



Facing the unknown after a disaster

Aetna Resources For LivingSM

A disaster can often bring with it a sense of chaos. The day-to-day “normal” can feel like it’s been turned upside-down. Things can be unpredictable. And you will likely have a lot of questions. You might wonder:

- Where are my loved ones? Are they safe?
- Is my home safe? When can I return?
- What have I lost?
- How is life going to change?
- Is everything going to be okay?

The stress of the unknown

Sometimes not knowing is harder than getting bad news. It’s natural to think of the “worst case scenario.” And you often feel stuck in an in-between state. Humans like to know what’s happening. It’s hard to make plans when you don’t know what the future holds.

During this period, you may feel like things are completely outside of your control. All you can do is wait. And that comes with its own set of stressors.

Coping with the unknown

While this time can be difficult, there are still things you can do to get through it. Consider these tips:

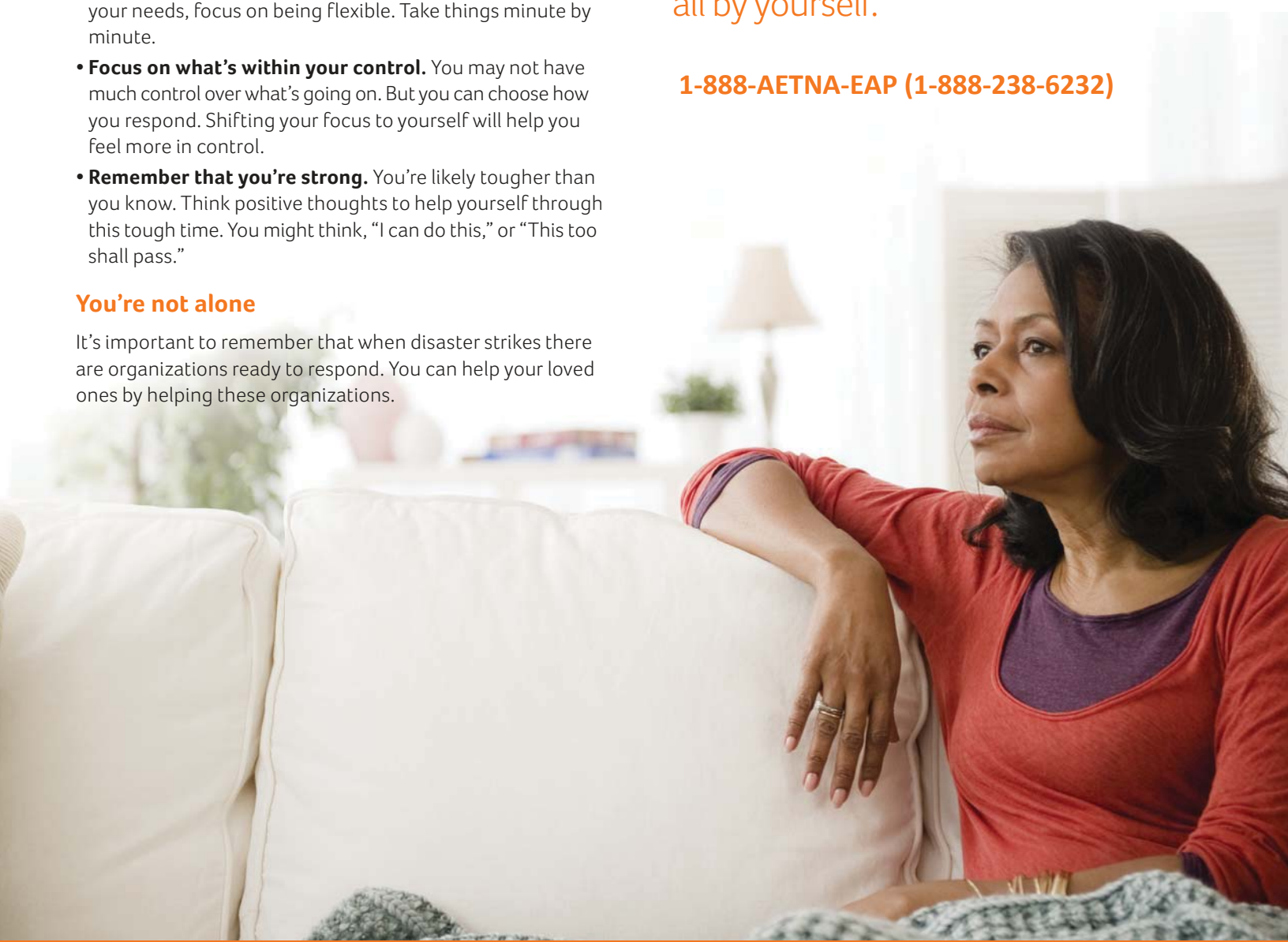
- **Seek information.** Make phone calls or go online if you can. Talk to others. And try to fact check. Often, things are confused right after a crisis. Information can be wrong. So try to follow up if you can.
- **Be flexible.** It's easy to feel like you're fighting with the world right now. Instead of trying to force reality to meet your needs, focus on being flexible. Take things minute by minute.
- **Focus on what's within your control.** You may not have much control over what's going on. But you can choose how you respond. Shifting your focus to yourself will help you feel more in control.
- **Remember that you're strong.** You're likely tougher than you know. Think positive thoughts to help yourself through this tough time. You might think, "I can do this," or "This too shall pass."

You're not alone

It's important to remember that when disaster strikes there are organizations ready to respond. You can help your loved ones by helping these organizations.

And we're here to help you and your household members through this tough time. You can call us 24 hours a day, seven days a week for emotional support and resources. You don't have to face the unknown all by yourself.

1-888-AETNA-EAP (1-888-238-6232)



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