

Group A

It is Thursday in the late afternoon, in July.

Last Saturday the heat index had exceeded 100 degrees for the third day in a row. Meteorologists predicted these conditions to continue for the next four days. The City, in partnership with public facilities, opened cooling centers across the city.

Then, on Monday the temperature hit 106 degrees, and the heat index soared to 126 degrees. You learned that there have been 144 fatalities directly related to the heat wave, the power in your neighborhood went out.

Now, on Thursday as it approaches evening, power outages grip the entire city. The death toll has climbed above 700. The MTA announces the closure of all subway terminals due to dozens of heat-related deaths in the tunnels. Due to the increased demand for services and gridlocked traffic, ambulance responses are delayed up to two hours.

Group B

It is Saturday evening, in August.

On Thursday just after 4pm, a power surge caused tens of millions of people to lose electricity. All train service in New York City was suspended, including commuter rail and subways. Thousands of commuters are stranded.

By Friday in the middle of the day, the power was still out. The city is gridlocked, cell service is disrupted, but landlines are working. In one day there have been 60 major fires, caused mostly by candles. The FDNY answered over 7,500 calls which pertained to 4,000 individual events that they responded to. Because all buildings over 5 stories tall require electric pumps to access water, most high-rise buildings do not have access to water.

It is still unclear when the power will come back on and there are reported deaths due to carbon monoxide poisoning from generators.

Group C

It is Monday morning in January.

Last week weather forecasters announced that a winter storm, potentially a blizzard, was expected to impact the Northeast Friday through Saturday. By Thursday the forecast confirms that there will be at least 10 inches of snow, officially a blizzard.

On Friday night, the Mayor banned non-emergency travel. All MTA services stop. The Port Authority closes bridges and tunnels in the region. By Sunday the total snowfall is over 26 inches.

There are widespread power outages in Long Island and other areas surrounding New York City. The City reminds residents never to use gas, kerosene, propane space heaters, charcoal, or grills to heat their properties. Media sources announce that multiple people have died from shoveling snow.

