

# A Comprehensive Coalition Based Regional Approach to Pediatric Disaster Planning

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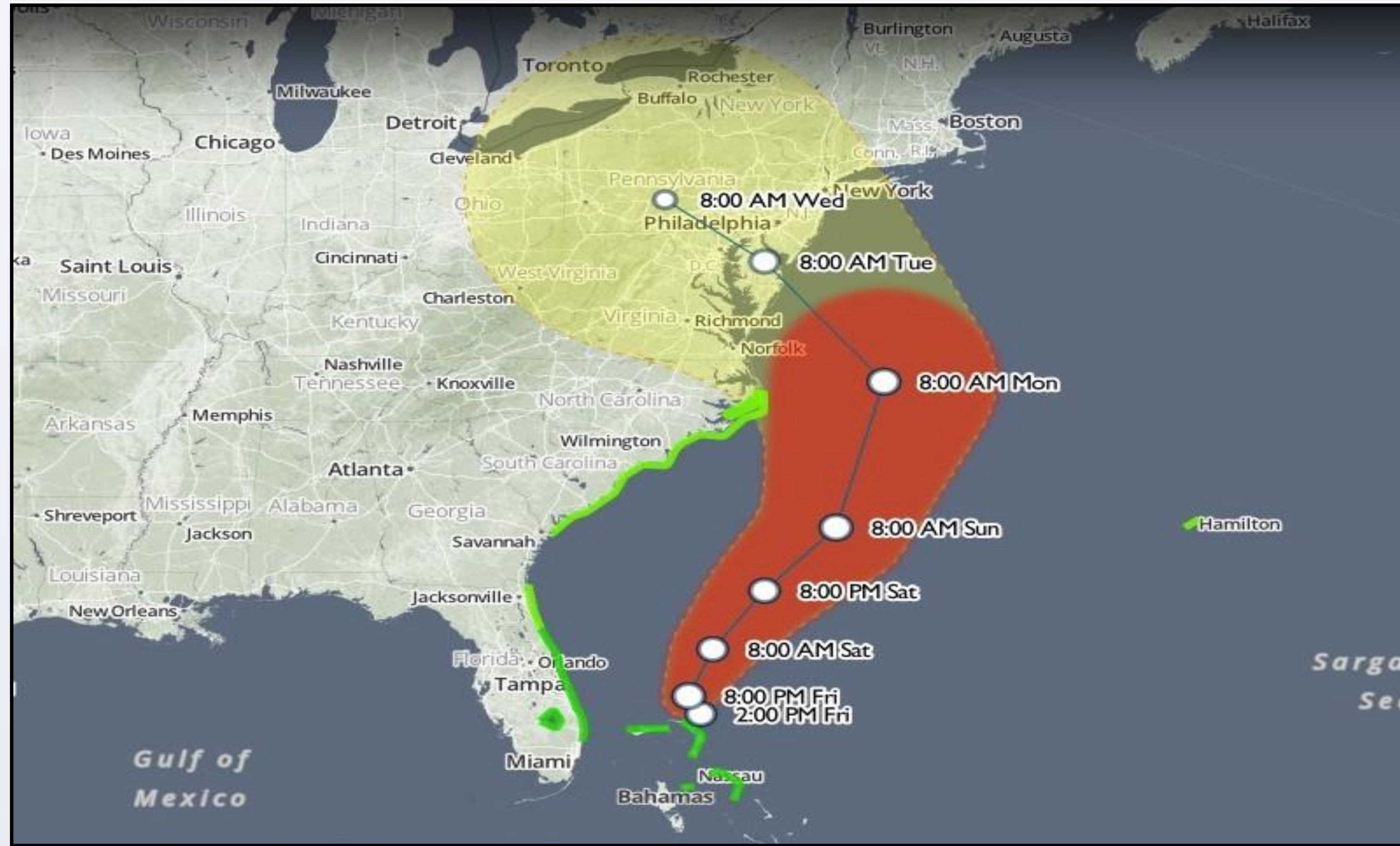
## Background:

Children, who comprise 25% of the US population, are frequently victims of disasters and have special needs during these events. Since 2009, the New York City Pediatric Disaster Coalition (NYCPDC) has worked with an ever-increasing number of providers and agencies. Through a cooperative team approach, stakeholders now include local public health, emergency management, and emergency medical services agencies, 28 hospitals, community-based providers, and the NYC Medical Reserve Corps (MRC).



## Study Question:

What are the accomplishments of the NYCPDC toward the goal of improving disaster response for NYC's children?



