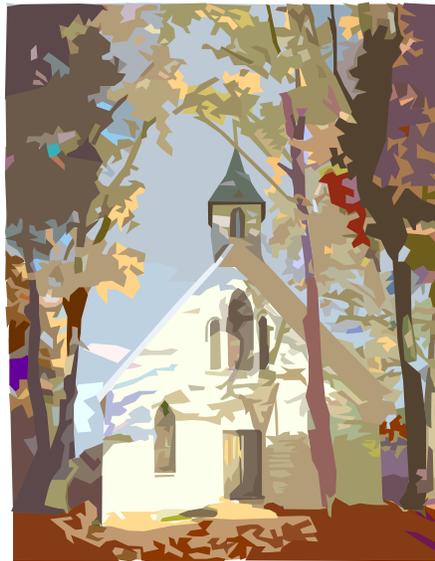


“Preparing for a Disaster: A Guide for Faith Communities”



**Prepared by:
Faith Communities Liaison
Central Minnesota Hospital Bioterrorism Preparedness Program**

www.cmbpp.org

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Introduction

August, 2007

“The world is full of suffering: it is also full of overcoming it.” Helen Keller

One does not need to leave the state of Minnesota to find a disaster, witness the Browns Valley flood and the Boundary Waters fires. In each of these situations, congregations from all denominations worked to assist people who were affected by these natural disasters. The question to ask at this point is “Would my congregation be able to respond as effectively to a local disaster?” According to a national survey conducted by Barna Research, eighty (80) percent of community members say they would turn to the church in an emergency. Only twenty (20) percent of the churches said they were prepared to respond.

The potential for a disastrous situation occurring has increased. Not only do we need to worry about natural disasters such as floods and fires, but society needs to be concerned over man-made and biological disasters. Churches, mosques, temples, and synagogues are now being called upon to join the wider efforts to prepare people for all types of disasters.

Dr. Gary Gunderson, Sr. Vice President of Health and Welfare Ministries of Methodist Healthcare in Memphis Tennessee, identified strengths that a congregation can bring to a disaster situation, making it an ideal institution to be actively involved in disaster preparedness. According to the author, the congregation has strength to bring people together in a cohesive manner. A congregation is able to provide sanctuary, courage, and care. The congregation has a moral authority that provides for an ethical base by which its members can act. Most importantly, the congregation’s active involvement in disaster preparedness will in the end frame the meaning of the event within the context of religious and spiritual beliefs.

The Central MN Hospital Bioterrorism Task Force, of which your county is a member, received funds from the Health Resources and Services Administration, through the Minnesota Department of Health to upgrade the ability of Minnesota hospitals and healthcare systems to respond to bioterrorism events and other public health emergencies. This guide is developed with the use of these funds.

A variety of resources and information about congregational disaster planning have been pulled together in one document for use by the faith communities. Because each congregation is unique, this guide should be used based on the needs and capacity of the individual congregation.

To use this guide, no previous knowledge of disaster preparedness is required, but a desire to learn about it is mandatory. Having computer access will facilitate this learning process as well as provide the congregation with many tools along their disaster preparedness journey. Samples of various documents can be found in the folder pockets. A list of web resources is provided by topic. Materials and resources for Faith Community/Congregational Disaster Preparedness are becoming more specific and valuable on an on-going basis. The information provided in this manual is current as of the publication date.

How to Get Started



Disaster preparedness is a group process. Congregations have a wealth of people with a variety of knowledge and skills. The following section provides some suggestions on how to organize a Disaster Preparedness Committee and take the first steps in disaster preparedness.

Establishing a Disaster Preparedness Committee:

Generally, there are two ways in which a Disaster Preparedness Committee can be established:

- The Pastor and/or Church Council may appoint a new committee known as a Disaster Preparedness; or
- Pastor and/or Church Council may assess current committee functions and combine them in a formal disaster preparedness committee

The membership of the Disaster Preparedness Committee may include but not be limited to the:

- Pastor
- Parish Nurse
- Church maintenance staff
- Church receptionist
- Other church staff members
- Youth Minister
- Congregational members with experience in engineering, plumbing, construction, informational technologies, education, finance and health professionals

Committee Leadership: Most of the literature on Congregational Disaster Preparedness suggests that:

- The Pastor should **not** be the chair of the committee **or** the designated crisis manager; the Pastor's role should focus on the spiritual care of the congregation.
- The leadership of the Committee should be selected within the membership of the Committee; and

- A Volunteer Coordinator should be established as soon as possible because of the importance of volunteers in a disaster

Steps to recognizing the importance of the Disaster Preparedness Committee, disaster preparedness and the benefit to the individual, family and congregation may include:

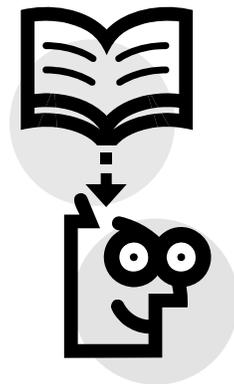
- Providing sermons on disaster preparedness.
- Conducting a commissioning service for the Disaster Preparedness Committee.
- Publishing the Disaster Preparedness Committee meeting minutes.
- Publishing articles in the church bulletin or newsletter on disaster preparedness.

