WHAT IS THE DISASTER RECOVERY SUPPLEMENT?
During recovery from disasters—including hurricanes, floods, and fires—impacted people might be at risk for exposure to harmful chemicals. Children are especially vulnerable. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) developed this resource to help public health professionals protect children from environmental exposures after a disaster.

WHY WAS IT DEVELOPED?
ATSDR’s Choose Safe Places model uses 4 key elements (see figure to right) to help determine if the location of an Early Care and Education (ECE) facility is in a safe place, away from potential environmental hazards. These key elements of safe siting are used to prevent new child care facilities from opening in places that haven’t considered potential environmental exposures. After the devastating hurricane season of 2017, ATSDR recognized that this work could be adapted to aid in disaster recovery efforts for child care facilities and other places that children spend time.

FOUR KEY ELEMENTS
1. FORMER USE OF THE SITE
2. NEARBY SITES AND NEARBY ACTIVITIES
3. NATURALLY OCCURRING CONTAMINATION
4. SAFE DRINKING WATER

HOW IS THE DISASTER RECOVERY SUPPLEMENT DIFFERENT FROM ATSDR’S 2017 CHOOSE SAFE PLACES FOR EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION (CSPECE) GUIDANCE MANUAL?
The Disaster Recovery Supplement builds on concepts from ATSDR’s Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education (CSPECE) guidance manual. In this Disaster Recovery Supplement, the key elements are expanded to additional places (e.g., recreational facilities, camps) and additional environmental hazards unique to disasters. The supplement:
- defines additional places children spend time, such as home-based ECE programs, group homes, and recreational facilities,
- describes how the CSPECE elements can be applied to other places where children spend time,
- provides information about potential environmental hazards after a disaster, and effects on places where children spend time, and
- compiles resources readily available from numerous agencies for each environmental hazard or topic.

For additional information on ATSDR’s Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education program, including fact sheets, an interactive program development tool, call to action video, and the original Guidance Manual, visit our website at https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/safeplacesforECE/