

PURPOSE - This Church Disaster Readiness and Response Plan is designed to prepare the church, its congregants, and its surrounding community for any of the many possible natural or manmade disasters. It also addresses how the church can provide a multifaceted response to the community following a disaster through collaborative work within the larger faith community organized by Network of Hope and in cooperation with the local county disaster office.

II. PHASES OF DISASTER PREPAREDNESS – There are five phases of most disasters:

A. PHASE 1 – PREPARATION: This phase covers the period from when a disaster is first anticipated until either the danger has passed or the disaster has in fact occurred. During this phase, the church will accomplish advanced planning and will take preparedness steps to be ready for the next phase.

B. PHASE 2 – IMPACT: This phase begins when the disaster actually strikes. During this phase, the church's priority is safely surviving the disaster and performing rescue/first aid, if necessary.

C. PHASE 3 – IMMEDIATE RESPONSE: This phase begins as soon as the actual disaster has ended. During this phase, the church will conduct disaster assessment and take any necessary emergency actions to prevent any further life-threatening harm due to dangerous conditions.

D. PHASE 4 – RELIEF: This phase begins after a damage assessment has been conducted. During this phase, the church will begin taking action to bring relief to its members and the community.

E. PHASE 5 – RECOVERY: This is the long-term rebuilding phase when the church response teams will be following up on the relief actions begun in the previous phase and, depending upon the scope of the disaster, can last from several months to several years.

III. ACTION CHECKLIST FOR ALL DISASTERS

A. Assumption – There are certain actions that need to be accomplished in preparation for any disaster, regardless of its specific nature. The following checklist outlines the action items that should be completed to prepare both church property and people.

B. All Hazards Checklist – see "Church Disaster Plan" in the Resource Library

IV. ADDITIONAL CHECKLISTS FOR SPECIFIC DISASTERS

A. Assumptions

1. Each disaster the church faces may require certain actions that are only specific to the nature of that particular disaster, therefore, the following checklists outline the action items that should be completed in addition to the all hazards checklist above.

2. Of the many natural and manmade disasters, only certain ones are a real threat to our local church and community so this plan will address only those specific disasters. If you would like information on additional disasters, please refer to www.disastercenter.com where planning checklists for any imaginable disaster are posted.

B. Natural Disaster Action Checklists

1. Hurricane Action Checklist – see “Church Disaster Plan” in the Resource Library
2. Flooding Action Checklist – see “Church Disaster Plan” in the Resource Library
3. Thunderstorm Action Checklist see “Church Disaster Plan” in the Resource Library
4. Tornado Action Checklist – see “Church Disaster Plan” in the Resource Library
5. Extreme Heat Action Checklist – see “Church Disaster Plan” in the Resource Library
6. Earthquake Action Checklist – see “Church Disaster Plan” in the Resource Library
7. Fire Action Checklist – see “Church Disaster Plan” in the Resource Library
8. Pandemic Flu Action Checklist – see “Church Disaster Plan” in the Resource Library

C. Manmade Disasters

1. Terrorism Action Checklist – see “Church Disaster Plan” in the Resource Library
2. Nuclear and Radiological Attack Action Checklist – see “Church Disaster Plan” in the Resource Library

Additional Resources Attached:

1. Voluntary Disaster Registration – see “Neighborhood Resources” in the Resource Library
2. Church Communication Planning - see “Team Organization Resources” in the Resource Library
3. Church Shelter Transportation Plan - see “Team Organization Resources” in the Resource Library
4. Disaster Preparedness Training Materials
 - “Educate the Congregation” Briefing – see “Pastor Resources” in the Resource Library
 - Hurricane Evacuation Checklist – see “Neighborhood Resources” in the Resource Library
 - Disaster Supply Kit Checklist – see “Neighborhood Resources” in the Resource Library
 - Disaster Planning for Companion Animals – see “Neighborhood Resources” in the Resource Library
 - Family Disaster Plan Template – see “Neighborhood Resources” in the Resource Library
5. Church Disaster Response Coordinator Responsibilities – see “Team Organization Resources” in the Resource Library
6. Church Disaster Response Ministry Team Leader Responsibilities – see “Team Organization Resources” in the Resource Library



7. Guidelines for Starting Network of Hope Ministry Teams – see “Team Organization Resources in the Resource Library
8. Network of Hope Ministry Teams – see “Ministry Teams” in the Resource Library
9. Disaster Relief Activation Checklists - see “Team Organization Resources in the Resource Library
10. Developing a Building Evacuation Plan - see “Team Organization Resources in the Resource Library
11. Emergency Phone Numbers and Websites – see “Helpful Links” under the “resources” tab
12. Collections for Post-Hurricane Relief - see “Neighborhood Resources” in the Resource Library
13. Planning for Alternate Facilities - see “Team Organization Resources in the Resource Library
14. Recommendations for Facemask and Respirator Use During an Influenza Pandemic – see “Neighborhood Resources” in the Resource Library
15. Decontamination Procedures – see “Neighborhood Resources” in the Resource Library
16. Volunteer Procedures – see “Resources for Managing Volunteers” in the Resource Library
17. Volunteer Log in & Log out Form – see “Resources for Managing Volunteers” in the Resource Library
18. Weekly Volunteer Report – see “Resources for Managing Volunteers” in the Resource Library