Get organized by:

- Checking the denominational websites at the national, state, synod, conference or diocesan level to see if disaster plans or guidance is provided at these levels.
- Spending some time getting acquainted with the disaster preparedness process.
- Assessing types of disasters that may be experienced by the church.
- Reviewing difficult events previously experienced by the church and the responses by the church.
- Identifying plans/activities and/or committees that may be in place and can be incorporated into the plan.
- Identifying programs and outreach activities that could assist the surrounding committee during disasters.
- Identifying a Disaster Response Team.

Sample congregational disaster preparedness plans are listed on page 22. These samples can serve as a guide to preparedness planning and writing a disaster plan. Some of these sample plans are sophisticated and lengthy. The individual congregation's plan should be based on the needs and capacity of that congregation.

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Preparing the Congregation

Preparing a congregation and facility for disaster takes time and discussion. While the Disaster Preparedness Committee is studying and discussing disaster preparedness plans, it is possible to start on educating the congregation of basic disaster preparedness. The information about basic individual and family disaster preparedness is the foundation of all the disaster planning. By providing this education, the congregation assists its members to take some control and function in a disaster. It will also help in reducing stress and worry during a disaster event.

Basic Individual and Family Disaster Preparedness

“Make yourself an ark.....this is how you shall build it....”
(Genesis: 6:14)

One of the first recorded disaster preparedness plans was the one given to Noah in the Book of Genesis. Noah received instructions on how to build an ark, how to store the food and to bring a male and female of each species to re-populate the earth. Because of Noah’s compliance with the plan, he and his family survived the flood.

The principle of preparedness still applies today. The Minnesota Department of Health recommends that individuals and families be prepared to respond to natural, chemical and man-made disaster events. The congregations can participate in this preparedness through education of its membership.

Basic individual and family disaster preparedness includes:

- Understanding the Need for a Plan and to Plan Ahead:
 - + To reduce worry.
 - + To take control.
 - + Be prepared to function in a disaster.
- Creating a Plan:
 - + For staying at home.
 - + For leaving home.
 - + How to communicate with other family members.
 - + Preparing the communication plan in writing to be carried by all family members.
- Preparing Kits:
 - + For home.
 - + For special needs.
 - + For the car.
 - + For pets.
- Listening and Learning:
 - + Purchase a battery operated radio.
 - + Purchase extra batteries.
 - + Learn Disaster rating systems.

- Medical needs:
 - + Extra prescription medications.
 - + Bandages and ointments.
 - + Medical information.
- Spiritual Needs:
 - + Sacred Scriptures.
 - + Devotional books.
 - + Other sacred items of your faith community.
- Practicing the Plan:
 - + Conduct drills.
 - + Test fire alarms.
 - + Review communication plan.

Among the methods that can be used for individual and family preparedness are sermons, congregational websites, bulletins, newsletters and presentations. Examples of sermon outlines and bulletin inserts resources are listed on page 22. For more structured education on individual and family preparedness, the congregation can solicit the skills of educators and healthcare providers within the congregation to provide presentations.

The State of Minnesota has developed a web-site to assist individuals and families in making a communications plan and developing a list of food needed for a disaster. These plans can be printed off and made available to all family members. The site is easily accessible at www.codeready.org. There is also a sample in the front pocket of this guide that provides a method of securing all the items needed and assure rotation of those items that need periodic replacement.

The most comprehensive single document for individual and family preparedness is “Are You Ready? An In-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness” published by FEMA. This document has multiple uses; i.e. individual and family preparedness, resource for the congregation’s Disaster Preparedness Committee, and a guide for persons providing education to the congregation. E-mail and telephone ordering information is listed on page 22.

Outside sources of educational assistance include county public health preparedness coordinators, and emergency managers; a list is provided on page 20. Within the Central MN Bioterrorism Task Force Region, there are three American Red Cross Chapters that are able to provide extensive education on disaster preparedness; a list is provided on page 25. Descriptions of disaster classes offered by the American Red Cross can be found at www.redcross.org.

Additional resources for individual and family education can be found on page 22.

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Special Needs Population

Seniors, the sick, disabled, and homebound members of the congregation require special consideration in disaster preparedness. County Public Health and Emergency Managers may rely on the congregation to provide information on these individuals for such things as immunization, provision of food and evacuation.

Utilizing congregational volunteers will assist in some of the recommended preparedness activities for special needs populations, such as:

- Conducting a survey of vulnerable members of your congregation, identifying their needs (See sample in front pocket of the folder).
- Maintaining a list names, addresses and telephone numbers for vulnerable members and their caregivers.
- Including the special needs population on the church's telephone tree.
- Pairing vulnerable members with another congregational member or family for on-going communication and monitoring.
- Assisting the special needs individual in developing a communication and emergency preparedness plan.
- Having Confirmation students assist vulnerable individuals in preparing a water-proof container for the individual's emergency kit, vital records and documents.

Several resources for the Special Needs Population and disaster preparedness are listed on page 22.

