

How and When United Methodists Respond to Disasters

DISASTER PHASE	WHO ACTS, WHAT HAPPENS, AND THE TIMING
 <p>Rescue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Activated: From time of forewarning until danger of continued destruction is over •Led by: Trained Emergency Management Groups, State and local emergency management, fire departments, law enforcement groups to secure site •UMC Role: Pray, donate, and organize needed supplies for the relief phase; leadership onsite to offer assistance during relief phase, connect with local UMC pastors and congregations, offer spiritual and emotional care; the bishop requests funds and relief supplies from UMCOR as needed •Focus on: Evacuation, search and rescue, actions to stop further destruction •Duration: However long it takes
 <p>Relief</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Activated: When disaster site has been secured and all rescue operations are over •Led by: Local Community Leaders •UMC role: Pray, donate, and volunteer; conference does assessment of needs, joins with other Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOADs), in early stage activates and coordinates volunteers trained in Early Response (ERTs), activate food and beverage trailer ministries, later in this phase activates volunteers trained in Basis Disaster Response, offers spiritual and emotional care, helps establish a long-term recovery group •Focus on: Cleanup, securing valuables, protecting property from additional damage: debris removal, putting tarps on roofs, spiritual and emotional care, food and water supplies, helping with short-term solutions. •Duration: 10 times the length of the Rescue Phase
 <p>Recovery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Activated: When significant clean-up progress has been made and survivors have begun to formulate their recovery plans including insurance and FEMA claims •Led by: Long term recovery organizations or a coalition of VOADs •UMC Role: Pray and volunteer; Conference assists or leads case management, offers spiritual and emotional care, recruits and coordinates volunteer in mission teams to work on projects, disburses Great Plains Disaster Fund monies as appropriate to help with the unmet needs. •Focus is on: Repairs and rebuilding for long-term solutions •Duration: 10 times the length of the Relief Phase