Case Vignette 3: Caseworker with multiple clients

As a caseworker, you have a caseload of 45 older adults who live in your county. In your role, you typically help link clients to resources and oversee their care. Yesterday, severe weather conditions caused a substantial flood that affected many residents in the community. Your director has asked staff to come in to help with the relief efforts.

There are news reports that many community residents lost power. Others had to be evacuated from their homes due to high water. Some deaths have been reported in the county as a result of the flooding. Many people are staying in temporary shelters or with family. You do not know where many of your clients are staying at this time or even how to get in touch with them.

What steps might you, as a caseworker, have taken to avoid some of the issues you are now encountering during the post-disaster period?

What needs might your older clients have immediately following a flood?

What can you do to assist during the post-disaster recovery?

How can you help your clients in the long term to recover from a disaster?