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Persons with Limited English Proficiency

The Emergency and Community Health Outreach program, known as ECHO, was developed for persons with limited English proficiency. Through this outreach program, persons may receive life-saving and safety information in their own languages. Emergency information is available as follows:

- ECHO-TV – Monthly broadcasts on Public Television on channels 2 and 17, in Spanish, Hmong, Somali, Lao, Khmer, and Vietnamese.
- ECHO-Phone – Toll free number 1-888-883-8831. Messages are available in Arabic, Oromo, Spanish, Hmong, Somali, Lao, Khmer, Vietnamese, Russian and English.
- ECHO website – www.echominnesota.org. Printed materials are available from website or by ordering by e-mail or telephone.
- ECHO-Email – Sign up for e-mails at www.echominnesota.org

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Emotional and Spiritual Care

In disaster preparedness, one of the major objectives is to allow people to take control and function in a disaster. Emotional care and spiritual care are part of the process of taking control. Emotional care provides the survivor with the opportunity to share their emotions without judgment. Spiritual care provides a devote presence, attention and respectful assistance in

helping survivors understand what is the meaning of their life is in the wake of a disaster and the subsequent recovery.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:

- No one who sees or is part of a disaster is untouched by it.
- Survivors respond to active, genuine interest, a listening ear, and help with immediate problem-solving
- Interventions by professionals, clergy and volunteers need to be appropriate to the phase of the disaster.

Immediate needs and reactions of the disaster survivor have been found to be consistent. These are:

- A concern for basic survival.
- Grief over loss of loved ones and loss of valued and meaningful possessions.
- Fear and anxiety about personal safety and the safety of loved ones.
- Sleep disturbances, often including nightmares and imagery from the disaster.
- A need to talk about events and feelings associated with the disaster, often repeatedly.
- Questions about how this disaster fits within their religious and spiritual beliefs.

The congregation can study and discuss the issues of emotional and spiritual care prior to a disaster occurring. Volunteers can be taught to recognize the signs and symptoms of stress disorders immediately following the disaster and in the long-term. Creating a list of mental health resources can expedite situations that need professional attention.

Congregational volunteers provide a living presence of God by listening and bringing hope to those who are suffering. Survivors respond when volunteers offer caring eye contact, a calm presence. Volunteers can be taught the following listening and communication techniques:

- Allow silence.
- Attend nonverbally.
- Paraphrase.
- Reflect feelings.
- Allow expression of emotions even when they are negative and directed towards God.
- Offer prayer if requested.
- Validate their search for meaning.

Two ethical issues should be addressed with volunteers who will be providing emotional and spiritual care. These issues are:

- Confidentiality – Information between survivor and volunteer must be held in confidence unless the survivor gives permission to the volunteer to share information with another person.
- Preaching and Proselytizing – Refraining from all forms of proselytizing and preaching is part of the Code of Conduct for the Church World Service Emergency Response Program to avoid taking advantage of vulnerable survivors.

A variety of background resources on emotional and spiritual care can be found on page 23.

Ethical Issues:

After the SARS outbreak, The University of Toronto's Joint Centre for Bioethics became an early leader in the disaster-ethics discussions. Ethicists used substantive values such as individual liberty, and procedural values such as openness to shape three key ethical concepts. These key concepts were used to lead the discussion and formulate a disaster response. The three key ethical concepts are:

- Justice.
- The Common Good.
- Prudential Judgment.

In general, an ethical disaster response would strive as much as possible to assure that:

- No one person or group be made to bear a disproportionate share of the harms.
- Personnel in socially vital roles be given priority to resources that allow them to fulfill these roles.
- People's holistic needs, including psychological, social and spiritual needs, be met.

Ministerial staff members are valued resources in leading the individual congregation in ethical discussions. Topics that would be pertinent to discuss include:

- Faith-based principles for ethical decision making
- Determining what are the "essential services" the congregation offers that can be postponed or canceled
- Congregational care for the special needs members of the congregation
- Loss and grief
- Advanced Directives
- Funeral planning during a disaster

General articles on ethics and disaster can be found on page 23.

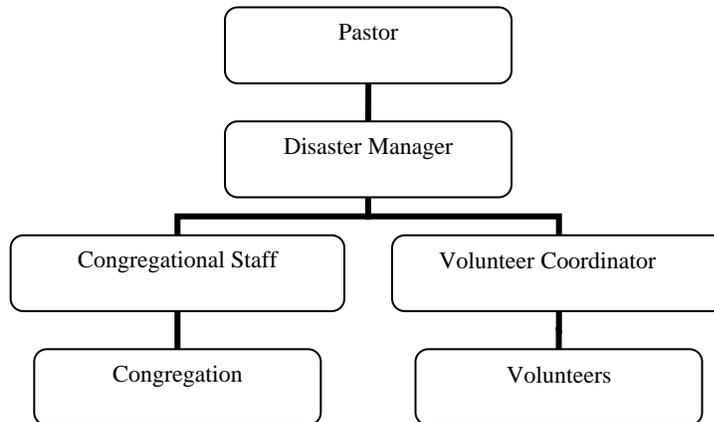


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Issues to Discuss, Act Upon and Include in the Congregational Disaster Plan

Congregational Communication Plan

The following sample is a common plan for the notification of congregation as a whole of a disaster.



As the Congregational Disaster Preparedness Plan is maturing, it is advisable to delineate exact functions of each individual and the methods to be used in communication with one another. Examples: pagers, cell phones between those involved with disaster or e-mail for notification of the congregation.