## Methods:

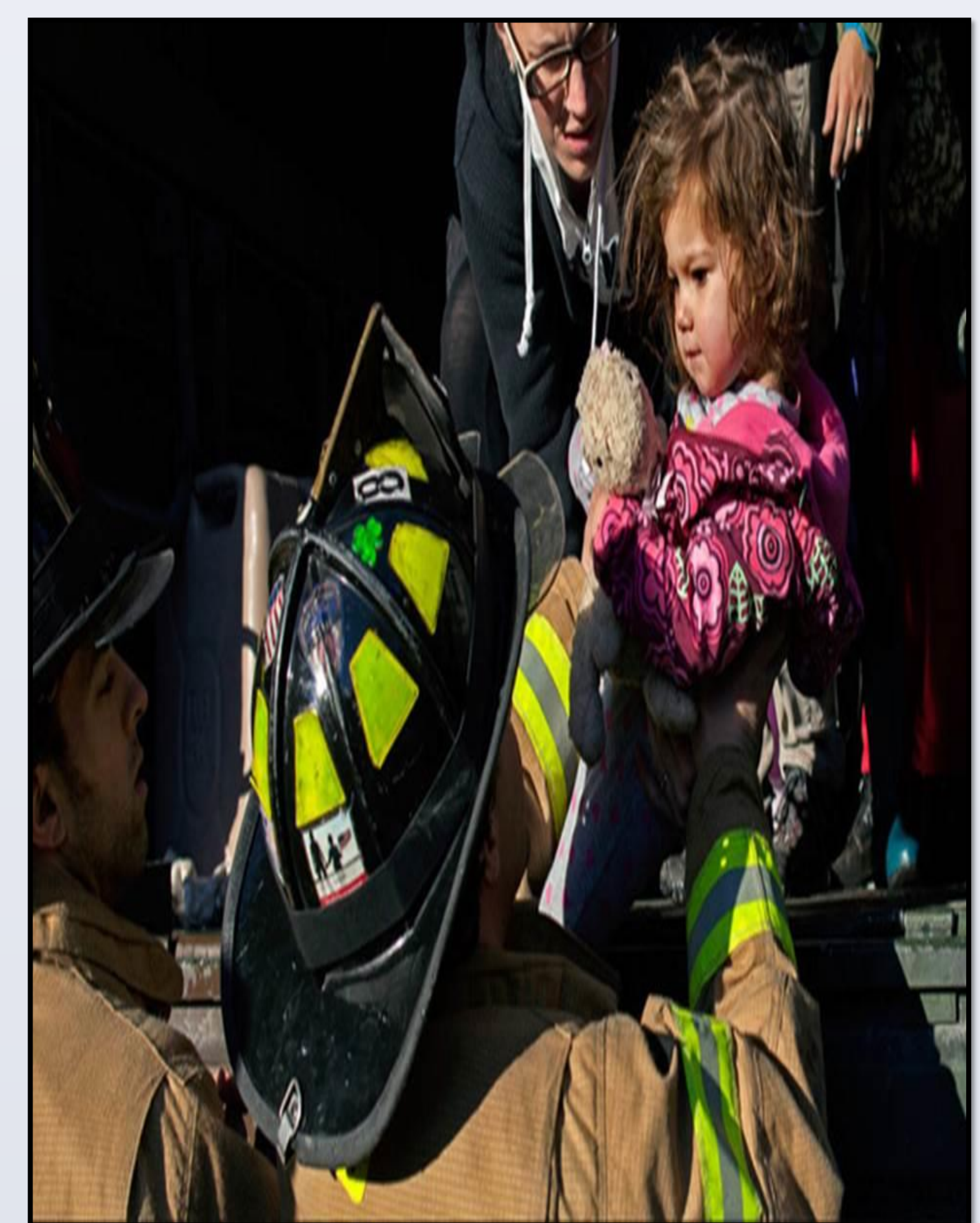
The NYCPDC utilized an inclusive iterative process model whereby a desired plan was achieved by stakeholders reviewing the literature and current practice through repeated discussion and consensus building. NYCPDC used this model to develop critical components of a comprehensive regional pediatric disaster plan from disaster scene triage (adapted for pediatric use) to transport (with prioritization) to surge and evacuation.



**Results:** Site-specific plans utilizing guidelines and templates now include pediatric long-term care facilities, hospital pediatric departments including pediatric and neonatal intensive care services and outpatient/urgent care centers. A force multiplier course in critical care for non-intensivists has been provided. An extensive pediatric exercise program has been used to develop, operationalize and revise plans based on lessons learned. This initially included pediatric tabletop, functional and full-scale exercises at individual hospitals leading to citywide exercises at 13 and subsequently all 28 hospitals caring for children. The NYCPDC has responded to real time events (H1N1, Haiti Earthquake, Superstorm Sandy, Ebola), and participated in local (NYC boroughs and executive leadership) and nationwide coalitions (including the National Pediatric Disaster Coalition).

## Conclusion:

Involving a wide range of stakeholders in pediatric disaster planning was an effective method for developing a comprehensive pediatric disaster planning and response model.



## Take Home Messages:

A comprehensive coalition based regional approach to pediatric disaster planning can be utilized by healthcare providers including hospitals and community based facilities to develop effective response plans for children and their families during catastrophic events.

