

ARE YOU PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMUNITY

Has your church made a commitment to help when disaster strikes?

With the Presbytery? With other faith-based organizations?

With the designated Community Recovery Center(s)?

For information on the Presbytery's Disaster Assistance Committee

go to: www.Presbyterysd.org

MITIGATION:

If your members and leadership are prepared and motivated,
you can move into congregation and community assistance.

PREPARATION:

Select the roles that realistically can be met in a disaster situation:

Incident Command Center;

Safe space, area for prayer, meditation, emotional,
spiritual care, child care;

Disaster related funerals; Disaster assistance service center;

Respite center for workers; Volunteer staging and training area;

Cooling center, fixed feeding;

Host work groups; public information;

Become a shelter (this is done in conjunction with Am. Red Cross,
requiring training and site preparation).

Then plan and prepare for the role or roles selected.

Designate a Congregational Response Coordinator.

Seek volunteers for the church's disaster committee.

RESPONSE:

Communicate through your

Congregational Response Coordinator.

Communicate with Presbytery and the upcoming "Faith Based
Emergency Operation Center."

Contact the Community Recovery Center(s) for your area(s) in which
church members live.

RECOVERY:

Activate the church's disaster committee.

Participate in the Presbytery Disaster Assistance Committee.

Organize work teams (see www.volunteersandiego.org)



Presbytery of San Diego



DISASTER ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

GUIDELINES

IS YOUR CONGREGATION PREPARED?

ARE YOU PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMUNITY?

Disaster preparation is categorized in phases:

Mitigation

Preparation

Response

Recovery

IS YOUR CONGREGATION PREPARED?

MITIGATION:

Are your church buildings prepared? (sanctuary, offices, classrooms, manse)

Free standing items are strapped down.

Electrical, other utilities are secure.

Fire hazards diminished.

Fire extinguishers are operational, serviced and dated.

Smoke detectors' batteries are changed regularly.

Fire alarm system fully functional.

Vegetation management: 100 ft. defensible area maintained.
see "Living with Wildfire"

<http://www.burninstitute.org/pdfs/BI-Wildfire-Guide09.pdf>

"Will you be Prepared for the Next Wildfire"

<http://www.readysandiego.org>

PREPARATION:

Develop a "Continuity of Operations Plan" (COOP).

Define and plan to maintain "Essential Functions." See

www.fema.gov/doc/government/coop/coop-plan-template-instructions.doc and <http://www.Presbyterysd.org>

Plan and have discussions with the staff:

Identify safe locations for earthquake & evacuation for fire — during church services, during week when only staff present, during

week when day care or school is operating, during evenings

Establish a safety, disaster preparedness & response committee.

Define a Congregational Response Coordinator.

Participate in the Presbytery's Disaster Assistance Committee.

Communication Plan:

Define a plan among staff and leadership.

Have a plan to communicate with all members.

Include out of state or area contacts.

Who do congregation members contact for assistance?

Identify high risk members: disabled, elderly, frail.

You can register the church phone on the reverse 911 line to several individuals' phones. www.readysandiego.org

Are important documents located off site? Who has access?

Is a computer back-up system in place?

Assist your individual members to be prepared. Provide materials to all members of the congregation — personal preparedness and church disaster planning information.

RESPONSE:

Each church should be prepared to respond:

How was the church affected?

Who can check on the church?

Who should they call with their report?

How can you check on your disabled, elderly, frail members?

To whom should those individuals report?

How can you aggregate this information and match assistance for identified needs?

How can your church participate with a community response?

RECOVERY:

Check buildings — use flashlights, no candles or matches.

Do you have damage to your facilities and/or equipment? Notify the

Presbytery if there is damage (Presbytery will notify Presbyterian Disaster Assistance if help is requested).

Execute plans for congregation members.

Commence use of back up sites under the COOP, as necessary.

See also: "Disaster Preparedness Guidelines: Are You Prepared Personally?"

This document is intended to provide basic information and additional resources for planning.