



crime/violence



earthquake



emergency medical care



fire



inclement weather



lock down



power outage



personal safety



hazardous spills or leaks

Your Church's Preparedness and Safety

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Have you had these thoughts?

- ▶ That (shooting, kidnapping, asthma attack) will not happen in my church...
- ▶ Does the congregation know what to do in the event of a fire during a worship service?
- ▶ Yes, I can send those items to the victims of the latest tornado/hurricane/flood...
- ▶ We just want to help but we don't know what we can do...

According to a recent report findings in a study focused on the faith-based community...

In Katrina, it was churches with plans that were the first responders “NOT FEMA, not the National Guard, not the Red Cross”



What is a disaster?

- ▶ An event beyond the control or capacity of individuals affected results in great harm, suffering, destruction, and damage...
- ▶ It interrupts personal and community life involves a significant number of people causes physical, emotion, economic, social and/or spiritual crisis...



Historically speaking

- ▶ Biblical references
- ▶ Church fires
- ▶ Facilities hit by severe weather (tornadoes, thunderstorms, lightning, snow, ice, flooding, etc.)
- ▶ Intruder/violence
- ▶ Kidnapping
- ▶ Hazmat spills
- ▶ Other hazards?



What is the Role of the Church?

FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

When times are tough, or disaster strikes, many people turn to their churches and faith-based organizations for help. These organizations often respond quickly and positively in emergency situations. Though you may want to check first with a house of worship or faith-based group of which you are a member, you do not have to belong to any such group in order to seek assistance. Many are willing and eager to help anyone in need.

BE Prepared

- ▶ Share compassion, love, faith
- ▶ Mitigate property damage
- ▶ Impact one's congregation and community, and expanding one's ministry
- ▶ Examine capability to serve and minister to the community in time of need
- ▶ Increase pastor, staff, and congregational resilience to disaster
- ▶ Position and mobilize the congregation to serve others in need
- ▶ Teach congregation what to do and how to do it when emergencies arise

Be Resilient

- ▶ Resilience is the ability to bounce back and recover quickly from a disaster in a healthy manner.
- ▶ If you (church and congregation) are prepared, you will recover more quickly.....
 - AND be ready to respond and help the community when disaster strikes.



Be Strong

- ▶ Often first to respond, and last to leave
- ▶ Long-term presence
- ▶ Organizational capacity
- ▶ Local knowledge
- ▶ Duty to care
- ▶ Relationships and relational approach
- ▶ Spiritual focus
- ▶ Have compassion and concern for others
- ▶ Agent for building sustainable communities

Where do you begin?



- ▶ Is our “home” prepared?
- ▶ What is your ministry?

Internal facility planning

- ▶ Do you have a basic facility emergency plan?
- ▶ Do you have a Continuity of Ministry and Operations Plan?
- ▶ Do you transport members of the congregation?
- ▶ Do you encourage your congregation to have a family/personal emergency plan?

Do you have a basic facility emergency plan?

- ▶ Fire
- ▶ Severe weather
- ▶ Intruder/guns
- ▶ Kidnapping
- ▶ Medical Emergency
- ▶ Robbery



Do you have a basic facility emergency plan?

- ▶ Does day/time make a difference?
 - ▶ Office open/closed? Church leadership present/not present? During worship? Other events?
- ▶ Who talks to the media?
- ▶ How do you notify your members?

Do you have a Continuity of Ministry and Operations Plan?

- ▶ Ministry unavailable
- ▶ Facility
- ▶ Records
- ▶ Insurance



Do you transport members of the congregation?

- ▶ Church vehicle, non-church vehicle?
- ▶ Qualified drivers?
- ▶ Medical emergency during transport?
- ▶ Two adults present when transporting children?

Do you encourage family emergency planning?

- ▶ Have you provided educational materials?
- ▶ Do those without family members nearby have a plan for someone to assist them?
- ▶ Can assistance be provided to the elderly or who have special needs?

What type of ministry are
you willing to perform?



A recent study determined that over 60% of Americans turned first to their religious leaders for advice and reaction in times of crisis.



Hurricane Katrina
9-11
2009 California wildfires
2012 earthquake in California

Define your disaster ministry

- ▶ Before a disaster (Preparedness)
 - Develop plans
- ▶ In a disaster (Response)
 - Disaster strikes – concern is for safety and preservation of life
- ▶ After a disaster (Relief)
 - Providing assistance – concerns for safety, life and health remain high.... Relief activities are organized.
- ▶ Long-Term (Recovery)
 - Focus on the future – rebuilding the community, unmet needs identified

Numerous Opportunities.....