One

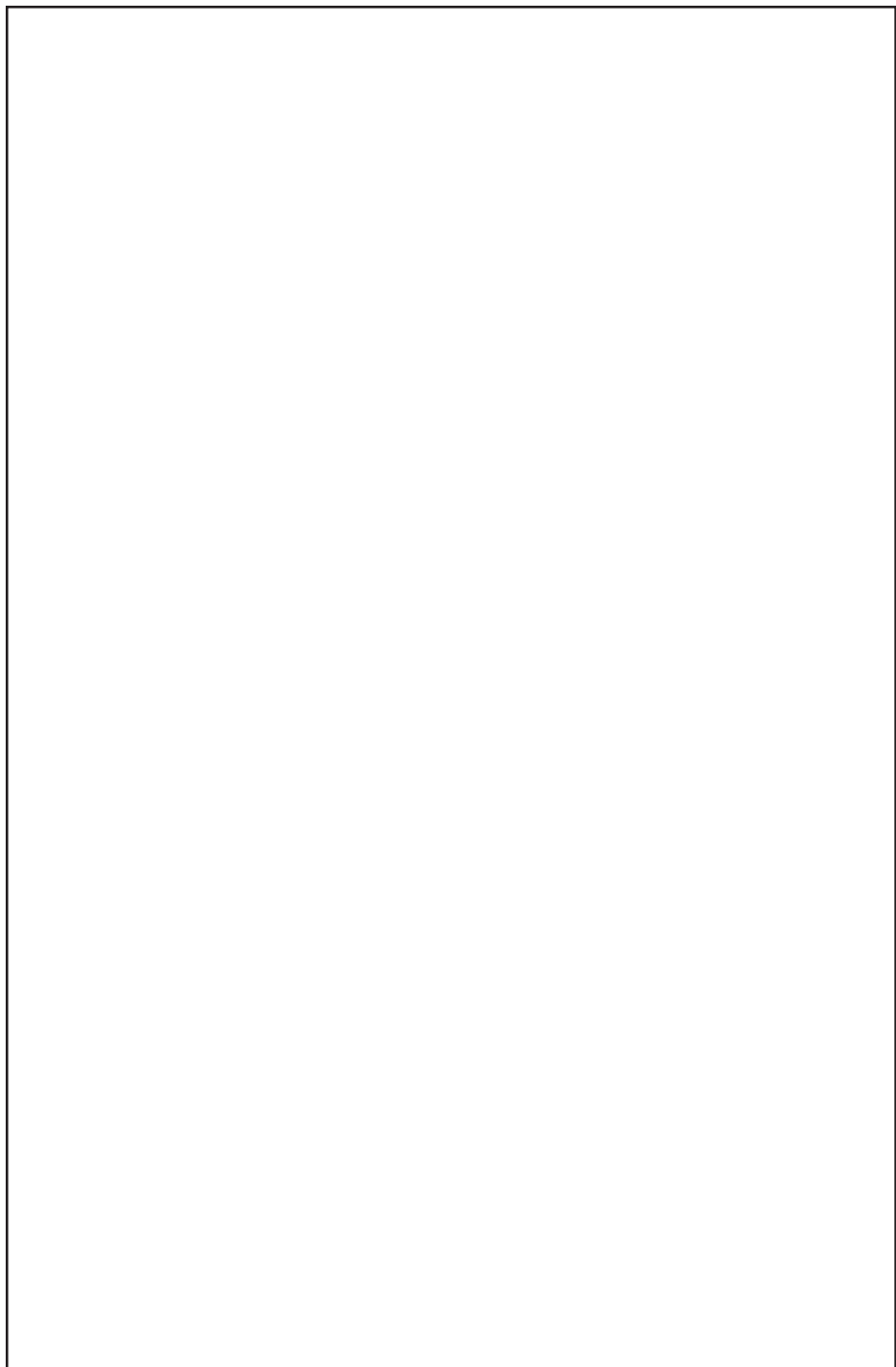
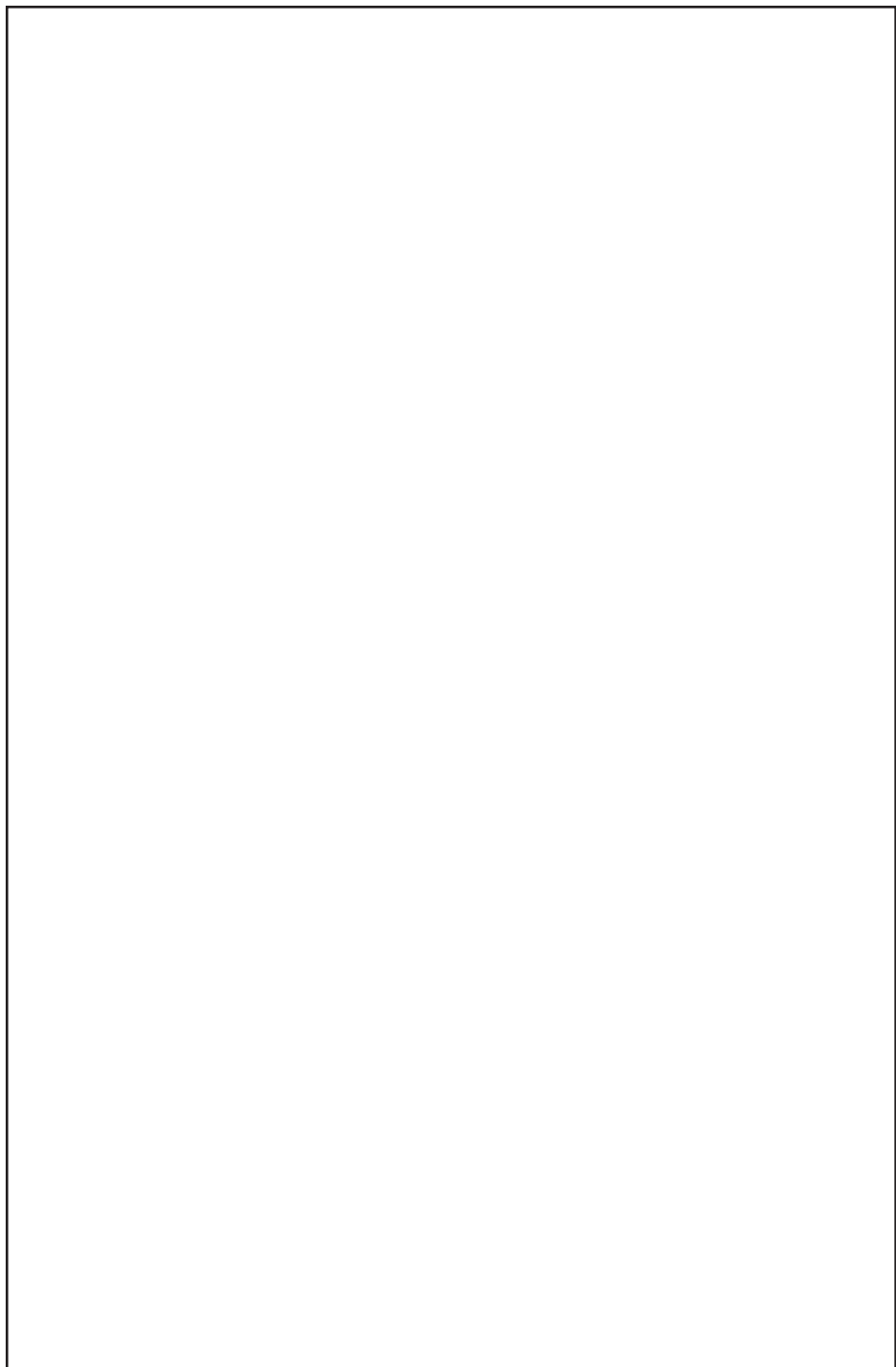
Imagine, as fully as you can, where you would be and what is around you when your scenario happens.

