



Disaster Preparedness

Types of Disaster

- Weather or natural disaster (flood, hurricane, tornado, earthquake, lightning)
- Cyber
- Violence (bomb threat, vandalism, theft, active shooter)
- Fire, gas leak, utility outage, hazardous materials (hazmat)
- Medical, biological



Phases of Disaster

1. Prepare: plan preparation, review, and approval; implementation and maintenance
2. Respond: save lives, protect property; know resources within community
3. Recover: short & long term healing, economical, spiritual, emotional
4. Mitigate future disasters

Disaster Response

1. Stay: plan to shelter in place (tornado, hazmat outside, lightning, utility outage)
2. Go: plan to evacuate (flood, fire, bomb, gas leak, hazmat inside)
3. Restrict: Lockdown (intruder, active shooter, suspicious or dangerous person—inside or outside)

The Planning Process

1. Form a team to develop a plan
2. Do a risk assessment—what types of disaster are we most vulnerable to?
3. Define goals and objectives: prevent, protect, provide aid
4. Define courses of action including who is responsible, resources needed, communication contingencies, etc.
5. Stay prepared; review, check resources, conduct drills & table top exercises

Disaster Resources and Links

- * Lutheran Disaster Response: www.elca.org. Click on Media and Resources, General tab for congregational planning and worksheets
- * FEMA: www.fema.gov; www.ready.gov/make-a-plan
- * NV VOAD (NC Voluntary Org. Active in Disaster): www.ncvoad.org
- * American Red Cross: www.redcross.org. Wealth of information for families and communities. Go to “Get Assistance”, then Disaster and Recovery, Tools and Resources.
- * Disaster Distress Helpline: 1-800-985-5990. Administered by the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration