



Adventist Community Services

National Disaster Response Plan

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“If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.” (1 John 3:17-18 NIV) The North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists is committed to serve the poor and hurting. Until Christ’s second coming, loving and compassionate church members throughout the United States and Bermuda can find great fulfillment in assisting those in need as a result of disasters, large and small, near and far.

The National Disaster Response Plan involves preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery. With the varied, worldwide resources of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, we have tremendous opportunities to partner our resources with governmental and nongovernmental organizations to serve in response to disasters.

North American Division Adventist Community Services Disaster Response Program

Leadership

- The North American Division **Adventist Community Services (ACS) Executive Director** provides general oversight of this program.
- A **National ACS Disaster Response Director** will coordinate implementation of this program with assistance from the National Adventist Community Services Disaster Response (ACS DR) Leadership Committee, union ACS Directors, conference ACS Directors and conference ACS DR Coordinators.
- A **National ACS DR Leadership Committee** will:
 - Include the ACS Executive Director, National ACS DR Director and Union ACS DR Coordinators,
 - Evaluate the application for and certification of ACS DR trainers, and
 - Discuss and address concerns related to disaster response.
- A **National Disaster Response Advisory Council** will:
 - Include the National ACS DR Leadership Committee.
 - Include the Union ACS Directors;
 - Include the Conference ACS Directors and ACS DR Coordinators;
 - Discuss and address concerns related to disaster response; and
 - Promote communication, cooperation, collaboration and coordination among unions and conferences.

- The **National Disaster Response Advisory Council Members** will:
 - Maintain databases of disaster response resources (personnel, equipment, and facilities) in their territories;
 - Promote and coordinate disaster response and training sessions within their territory;
 - Encourage every member, family and church in their territory to be prepared for disasters; and
 - Be a resource for church members who bring expertise to disaster response not utilized in the ACS DR program.

Training

- The North American Division has the following training courses available:
 - Introduction to Disaster Preparedness
 - Donations Operations
 - Leadership Development
 - Donations Management
 - Emotional & Spiritual Care
 - Youth Empowered to Serve (YES!)
- ACS DR encourages training for food preparation, mass feeding, sheltering, child care and other services.
- ACS DR encourages the development of appropriate mutual aid agreements between Adventist entities and activation of such agreements as needed.

Specialized Personnel

- With appropriate training, **pastors and other professionals** may be used by the Adventist Crisis Care Network to provide emotional and spiritual care.
- With disaster response training, **communication professionals** may serve as Public Information Officers.
- With appropriate experience and training in donations operations and management, **education professionals** can become disaster response trainers.
- College and academy **faculty and staff** may sponsor Adventist YES! where students may be trained and involved in community service and disaster response/recovery projects.
- **Computer experts** can provide technological support (hardware and software) for disaster operations.
- **Masters, Journeymen and/or apprentices** in the construction trades may be utilized in disaster recovery.

Outreach

- A church or group of churches can develop trained disaster teams composed of a local coordinator and volunteers.
- Teams can determine what services they are able to contribute to local disaster response and coordinate their efforts with other community entities.
- Teams can respond to small disasters in their local community and can join forces with additional teams to respond to larger disasters.

<u>Families Affected</u>	<u>What Teams Responds</u>
1-10	Local
11-50	Local, Area
51-100	Local, Area, Conference/Union
100+	Local, Area, Conference, Union, National

Facilities & Other Assets

- **Community Collection Centers**, permanent or temporary, can collect and organize appropriate goods that may be distributed locally for small disasters or in other communities for large disasters.
- **Multi-agency Warehouses** can be managed in the event of a large disaster requiring the storing/staging of goods for disaster response/recovery.
- **Emergency Distribution Centers** can distribute goods to disaster survivors and responders.
- **Mobile Distribution Units** can distribute appropriate goods to survivors and responders before a fixed distribution site has been identified or when a fixed site is not feasible.
- **Permanent Disaster Depots** can be used to sort/store goods in support of emergency distribution centers or mobile distribution. They may also be a venue for training and coordination efforts.
- **Mobile Kitchens** that meet Health Department standards may be used to support ACS DR operations or may support feeding of survivors and responders in cooperation with entities whose primary responsibility is mass feeding.

Conclusion

When we execute this plan, we will be able to stand unashamed before the Lord when He says, "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me". (Matt. 25:40 NIV)
