

**DEFINITION:** Small teams which will go out ASAP after a disaster to check on the (pre-determined as well as others you may find) vulnerable people in your church and neighborhood. You can assess property damage and general needs, assess any immediate medical needs, give general information on where people can find help (agencies, FEMA etc.), and provide prayer and comfort. These small teams basically represent and can be made up of people from the Chain Saw and Clean-up Teams, Advocacy, Triage/Medical, and the Emotional/Spiritual Ministries. Also needed are administrative people who can create and administrate a data base system for the families in your geographical area and for you church family.

**VOLUNTEER NEEDS:** People who are outgoing, personable, and love to meet and talk to people they don't know; people who exude warmth, kindness, and caring; people who have knowledge of the appropriate areas (property needs, advocacy, medical care, prayer)

**PRE-HURRICANE:**

- Prepare a survey and database of the vulnerable people in your church **AND** geographical area (elderly, single moms, disabled etc.). This personal contact will set up relationship for post-hurricane ministry.
- Prepare a survey and database of your church family.
- Educate and encourage the special needs population (those that can't stay in a general shelter (e.g. the need for electricity for oxygen, etc.) to register with the county. Supply them with your county's Special Needs Application Form and help them fill it out.
- Use the church "Voluntary Registration Form" for the vulnerable population in your church and in your geographical area.

**POST-HURRICANE:**

- Immediately go through your area assessing needs and ministering to people.
- Be prepared to help people with information about available resources
- Be available to help people determine an appropriate course of action
- Turn the information over to the appropriate Ministry Teams.
- Check back with people to see how things are going (this can even mean personal or phone contact a month, several months, and a year later...).

**FURTHER TRAINING:**

CERT training (Community Emergency Response Teams)

Damage Assessment (Red Cross)

First Aid (Red Cross)

**NOTES:**

- **This is the ministry team that will see to it that the elderly and the disabled are cared for.** You can see to it that people are immediately visited and cared for after the hurricane. This takes some real administrative work behind the scenes to keep track of the database.