Another aspect of the communication plan may include how the congregation will be oriented to the disaster preparedness plan initially and when updates occur. For new members, providing a copy of the plan in New Member Orientation Packets is an effective method to demonstrate the importance of disaster preparedness in the church.

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Volunteers

Volunteers are an important resource for the individual congregation and surrounding community. Volunteers are needed at the congregational level, county/state and national levels. Congregations may be asked to provide volunteers for mass immunizations, sheltering, transportation, and meals to list a few. The Disaster Preparedness Committee will need to determine what services can be provided by the congregation. Opportunities to serve in some communities through the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT Teams), Minnesota Responds-MRC, denominational disaster relief programs and the American Red Cross should be made known to congregational members. An orderly process is recommended for identifying volunteers. Volunteers are advised to sign up for one type of volunteer program.

Congregational Volunteers

- Conduct a volunteer survey for disaster on an annual basis (See sample in the front pocket of the folder).
- Maintain a data base of volunteers at the congregational office.
- Provide training for congregational volunteers such as CPR, use of an AED, listening skills, shelter volunteering, and assisting at immunization clinics.

State Recommended Volunteer Organization: Minnesota Responds-MRC

Minnesota Responds-MRC is a partnership that integrates local, regional and statewide volunteer programs to assist public health and healthcare systems during a disaster. It is part of a national initiative to coordinate and mobilize volunteers to respond to emergencies. Whether the volunteer is a licensed or certified healthcare person, active or retired, or a person with an interest in assisting in a health response, volunteers are invited to register in Minnesota Responds-MRC at www.MNResponds.org.

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Employees

Preparing employees and making work accommodations is an important part of congregational disaster preparedness. Congregational employees will be on the front line of disaster response for communications, maintaining the essential functions of the congregation and providing emotional and spiritual support for the members. Consider the following when preparing employees:

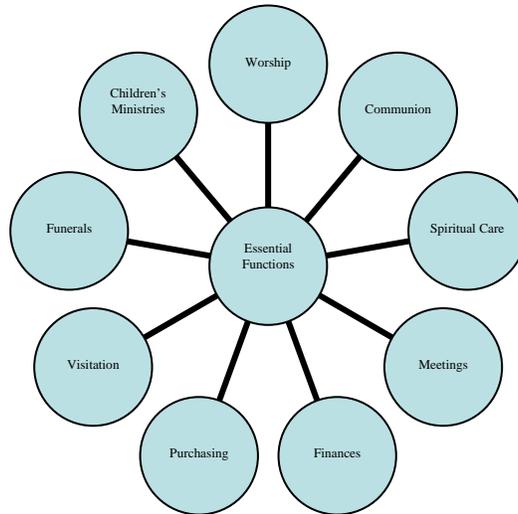
- Orient to and provide on-going training on the congregational disaster plan to help reduce anxiety and allow the employees to function in a disaster.
- Post the communication plan and emergency numbers in appropriate locations to facilitate communication between congregational staff, the members, volunteers, and the county emergency manager and public health.
- Provide cross-training of staff to maintain essential functions that may be necessary.
- Plan for changes in work space and location that may be necessary based on the type and extent of the disaster.
- Consider how to protect employees and their families if the employee is required to be exposed to hazardous situations. (Examples: personal protective equipment, extending sick leave benefits)

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Essential Functions

In disaster preparedness determine essential functions of your congregation. Review key functions to determine which are the most important and how these functions will be carried out in the event of a disaster.

In congregations there are both administrative and religious functions that need to be addressed. Functions frequently associated with congregations are:



An example of the continuation of the essential function of worship is to pre-determine an alternative worship site in the event of damage to the church building. Or in the event of an infectious disease outbreak where social distancing is important, the Disaster Preparedness Committee or the Ministerial staff may develop an alternate plan of worship by developing packets with blessings and private rituals or televising services.

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Preparing the Facility for a Disaster

Routine facility maintenance is a good business practice. Completing routine maintenance can minimize greater damage during a disaster. In addition to the routine, there are suggested tasks listed below that will reduce the damage, cost and frustration related to a disaster:

- Complete a facility assessment for safety compliance for electricity, plumbing and water systems, as well as for the church's structural soundness.
- Assess and inventory all information technology, equipment and furniture, noting the condition.
- Complete repairs as needs are identified.
- Discuss with insurance agent the adequacy of the congregation's insurance coverage.
- Maintain records of all inventories and assessments.
- Post clearly visible emergency numbers by every phone including 911, poison control center, law enforcement and fire department.
- Identify a storm shelter and procedures.
- Identify emergency/disaster preparedness needs such as: emergency lights, flashlights, first-aid kits, blankets, food.
- Store church records, insurance policies, recent blue prints and other documents in a safe place with back-up copies off site.
- Provide safe storage for sacred items.
- Determine financial arrangements during a time of disaster, such as
 - + Savings.
 - + On-line giving.
 - + Payroll.
 - + Acquisition of supplies and equipment to continue operations during a disaster.
- Pre-qualify a disaster recovery contractor
- Develop a clean-up committee

Samples and resources for preparing the facility are available on page 23.

Writing It All Down in a Plan

There are four important things to remember when embarking on the writing a disaster preparedness plan.

