

CHURCH DISASTER RESPONSE PREPARATION ACTION ITEMS

This summary is taken from the Somebody Cares America Disaster Preparation and Response Training Manual. To purchase a copy of the entire manual you may contact the Somebody Cares office.

BEING PREPARED RELATIONALLY:

Church to Congregation

Organize phone chain for post-disaster follow up with church members.
Survey church members to identify useful skills/resources for disaster response.
Compile into a database and print out hard copies as well whenever updated.
Use information to set up a disaster response team for your church and delegate responsibilities.

Churches to Neighborhoods

Create survey for your church members to use when they offer assistance to their neighbors (preparing homes, helping with the elderly, sick or disabled).
Supply business cards or other church information to be handed out by church members to their neighbors.
Encourage church members to be involved in neighborhood associations
Consider running an ad in the local neighborhood association newsletter offering assistance to those who need it.

Churches to Other Churches

Connected to a local network.
Connected to a national/international network (or denomination).
Start a local network if none exists.

Churches to Communities

Identify church leaders and/or members that are part of:
Chamber of Commerce: _____
Police Department: _____
Fire Department: _____
Local or Federal Government: _____
Red Cross: _____

Citizen Corps: _____

School Board: _____

Community Emergency Response Team: _____

Other: _____

BEING PREPARED MATERIALLY:

Assess types of disasters you might have to deal with.

Assess special material needs associated with these types of disasters.

Take inventory of current supplies on hand. Below are some key items you might want to consider having in your inventory, a more complete list is in Appendix I:

- LED flashlights (burn brighter and last longer)
- Smokers (use wood and matches), gas/charcoal grills
- Tarps
- Large tent (for shelter or for warehousing)
- Tables and shelving for distribution/warehousing
- Non-perishable food
- Water (for drinking, cooking, cleaning, hygiene)
- Paperware, utensils, and “clam shells” for serving food
- Can openers
- Baby supplies
- Disposable blankets (like airlines use)
- Cots/air mattresses/pillows/blankets
- Bathroom supplies/toilet paper
- Personal hygiene items (“Care Kits”)
- Laundry supplies
- Bleach, other cleaners
- Outdoor sound system
- Generators (battery powered or diesel operated)
- Batteries (all sizes)
- Battery-operated lanterns
- Back-up communication (HAM radio, satellite systems)
- Back-up transportation (golf carts, ATVs)
- Chain saws, other tools
- Bibles and other appropriate spiritual materials
- Hand sanitizer
- Rubber gloves and boots, face masks
- Bug spray
- Kerosene heaters
- Oxygen
- Insulin and coolers
- Other medications/first aid kits
- Wheelchairs

Make sure your family needs are met first then focus on the church!

BEING PREPARED LOGISTICALLY

Communications:

Develop a communications plan for your church or network (who to call for what)

Develop a database to track your church or network members, their skills, and resources (see *Being Prepared Relationally/Churches to Congregations*)

Develop a database for tracking resources coming in and going out during disaster relief

Develop a web-based communication system for your church or network for real-time communication of needs and available resources, which change rapidly during the Rapid Response stage.

Back-up communications hardware (write down numbers or contact information for suppliers):

Transportation:

Local network approval for access into disaster area

Back-up gasoline supplies

Back-up vehicles

Wrecker trucks.

Learn evacuation routes

If your church is located on evacuation routes, be prepared as a "respite center"

Warehouses and Distribution:

1. Sources identified:

Warehouses (preferably with loading docks):

Suppliers for specific anticipated

Local staging areas for food, other goods:

Databases and paperwork for tracking

Back-up Power:

Back-up power sources located (write quantity, location):

1. Generators (fuel or battery?):

2. Lighting:

LED flashlights:

Battery operated lanterns:

Other

Refrigerated trucks/other types of refrigeration

BEING PREPARED VOCATIONALLY (*with training*)

Schedule the following trainings for yourself and/or your church members:

National Incident Management System (NIMS) (take online at HYPERLINK

"http://www.fema.gov" www.fema.gov).

CERT training (instructors can come to your church). The basic program is a 24-hour course, typically delivered one evening per week over a 8-week period. Training sessions cover disaster preparedness, fire suppression, basic disaster medical operations, light search and rescue, disaster psychology, team organization, and a new module on terrorism and BNICE agents: Biological, Nuclear, Incendiary, Chemical, and Explosive. Counseling & chaplaincy training for post-traumatic stress
Counseling training for marriages, families, and children
Basic preparedness training using FEMA's *Are You Ready?* and the accompanying facilitators guide.
Schedule customized training seminar for your network or community through Somebody Cares America

Suggested Conferences:

Texas Citizen Corp Annual Preparedness Conference HYPERLINK "http://www.texascitizencorps.org" www.texascitizencorps.org

Texas Hurricane Conference (if you live in another state contact your State government for disaster conferences in your region) HYPERLINK "http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/pages/hurricaneconference.htm" www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/pages/hurricaneconference.htm

Billy Graham Chaplain Training Conference HYPERLINK "http://www.billygraham.org/RapidResponse_Index.asp" www.billygraham.org/RapidResponse_Index.asp

Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response Association: see upcoming events at HYPERLINK "http://www.disasters.org/dera/weblink.htm#Events" www.disasters.org/dera/weblink.htm#Events

National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster: look online for a local chapter and get involved as well as the annual national conference at HYPERLINK "http://www.nvoad.org" www.nvoad.org

Somebody Cares America/International: look online for info about the international summit as well as disaster preparedness and response seminars at HYPERLINK "http://www.somebodycares.org" www.somebodycares.org

BEING PREPARED SPIRITUALLY

Prior to disasters, examine daily:

My personal life, family, and ministry are built on the foundation of Jesus

My personal life, family, and ministry are in proper alignment:

With God and His Kingdom purposes

With those He has placed over me, under me, and alongside me

With my body, as I properly care for His temple

My personal life, family, and ministry practice consistent, systematic, and intentional disciplines of:

Personal prayer

Daily reading of God's Word

Giving of time, talents, tithes and offerings

Coordinated prayer efforts during disaster

Prayer coordinator has been designated

Has list of prayer partners and their contact information (email, phone, cell phones) for emergency prayer

Location determined for 24/7 prayer during , if practical

Connected to local prayer ministries and networks