- ▶ Help congregation members?
- ▶ Help others in community?
- ▶ Help those impacted by a disaster outside local area?
- ▶ What is the congregation willing/capable of doing?

Preparation Opportunities

- ▶ Help people be prepared
 - Family/personal emergency plans
 - Assess the physical risks to people in the community
 - People live in a flood zone?
 - Elderly who live under a dangerous tree and lack the resource to fix the problem
 - Physically fragile people who require special transportation and medical support
 - Plot all congregation members homes on a map
 - What type of training can you provide?

Preparedness Opportunities



► Identify

- What resources do you have available?
- What skills does your congregation members have?
- How can these be put to use in event of an emergency?

Response Opportunities

- ▶ Provide spiritual care and support
- ▶ Check on vulnerable populations/congregation members



Relief Opportunities

- ▶ Organize volunteers to go into disaster area
- ▶ Assist with cleanup and repair
- ▶ Emergency shelter
- ▶ Resource center for food preparation or mass feeding

Recovery Opportunities

- ▶ Join local Long Term Recovery Committee
http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/documents/idhrc/IDHRC_LTRC_MapContacts.pdf
- ▶ Storage or distribution center (donations or supplies)
- ▶ Facility space for congregations forced to relocate

Recovery Opportunities

- ▶ Contribute to disasters outside of local area
 - Volunteer for clean-up recovery
 - Donations (financial and “stuff”)



Resources

- ▶ UCC Local church Disaster Preparedness and Response Planning Guidelines
<http://www.ucc.org/oghs/national/LocChSamplePlan.pdf>
- ▶ National Disaster Interfaiths Network – Tip Sheet <http://www.n-din.org/>
- ▶ Checklist for a Church Emergency Management Plan
http://www.brethren.org/bdm/files/checklist_for_a_church_emergency_management_plan.pdf

Resources

- ▶ Ready Faith Planning Guide
<http://www.wheaton.edu/hdi>
- ▶ FEMA – Guide for Developing High-Quality Emergency Operations Plans for Houses of Worship <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/33007?id=7649>
- ▶ Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council (IDHRC)
<https://iavoad.communityos.org/cms/home>

Resources

- ▶ Voluntary, Faith-Based and Community-Based Organizations

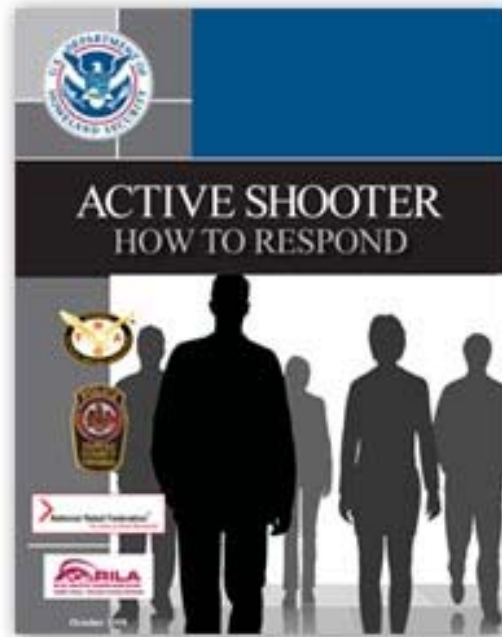
<http://www.fema.gov/voluntary-faith-based-community-based-organizations>

- ▶ Disaster Planning for Churches

http://www.hcrn.info/Disaster_Planning_for_Churches.pdf

Resources

- ▶ Security!? in a Church?
http://www.carlchinn.com/Home_Page.html
- ▶ Active Shooter Preparedness
<http://www.dhs.gov/active-shooter-preparedness>



Training

- ▶ Run-Hide-Fight
<http://www.readyhouston.tx.gov/videos.html>
- ▶ CERT <http://www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams>
- ▶ FEMA Independent Study Courses (IS-22, IS-288, IS-360, IS-546 & 547, IS-907, IS-909)
<http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.aspx?page=1>
- ▶ American Red Cross – contact local Chapter office

Next Steps

- ▶ Identify who can help you...
 - Do you already have ministries that can be incorporated?
 - Look for expertise within congregation and/or community

- ▶ Develop or review and update, train and exercise your facilities emergency plan.
 - Identify your hazards
 - Draft plan
 - Train teams
 - Exercise the plan

Next Steps

- ▶ Define your disaster ministry
 - Church family
 - Community
 - Local area
 - Beyond

For more information

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- ▶ To find your local EMA Coordinator:
http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/documents/county/COORD_Public_List.pdf