Hazards Storytelling Exercise

## [Purpose](#_[Name_of_Chapter)

The objective of this activity is to understand the past experiences of community members with hazards, disasters, and threats in order to start to identify who is most vulnerable, how and why. (For more guidance on how to conduct a storytelling activity, see Chapter 2)

## What you’ll Need

**Who:** Core team, other stakeholders or community members

**Where:** In-person or virtual workshop

**How long will it take:** 2 hours

**Materials:** Storytelling worksheets, writing supplies

## Instructions

1. Introduce the purpose and flow of the activity. Review storytelling resource area in Chapter 2 for conversation guidelines, privacy considerations and consent, and acknowledging trauma.
2. Divide participants into groups of 3 and have them sit next to each other or convene in a virtual break-out room.
3. Each person should have the storytelling prompts and interviewing tips.
4. The group takes turns sharing their stories. One person is the storyteller, one person is the interviewer, and one person is the note-taker.
   1. The interviewer follows the prompts below to guide the teller in sharing their story.
   2. The note-taker takes notes about the story below.
   3. After 10 minutes, switch roles so each person has a turn sharing their story for the first prompt.
   4. Repeat steps 1-3 with a new set of partners and complete the exercise now answering the second storytelling prompt.
5. Bring the group back together for a discussion on the following:
   1. What are similarities and differences in what people have experienced?
   2. What do we notice about the reasons for different impacts and experiences?
6. Collect the storytelling worksheets and notes from the group discussion.

## Prompts and Interviewing Questions

1. Storytelling prompt 1: Describe a time when you experienced a hazard, disaster, or threat.  Where were you, what happened, how were you affected, what did you do afterward?
   1. Interviewer: Help your partner tell their story by asking the following questions or others that apply:
      1. “Please share what happened. How did it impact your wellbeing?”
      2. “Did you observe disparate effects across your community?”
      3. “What do you think could have been done differently?”
      4. For practitioners: “How did this experience impact your work?”
2. Storytelling prompt 2: Describe a time when you worked together with a group of people in your community to address a problem.
   1. Interviewer: Help your partner tell their story by asking the following questions or others that apply:
      1. “Please share what happened. Who worked together, and what did you do?”
      2. “What do you think you learned from this experience?”
      3. “What were the challenges you overcome?”

## What to do next

Return to the ERB tool to complete the Word Cloud of story highlights to see what concepts appear the most during storytelling. Additionally, fill out the Key Takeaways from this activity. Then, return to the ERB to move on to the next activity: Explore Future Scenarios.