What worries you the most?

What are the first ways your everyday life would be changed by this scenario?

What would emerge as your most pressing need or vulnerability?

*Discuss with your group in 3 minutes.
Designate a notetaker to document your conversation (bullet points are fine, spelling doesn't matter)*

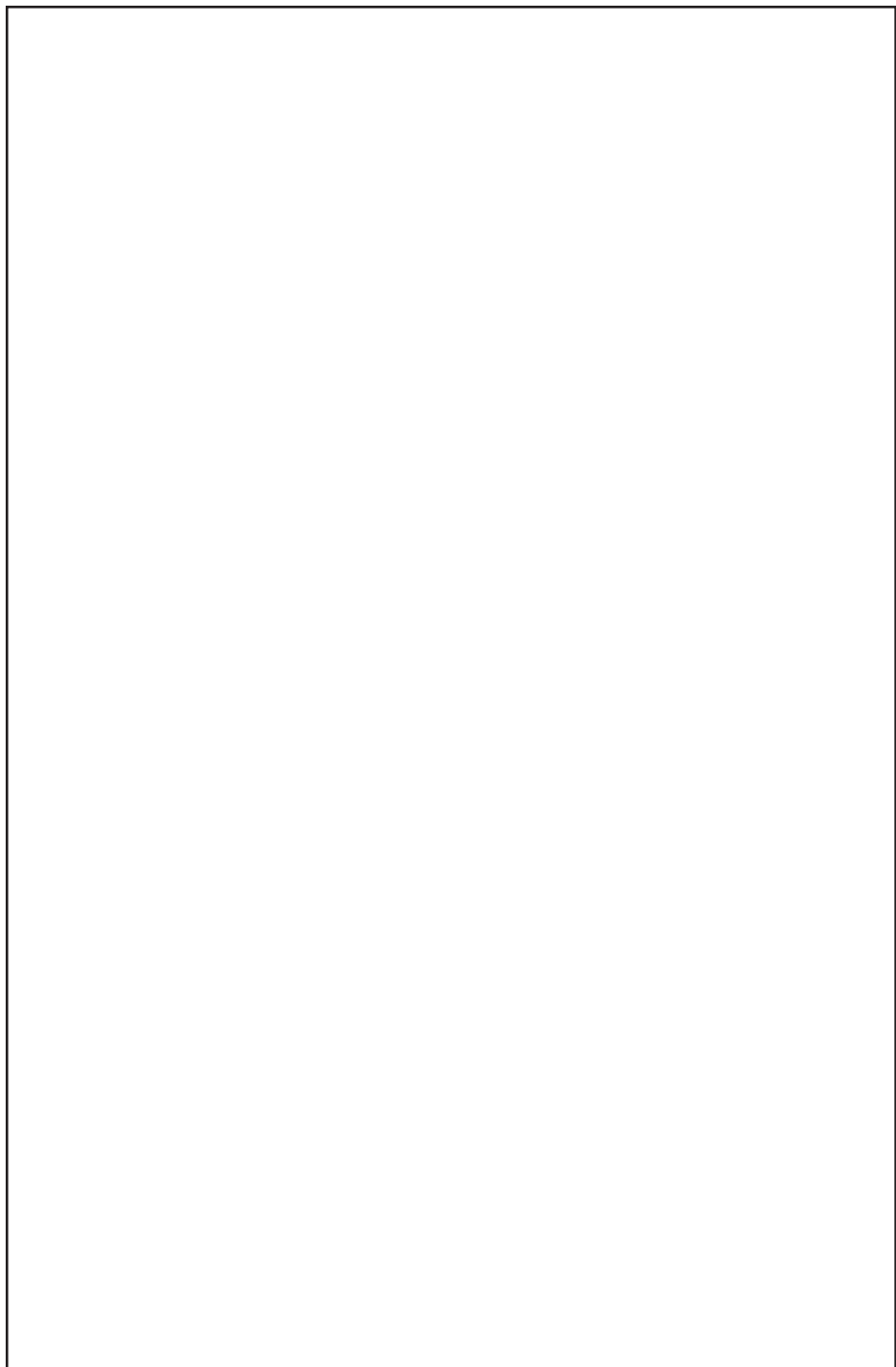
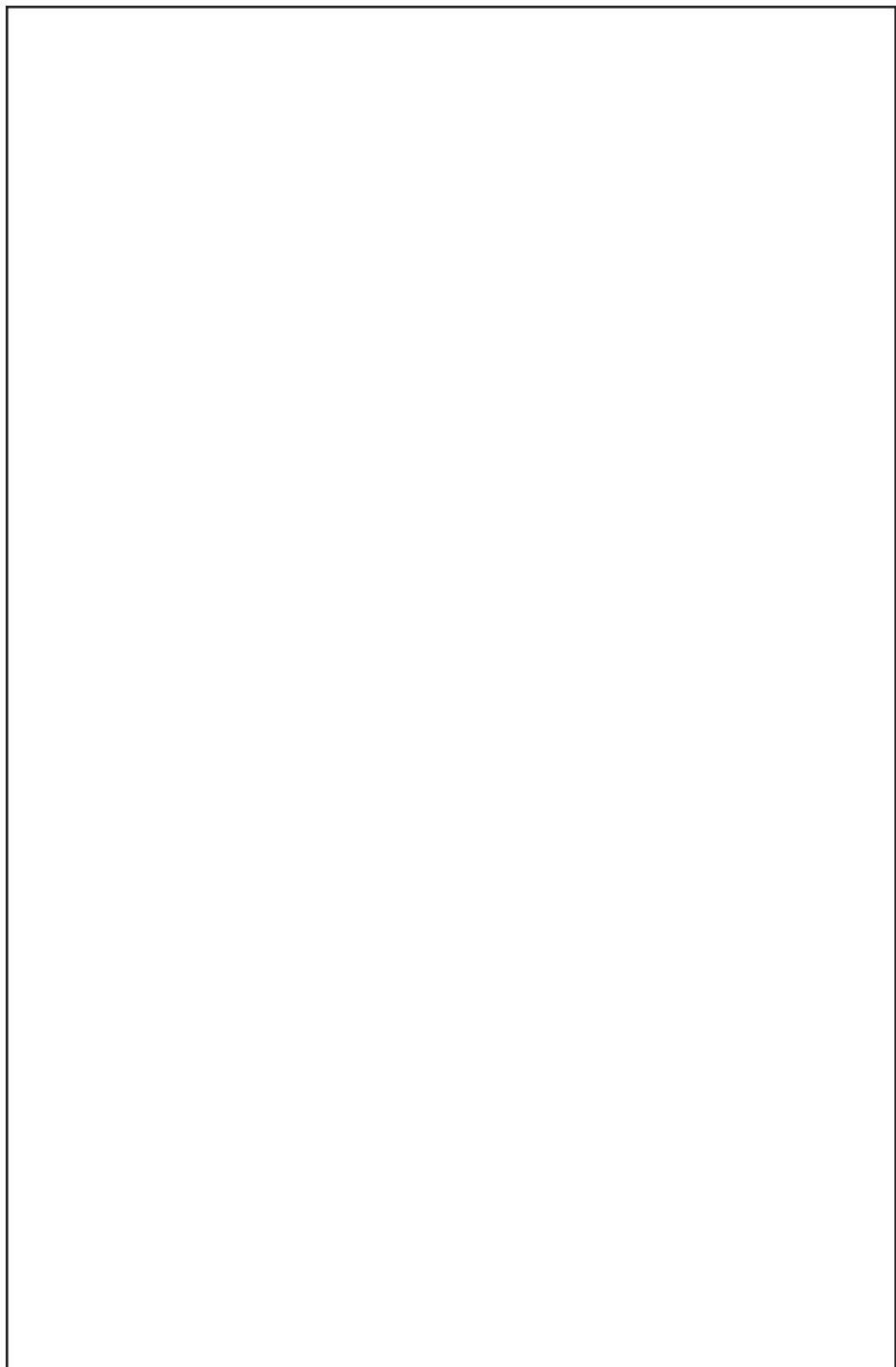


Two

After hearing how this scenario would impact your partner the most, what (knowledge/resources/skills/tools/people/past experiences) could you draw on to help meet their most pressing need?

In what ways might you be able to offer assistance to your partner?

*Discuss with your group in 3 minutes.
Designate a notetaker to document your conversation (bullet points are fine, spelling doesn't matter)*



Three

Imagine that your scenario is now resolved, and everyday life has resumed.

What would some of the lasting impacts be from the kinds of assistance you and your group members were able to offer one another?

What are ways, even without a disaster, that these forms of powerful community support and reliance could be put in play?

*Discuss with your group in 3 minutes.
Designate a notetaker to document your conversation (bullet points are fine, spelling doesn't matter)*