- A disaster plan is a living and changing document, developed and revised over time.
- There is no right or wrong way to format the plan.
- Keep it simple, understandable and practical.
- Spend the greatest amount of time on the All Hazards Disaster Preparedness Plan and the subsets of Disaster Specific Preparedness Plans will flow naturally.

Differences Between an All-Hazards and Disaster Specific Plan:

An All-Hazards Disaster Preparedness Plan is:

- An “over arching document” that develops an infrastructure for disaster preparedness.
- The master document that outlines authorities for decision-making, responsibilities of disaster team members.
- A reflection of all preparation, response and recovery planning for the people and facility of the congregation.
- A guideline for continuing essential functions of the congregation during a disaster.

A Sample Disaster Plan is provided in the front pocket of the folder. The same sample can be obtained by accessing www.ready.gov and clicking on “Business.”

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A Disaster Specific Preparedness Plan is:

- A subset of the All-Hazard Disaster Preparedness Plan.
- Addresses additional procedures needed because of the specific disaster.
- Address differences from the All-Hazard procedures because of the specific disaster.

A sample of a disaster specific preparedness plan for pandemic flu is found in the back pocket of the folder.

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Practicing the Plan:

Disaster Preparedness Plans should be practiced through exercises or tests. These exercises or tests will:

- Clarify roles and responsibilities.
- Reveal weaknesses in the plan.
- Improve coordination among the congregation and between the congregation and outside resources.
- Improve readiness for a real incident.

There are five types of exercises that may be conducted:

- Orientation – Instruction is provided to participants about roles, relationships and responsibilities during a disaster.
- Walk –through Drill – Disaster Response Team and congregational staff actually perform their emergency response functions.
- Tabletop Exercise – Members of the Disaster Response Team and congregational staff meet in a conference room setting to discuss their responsibilities and how they would react given an emergency scenario.
- Functional Exercises – Systems such as emergency notifications, communications procedures, evacuations procedures or equipment are evaluated in order to identify problem areas.
- Full-Scale Exercises – A simulated real-life emergency situation is performed. This type of exercise involves the Disaster Response Team, congregational staff, volunteers and community response organizations.

It is recommended to start with basic orientation, then move through the exercises and drills as listed above. The Disaster Preparedness Committee should determine the frequency of these exercises and drills.

For more information on conducting tests and exercises of your plan, contact your County Public Health Preparedness Coordinator or check on-line FEMA training “An Orientation to Community Disaster Exercises – 120” at www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/IS/is120.asp

FEMA recommends that the written Disaster Preparedness Plan be evaluated after each training drill or exercise and:

- On an Annual basis.
- After each emergency.
- When personnel or facility changes are made.
- When policies or procedures change.

Among the issues to consider are:

- Does the plan reflect lessons learned from drills and actual events?
- Do the Disaster Response Team, congregational staff and members understand their roles?
- Does the plan reflect changes in the physical layout of the facility?
- Have the hazards in the facility changed?
- Are names, titles and telephone number current in the plan?
- Is the facility attaining its training goals?

Response Phase: In the Midst of Travail

“All the fountains of the great abyss burst forth, and the floodgates of the sky were opened”
(Genesis: 7:11)



Notification Systems

Notifications of a disaster or impending disaster will come from different entities based on the type of the disaster. The congregation as well as the individuals and families will benefit knowing about the various methods of notification.

National Systems:

- The Centers for Disease Control provide health, disaster and biological threat alerts to federal, state, local and tribal public health officials.
- The Federal Communications Commission provides the Emergency Alert System (EAS). The EAS allows federal, state and local level emergency information to be transmitted.
- The Department of Homeland Security has devised an alert system of advisories, bulletins and a color-coded threat level system to protect against terrorism.
- The National Weather Service broadcasts warnings watches, forecasts and other non-weather related hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

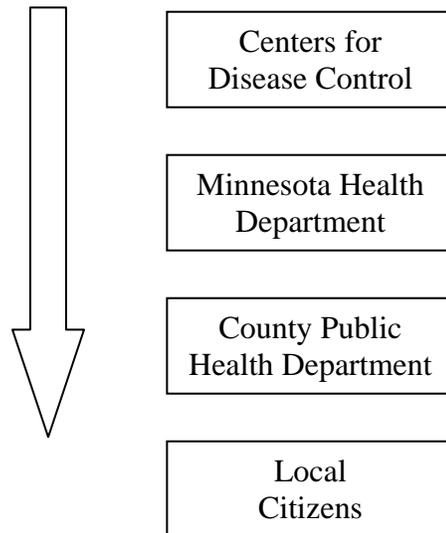
State Systems:

- The Minnesota Department of Health is responsible for notifying the county and local public health officials of an impending emergency. This notification is handled by the Health Alert Network.
- Minnesota Health Alert Network sends out messages either by a cascading alert system (e-mail) or a direct alert system (auto-phone call followed up with e-mail and fax). The system chosen to be used is based on the urgency of the situation.
- National Weather Service Office in Chanhassen Minnesota provides weather and non-weather related hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for the State of Minnesota.

Local Systems:

- The County Public Health and Local Health Officials are responsible for initiating public health responses during the first twenty four hours of a disaster. Alerts to local businesses, churches, organizations and citizens may come through the County Health Alert System, the Emergency Alert System or local media.

