

Church Opportunities and Action

A church can assist with mitigation, preparation, warning, rescue and evacuation. It can also provide facilities, volunteers, and supplies to assist with emergency feeding, shelter, child care, or other functions. Church facilities can be used as an information center for disaster survivors and also provide pastoral counseling or crisis intervention.

Other ministry opportunities for churches are to:

- Identify volunteers (in the church or in the community) who can give advice regarding insurance, repair contracts, and applications for loans or grants.
- Locate qualified people to care for children, the elderly, and sick or disabled people who need special facilities, diets, transportation, and/or recreation.
- Identify members who can provide temporary housing for disaster survivors.
- Identify bilingual interpreters to assist those who speak another language or have literacy limitations.
- Provide companionship to people who have been displaced and are unfamiliar with their new surroundings, community services, and stores.
- Participate in ministries such as receiving, sorting, and distributing clothing, bedding, bulk food, clean-up, and household supplies.
- Provide assistance with food, housing, communication, and other needs of out-of-town volunteers who come to help with the disaster response.
- Cooperate with other agencies during disasters.
- Have a voice in the rebuilding/relocation process and make sure disaster survivors are treated the same in regard to physical, social, and spiritual recovery.
- Begin a transportation bank by developing a database of cars, vans, pickups, dump trucks, boats, planes, ATV's, etc. which might be available during a disaster.
- Organize clean-up, salvage, security or repair crews, as well as help disaster survivors clean their homes and furniture, install temporary roofing or board up windows and doors or remove household contents for safe storage.