



Episcopal  
Relief & Development

U.S. Disaster Program

# Preparedness Planning Guide For Congregations and Parishes

(Bronze Level Version)



**Bronze, 2013**

# From the Director

Dear Episcopal Church Leaders,

Though we don't always want to think about it, one of our roles as a church in the community is to be prepared to be of assistance after a disaster. We plan for four basic reasons:

- To mitigate the damage to our church community's buildings and belongings;
- To be able to resume the business of the church as soon as possible post-disaster;
- To support our parishioners in times of crisis;
- To assist to our vulnerable neighbors after an emergency.

The role of Episcopal Relief & Development's US Disaster Program is to inspire, connect and equip leaders of the US Episcopal Church to prepare for hazards that might affect their communities, as well as mitigate the impact of those disasters and help the vulnerable make a full and sustained recovery.

*The Preparedness Planning Guide for Congregations and Parishes* is designed to help a congregation plan for a disaster, from taking inventory of physical and human assets to determining its niche in assisting vulnerable people in the larger community. The “**Comprehensive Version**” of the guide takes about 10 to 15 hours to complete. But we recognize some congregations might not yet be ready for the full process. This “**Bronze Level**” version gathers the most basic information needed in times of disaster.

Additionally, a “**Silver Level**” version, which includes necessary basic information to protect parishioners and church property in times of disaster, and also lays the foundation for congregations interested in responding to their most vulnerable neighbors, is also available. All three versions of the planning guide can be downloaded from the Resource Library of our website, [www.episcopalrelief.org/resourcelibrary](http://www.episcopalrelief.org/resourcelibrary). An index that cross-references the sections of all three guides can be found at the end of this resource.

Episcopal Relief & Development's US Disaster Program is working with dioceses around the country to help them be better prepared for emergencies. That includes training and supporting Diocesan Disaster Coordinators, who have been appointed by their bishops. A list of Diocesan Disaster Coordinators can be found on our website at [www.episcopalrelief.org/usdisaster](http://www.episcopalrelief.org/usdisaster). They should be your first support and resource through this planning process.

*The Preparedness Planning Guide for Congregations and Parishes* comes from the collected wisdom of the Church. To compile this guide, we gathered examples of parish and diocesan disaster preparedness guides from around the country as well as from other denominations. We utilized the most important elements from each, while trying to stay as simple as possible. Please let us know if there's anything in this guide that you think should be changed, added or eliminated, and feel free to edit according to your local context.

Thanks for all you do in this important work,

Katie Mears  
Director, US Disaster Program  
Episcopal Relief & Development

# Thank-you

This guide is not the creation of Episcopal Relief & Development's U.S. Disaster Program; it is a compilation of the great work of:

Province IV Disaster Preparedness and Response Commission  
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The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas  
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The Episcopal Diocese of Rio Grande  
The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina  
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The Rev. Paul Wehner

and

Participants of the Disaster 101 Training in the Diocese of Olympia

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# Our Congregation's Disaster Plan

<input type="checkbox"/> Congregation/Church:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Phone:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Address:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Congregational Disaster Coordinator	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cell-phone:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Landline/Phone:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Diocesan Disaster Coordinator:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cell-phone:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Landline/Phone:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Date of Completion:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Scheduled Review:	



**Bronze, 2013**

## Disaster Leadership Team:

### Contact Information

**Instructions:** Fill out the following form with contact information for your Congregational Disaster Coordinator and the Disaster Leadership Team. Even if your team consists of two people, capture their contact information.

<b>Congregational Disaster Coordinator:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Landline:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Cell Phone:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Email:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Name:</b>	<b>Role/Designated Tasks:</b>	
	<b>Address:</b>	
	<b>Landline:</b>	
	<b>Cell Phone:</b>	
	<b>Email:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Name:</b>	<b>Role/Designated Tasks:</b>	
	<b>Address:</b>	
	<b>Landline:</b>	
	<b>Cell Phone:</b>	
	<b>Email:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Name:</b>	<b>Role/Designated Tasks:</b>	
	<b>Address:</b>	
	<b>Landline:</b>	
	<b>Cell Phone:</b>	
	<b>Email:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Name:</b>	<b>Role/Designated Tasks:</b>	
	<b>Address:</b>	
	<b>Landline:</b>	
	<b>Cell Phone:</b>	
	<b>Email:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Name:</b>	<b>Role/Designated Tasks:</b>	
	<b>Address:</b>	
	<b>Landline:</b>	
	<b>Cell Phone:</b>	
	<b>Email:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Name:</b>	<b>Role/Designated Tasks:</b>	
	<b>Address:</b>	
	<b>Landline:</b>	
	<b>Cell Phone:</b>	
	<b>Email:</b>	

## Identifying Groups that Include or Serve Vulnerable People

People with special needs will be at higher risk during a disaster. Take the time to identify those people within your congregation, and brainstorm what problems they may face and how you could help with those problems as a congregation.

**Instructions:** List the groups in the parish that are either comprised of or serve people who might be especially vulnerable after a disaster. These might include senior citizens' groups, groups for new mothers, and religious education programs that include children with special needs. List the contacts for each group, so that they can be contacted after a disaster to help assess needs and facilitate the response.

Group	Contact	Types of needs members might have.
<i>The Senior Citizens Club is comprised of parishioners aged 65 and older.</i>	Betty Jones	<i>Difficulty evacuating. Medical conditions.</i>
<i>The Lay Eucharistic Visitors have a current list of people who are home-bound or who are in the hospital.</i>	Deacon Williams	<i>Difficulty evacuating. Medical conditions.</i>



## Insurance Information

Make a list of all your insurance information and contacts. Be sure to have a copy of this information in a **secure place off-site** and have another copy that someone can take with them if your community is evacuated.

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Policy Number:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Policy is with:</b>	
Phone:	
Address:	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Agent:</b>	
Phone:	
Address:	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Original Policy is kept:</b>	
Address:	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Copy of policy is kept offsite:</b>	
Address:	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Policy Type:</b>	<i>(Example – Replacement value type)</i>
Total Value:	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Policy covers:</b>	<i>Earthquake, hurricane, robbery, fire, breakage, etc.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other policies:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Policy review:</b>	
When:	
By who:	

Be sure to note where off-site copies are kept and who can access them.

<b>Off-site Copies</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Where:</b>	<i>(Ex: Diocese has a copy)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Who:</b>	<i>Susan Wu</i>
Phone:	<i>xxx-xxx-xxxx</i>
Cell:	

## Diocesan Contact Information

**Instructions:** Change, remove and add titles as relevant to your diocese.

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Bishop</b> Name:	Address:	
	Office Phone:	
	Cell Phone:	
	Home Phone:	
	Email:	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Canon for Stewardship/Administration</b> Name:	Address:	
	Office Phone:	
	Cell Phone:	
	Home Phone:	
	Email:	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Assistant to the Bishop</b> Name:	Address:	
	Office Phone:	
	Cell Phone:	
	Home Phone:	
	Email:	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Assistant to the Canon</b> Name:	Address:	
	Office Phone:	
	Cell Phone:	
	Home Phone:	
	Email:	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Diocesan Disaster Coordinator</b> Name:	Address:	
	Office Phone:	
	Cell Phone:	
	Home Phone:	
	Email:	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Communications Director</b> Name:	Address:	
	Office Phone:	
	Cell Phone:	
	Home Phone:	
	Email:	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> Name:	Address:	
	Office Phone:	
	Cell Phone:	
	Home Phone:	
	Email:	

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