Initiating a notification of a disaster will occur at the level of the disaster: i.e. national, state, county or local level. The following is a brief diagram demonstrating the information flow in a national health disaster.



For more information on notification systems, see resources listed on page 23.

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Activation of the Congregational Disaster Preparedness Plan:

In the congregation's disaster preparedness plan, an individual should be identified who will activate the plan. Based on the communication plan, the pastor may receive the initial notification and then communicate with the Disaster Manager. The Disaster Manager contacts other congregational staff and the Volunteer Coordinator, and provides the leadership based on the location, type and size of a disaster.

All the planning that has occurred prior to the disaster should provide clear designations of authority to act in the event of a disaster, outline the role the congregation will plan in a disaster, and the physical, emotional and spiritual support that will be provided.

*

End of the Disaster:

Countywide, the event is ended by the agency declaring the disaster. The pastor or disaster manager should declare the disaster over within the congregation, once the county declaration has been made.

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Recovery Phase: A Promise After The Disaster

“As long as the earth lasts, seed time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter and day and night shall not cease.”

(Genesis: 8:22)

Continuing Care for the Congregation and Re-building the Church

The ending of a disaster event does not end the impact of an event on individuals, families and the congregation

A disaster takes a more subtle and long-lasting toll on people. The congregation’s important role at this time is to “frame the event” within the religious and spiritual beliefs of the church.

Recognizing the effect of a disaster on the congregation is a first step in the recovery process. Sermons, use of rituals, on-going prayer petitions and remembering the anniversary of the event are ways to bring about a sense of comfort for the congregation.

For the long-term, it is important to educate the congregation to mental health symptoms in persons who would benefit from professional services. A list of professionals compiled in the preparedness phase will facilitate referral.

Depending on the disaster event, there is assessment of damage, clean-up and rebuilding. The careful planning that has occurred prior to the disaster event will facilitate an orderly process for this phase of a disaster.

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Evaluation:

The last step for the Disaster Preparedness Committee is to complete a systematic evaluation of the effectiveness of the disaster preparedness plan, both the good and the bad. FEMA recommends the following issues be considered in the evaluation:

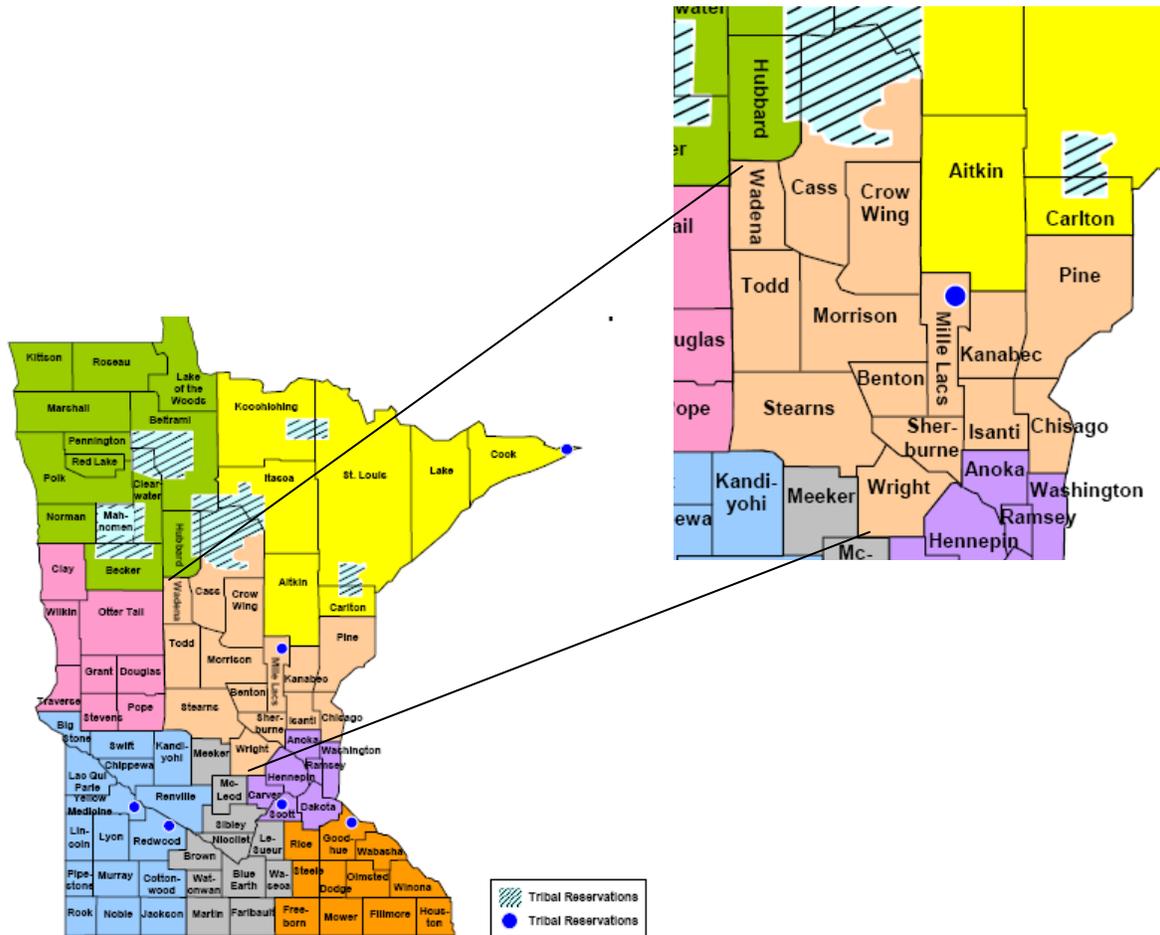
- Evaluation of the disaster management process.
- Evaluation of the delegated authorities.
- Impact of the disaster on the members and the facility.
- Effectiveness of the communication plan and necessary changes.
- Ability of the congregational staff and members to carry out their respective functions and possible need for different or more training.
- Adequacy of supplies and equipment and acquisition of different or additional equipment.
- Planning for improvement of facility safety features.
- Adequacy of cooperation with outside resources.

