POD).

- **Emergency Rest Centers**: The NYDIS Emergency Rest Center (ERC) program equips volunteers within houses of worship to offer hospitality and safe haven to the public during emergencies or evacuations. They self-activate in partnership with NYDIS and in line with NYC OEM safety guidelines. As a component of the ERC certification process, training taps volunteers’ capacities to welcome people with compassion and calm, ensure safety, take care of basic needs, inform guests about unfolding events or conditions, respect diverse languages and cultures, offer basic emotional and spiritual support, maintain simple records, and communicate with NYDIS during operations.

- **E-newsletter/E-Alerts**: E-newsletter with disaster-related news, events, resources, and preparedness tips distributed to more than 4,500 subscribers. An e-Alerts system to electronically broadcast critical updates concerning emergencies in your area.

- **STAR NYC**: The STAR (Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience) program trains and supports key leaders and caregivers in understanding and responding to trauma in the aftermath of a disaster.

- **Trainings & Conferences**: Educational workshops and seminars for clergy and congregations that provide comprehensive instruction on a broad range of topics, such as personal and congregational preparedness, spiritual and mental health care, and backlash mitigation.

Please contact us if you have any questions about these or any of NYDIS’s programs. Please note that while some NYDIS programs are free with the purchase of a HOWCALM® license, others are not.

HOWCALM® BEYOND FAITH COMMUNITIES

- **Houses of Worship**: HOWCALM® empowers houses of worship to enhance their level of preparedness. Participation in HOWCALM® will also help houses of worship connect with other faith communities and build relationships to promote the levels of understanding and cooperation needed for concerted, effective humane responses to all types of disaster.

- **Emergency Management Agencies**: HOWCALM® helps emergency management agencies to communicate, coordinate, and cooperate with faith communities and houses of worship to accomplish their mission. By building those relationships, emergency management agencies can ensure that their resources and emergency management expertise are optimally mobilized.

Questions? NYDIS has staff dedicated to HOWCALM® ready to answer your questions about the system. Contact us at the phone number below.

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FAITH COMMUNITIES BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR READINESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY