



WAYS CHURCHES CAN RESPOND AFTER A DISASTER

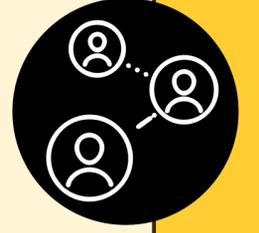


CONVENE

Allow local emergency management, disaster response agencies, VOADs, and volunteers to use the building as a meeting space or resource/supply distribution site. Gather as a church when it is safe to do so.

CONNECT

Reach out to church partners and networks (e.g. ministerial alliances, Scout troops, campus ministries) to assess needs and/or opportunities to serve together. Share pertinent information through church communication channels.



PRESENCE

Acknowledge disasters that occur in your community through your church communications and social media. Reach out to survivors and impacted groups with warmth and compassion. Listen with empathy.

PRAYER

Offer opportunities for communal prayer. Create spaces for the grieving. Invite chaplains and faith leaders to provide care, liturgy, and worship that names despair and points to hope. Recognize milestones and anniversary of major events.



FOOD

Gather around tables and share meals with impacted individuals and disaster responders. Distribute grocery store and restaurant gift cards to survivors, especially after feeding groups leave the community.

SHELTER

Offer hospitality to responders, volunteers, and displaced neighbors. Serve as a cooling/warming center. Join long term recovery groups focused on supporting vulnerable neighbors who want to remain in the community.