The congregation’s plan is revised, communicated, practiced and the cycle continues in disaster preparedness.

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Central Minnesota Hospital Bioterrorism Preparedness Region

County Information



Counties:

Benton County: <http://www.co.benton.mn.us>
Public Health Preparedness Coordinator: 320-968-5160
Emergency Manager: 320-968-5088

Cass County: <http://www.co.cass.mn.us>
Public Health Emergency Preparedness: 218-547-1340
Emergency Manager: 218-547-1424

Chisago: www.co.chisago.mn.us
Public Health Emergency Preparedness: 651-213-5700
Emergency Manager: 651-674-5725

Crow Wing: <http://www.co.crow-wing.mn.us>
Public Health Emergency Preparedness: 218-824-1080 or 877-724-1080
Emergency Manager: 218-824-1044

Isanti: <http://www.co.isanti.mn.us>
Public Health Emergency Preparedness: 763-689-4071
Emergency Manager: 763-689-3591

Kanabec County: <http://www.co.kanabec.mn.us>
Public Health Emergency Preparedness: 320-679-6330
Emergency Manager: 320-679-6380

Mille Lacs County: <http://www.co.mille-lacs.mn.us>
Public Health Emergency Preparedness: 320-983-8318 or 800-983-8385
Emergency Manager: 320-983-8318 or 888-860-8250

Morrison County: <http://www.co.morrison.mn.us>
Public Health Emergency Preparedness: 320-632-6664 or 866-401-1111
Emergency Manager: 320-632-0195 or 866-401-1111

Pine County: <http://www.co.pine.mn.us>
Public health Emergency Preparedness: 320-245-6097
Emergency Manager: 320-245-6728

Sherburne County: <http://www.co.sherburne.mn.us>
Public Health Emergency Preparedness: 763-241-2750
Emergency Manager: 763-241-4560

Stearns County: www.co.stearns.mn.us
Public Health Emergency Preparedness: 320-656-6097
Emergency Manager: 320-259-3940

Todd County: www.co.todd.mn.us
Public Health Emergency Preparedness: 320-732-4440 or 800-953-4440
Emergency Manager: 320-533-4697

Wadena: www.co.wadena.mn.us
Public Health Emergency Preparedness: 218-631-7629
Emergency Manager: 218-631-7600

Wright: www.co.wright.mn.us
Public Health Emergency Preparedness: 763-682-7456 or 800-362-3667
Emergency Manager: 763-682-7325

Resources by Topic

How to Get Started

Baptist (Southern Baptist Convention)– Enter “Disaster Preparedness” in Search Site
<http://www.namb.net/site/c.9qKILUOzEpH/b.238536/k.BOB3/manualsResources.html>
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston/Houston – www.diogh.org/disaster
Church World Service – <http://www.cwserp.org/congregations>
Evangelical Lutheran Church – www.elca.org/disaster
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance – www.pcusa.org – search for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

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Individual and Family Preparedness

Are You Ready?: An In-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness: www.fema.gov or call 800-480-2520
Create the Plan: www.codeready.org
Create the Kit: www.codeready.org
Get Prepared: www.redcross.org/services/getprepared
Ready America: www.ready.gov
Ready Kids: www.ready.gov

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Samples: Bulletin Inserts, Sermon Topics, Power Point Presentations, Forms, Games for Presentations

Christian Emergency Network - www.christianemergencynetwork.org
Ready Church Organization-<http://www.readychurch.org>
Minnesota Department of Health - www.health.state.mn.us/oep/training/mdhslides.html
“Preparing for Disaster” (FEMA #475) Red Cross (A5055) - www.redcross.org
Power Point Presentation: “Personal and Family Preparedness: Awareness Training” at
www.health.state.mn.us/oep/training/mdhslides.html
FEMA for Kids: Disaster Planning for Kids- www.fema.gov/kids/
National Weather Service - <http://www.education.noaa.gov/cweather.html>

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Persons with Special Needs

“Disaster Preparedness for Families of Children with Special Needs” -
<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/fh/mcshn/pdfdocs/disasterplan.pdf>
FEMA- List of Considerations for Multiple Special Needs –
www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/specialplans.html
“Preparing for Disaster for People with Disabilities and other Special Needs) (publication number -
FEMA 473) - call 1-800-480-2520 or the local Red Cross Chapter (publication # A5059) or at
www.redcross.org/services/disaster/beprepared/disability.pdf
codeReady – www.codeready.org
Plans for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities: www.ready.gov/america/index.html

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Persons with Limited English Proficiency

Emergency and Community Health Outreach (ECHO) - www.echominnesota.org

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Emotion & Spiritual Care

Barna Research Group - www.barna.org

Basic Trauma Information for Congregations (United Methodist Committee on Relief-
<http://newgbgm-Umc.org/UMCOR/getconnected/resources/spiritualcare>

Central MN Hospital Bioterrorism Preparedness Program - www.cmbpp.org – click on Mental Health

David Baldwin’s Trauma Information Pages - <http://www.trauma-pages.com/disaster.php>

Emotional & Spiritual Care: An Introduction on Basic Concepts (NVOAD) -

<http://www.NVOAD.org/articles/ESCCchapterB.doc>

Gunderson, Gary, D. Min., M. Div., “Eight Strengths of Congregations in Relation to Pandemic Threats,”
Health and Wellness Ministries, Methodist Healthcare, Memphis Tennessee.

Tips on Spiritual Care for Congregations and Volunteers -

<http://www.ldr.org/volunteer/spiritual-care.html> and www.ldr.org/care/Light_Our_Way.pdf

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Ethics

Allocating Pandemic Influenza Vaccines in Minnesota - www.stolaf.edu/mnethx/projects.html

Ethical Considerations in Community Disaster Planning - <http://www.ahrq.gov/research/mce>

“Pandemic Influenza Preparedness: an Ethical Framework to Guide Decision-Making”-

www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6939/7/12

“Stand Guard by Thee”- University of Toronto- www.utoronto.co/jcb/home/documents/pandemic.pdf

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Preparing the Facility

“Emergency& Recovery Plan for the Religious Community” - <http://www.cwserp.org/congregations>

“Preparing for Disaster: A Guide for Lutheran Congregations” - www.ldr.org; or

www.elcea.org/dcs/disaster

“Preparing the Plan” Disaster Manual – Archdiocese of Galveston and Houston –

www.diogh.org/disaster

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Notification Systems

“American Red Cross Homeland Security Recommendations for Individuals, Families, Neighborhoods
and Businesses” – www.redcross.org/services/disaster/beprepared/hasas.html

Centers for Disease Control – <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/firsthours/intro.asp>

Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Emergency Broadcast System (EBS) – www.fcc.gov

Homeland Security Advisory System – www.dhs.gov/xinfo/share

Minnesota Department of Health - www.health.state.mn.us

Minnesota Health Alert Network -

National Weather Service – www.nws.noaa.org

Disaster Response

“Emergency& Recovery Plan for the Religious Community” <http://www.cwserp.org/congregations>

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Disaster Recovery

“Emergency& Recovery Plan for the Religious Community” <http://www.cwserp.org/congregations>

“Emergency Planning and Disaster Recovery: A Primer for Churches” – www.churchbusiness.com

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All-Hazards Plan

- Sample Business Continuity and Disaster Preparedness Plan:: www.ready.gov - click on “Business “

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Disaster Specific Plan/Pandemic Flu

- Cough Etiquette: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/dtopics/infectioncontrol/cover/
- Hand Hygiene: www.health.state.mn.us/handhygiene
- Homecare in Pandemic Flu: www.redcross.org – click on Pandemic Flu Public Education
- Infection Control: www.cdc.gov – click on Pandemic Flu
- Official Government Site:www.pandemicflu.gov
- Pandemic Flu Preparedness: www.redcross.org/news/ds/panflu
- “Stand on Guard for Thee: Ethical :Considerations in Preparedness Planning for Pandemic Influenza” www.utoronto.ca/jcb/home/documents/pandemic.pdf
- Social Distancing: http://www.dps.state.mn.us:HSEM_view_article.asp?docid=513&catid=5 and http://www.hsem.state.mn.us/hsem_subcategory_home.asp?

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Organizational Resources

Regional

Central Minnesota Hospital Bioterrorism Preparedness Program - www.cmbpp.org

State

codeReady – www.codeready.org

Minnesota Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management – www.hsem.state.mn.us

Minnesota Health Department – www.health.state.mn

Emergency and Community Health Outreach (ECHO) – www.echominnesota.org

Federal

Center for Disease Control – www.cdc.gov

Federal Emergency Management Agency – www.fema.gov

National Weather Service – www.nsw.noaa.gov

Official Government Pandemic Flu site – www.pandemicflu.gov

Ready.gov – www.ready.gov

National (non-profit organization)

American Red Cross: www.redcross.org

North Star Chapter – Cass, Crow Wing and Wadena Counties

401 Paul Bunyan

Bemidji MN 56601

218-44-9490

<http://www.northstar-redcross.org>

St. Cloud Chapter – Benton, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Pine, Sherburne, Stearns, Todd,
Wright

1301 West St. Germain

St. Cloud MN 56303

320-251-7641

www.cenmnredcross.org

Twin Cities Chapter – Chisago, Isanti

1201 West River Parkway

Minneapolis MN 55454

612-871-7676

<http://www.redcrosstc.org>