

Deploying Teams

DRC Guide #7



Churches of Greater Austin
Bringing Hope into Crisis™

Big Idea:

Bringing awareness, setting expectations and developing plans are all key components to church development and disaster preparations. However, when a disaster strikes and there is an opportunity for your church to mobilize, what will you do and how will you do it?

Scriptural Basis:

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters... let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:16, 18

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

Explanation:

When disaster strikes our local communities or neighboring communities, we see churches, organizations and individuals quickly looking for ways to help. In some cases, the action taken can lead to additional strain for local emergency services and even a potential for a secondary disaster caused by those who truly desire to help. With this in mind, it is imperative that we (the local church) are ready when disaster strikes. We must be prepared to handle the physical, emotional and spiritual needs associated with such events and be ready to offer assistance and coordination that will lead to progress and solutions in our communities.

Recent natural disasters and acts of terrorism in the United States highlight innumerable accounts of altruism and resilience among individuals and communities. During Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, local churches and community organizations—unaffiliated with a national voluntary organization—often served disenfranchised groups that are sometimes missed by more formal response efforts (GAO, 2005). These types of heroic efforts of the smaller faith-based and community groups are often noted in the popular press. Moreover, these organizations are explicitly included in recent federal policies as capable of leveraging their unique positions in communities to help prepare for and respond to disasters and other emergencies (GAO, 2008a). Institute for Homeland Security Solutions

Definition of *Natural Disaster*

A *natural disaster* can be defined as a catastrophic event relating to a flood, tornado, earthquake, fire, or hurricane that negatively affects a large population causing adverse conditions, significant damage, and life-threatening circumstances.

Deploying Teams - Types of Physical Response

- Food supply
- Shelter
- Personal Hygiene
- Clothing
- Medical services
- Financial Assistance
- Procurement of resources – Donation sites
- Physical Reconstruction – debris removal, home repair
- Logistics management – distribution of supplies (warehousing)
- Transportation – evacuees and volunteers
- Children's services – child care and education
- Case management – information, resources, referrals=

Think about it!

Discuss the types of physical response your church is best suited for:

Scenario #3 (Roles & Responsibilities)

An F3 tornado has just hit 1 mile away from your church in a heavily populated residential area. Your lead Pastor has given you full authority to do everything you can to help. What are your first steps? How can your team best support and rally to help?

Considerations:

- Who is your first call? Do you have approval?
- What is your #1 priority? What is your #2 Priority?
Hint: 3Cs – Church Pastors/Staff, Congregation then Community
- Do you have a predefined plan of action?
 - Lead Pastor / Core Team / Executive pastors contact
- Number of leaders needed to begin building a plan (IAP)
- Communication needs?
- Resources need?
- Communication requests needed to begin developing your plan
 - How are you communicating how to Pray?
 - How are you communicating to members wanting to help?
 - Should your church develop a giving portal or do you have financial resources to contribute if needed?
- Are there members of your staff who live in the area?
- Are there members of your church who live in the area?
- Do you have a direct line of communication to church executive team?
- Does your church have the facility space to offer for community resources?

Number of Lead Team members needed: 1 – 2 – 3 – Full operation (circle one)

Incident Commander: _____

Safety Officer: _____

Public Information Officer: _____

Liaison: _____

Operations: _____

Planning: _____

Logistics: _____

Finance/Admin: _____

Determine exit strategy – Date/Time: _____

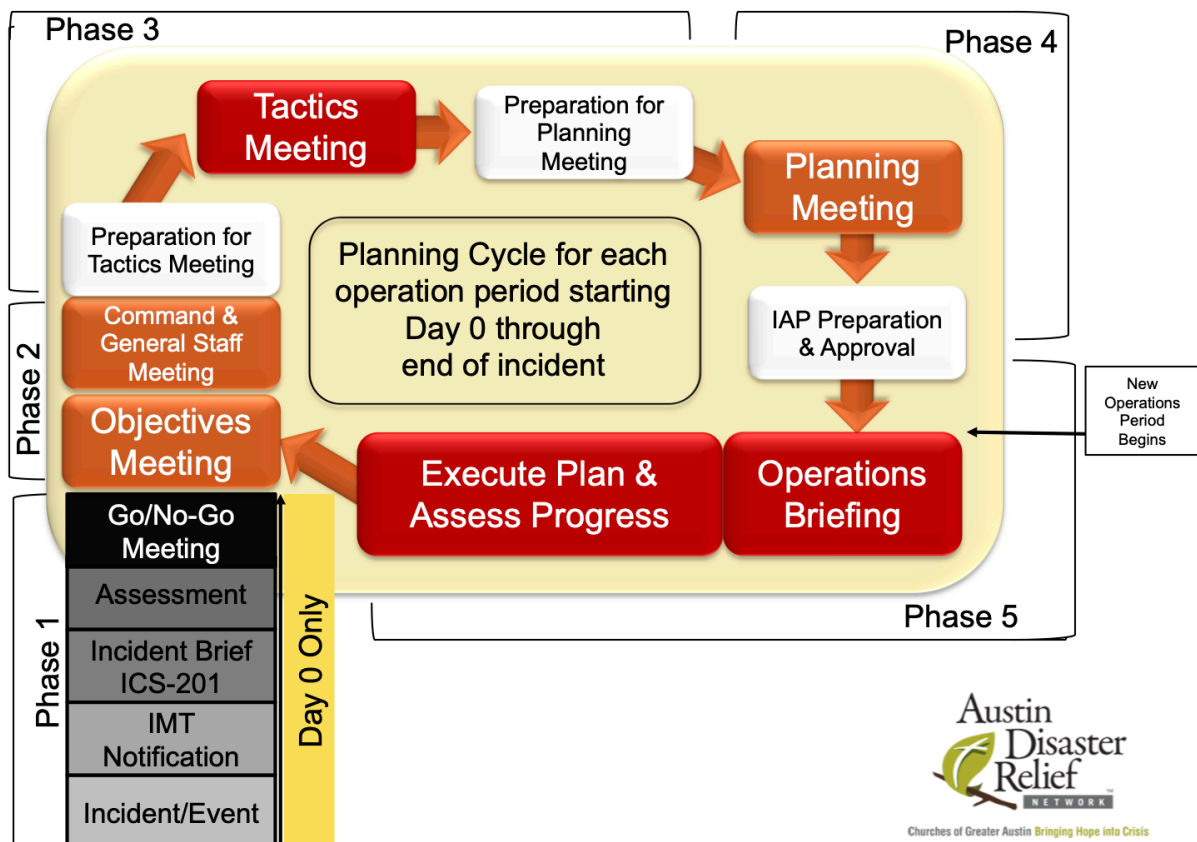
Discuss your process and the actions taken: Remember to use - **ICS 201**

This is a lot to think about – Remember KEEP IT SIMPLE!

- PRAY FIRST!
God has placed you in this position for a reason!
Ask Him to guide your steps
- REMEMBER YOU ARE NOT ALONE!
You have support – ADRN – other DRCs – Community Partners
- REMEMBER YOU CAN ONLY DO WHAT YOU CAN DO!
Don't think you have to conquer the world – Do what you can!
- REMEMBER YOU ARE HERE FOR A PURPOSE!
Ask God to show you what it is ☺

Practical thoughts and NEXT STEPS – ADRN decision process

ADRN Planning Cycle



Planning Cycle - Phase 1 Breakdown

Incident Happens

- GATHER INFORMATION
 - Watch the news
 - Contact partners in the area
 - Connect with leaders in your church – connections to those affected by the incident – Remember 3Cs
- COMMUNICATE
 - Pastoral leadership
 - Share information and receive feedback
 - Determine level of potential response
 - Core Team
 - Share direction from Pastor Leadership
 - Determine availability of each member
 - Discuss potential leaders – Develop IMT

IMT Development – (Incident Management Team)

- GATHER, report, analyze and display situation, resource and incident-potential information to
 - Increase situational awareness of the magnitude, complexity and potential impact of the incident
 - Determine the resources required to develop and implement an effective Incident Action Plan (IAP)

Incident Brief ICS-201

- INITIAL ASSESSMENT objectives are agreed upon and resources needed to meet initial assessment objectives are activated.
- Do we have something to offer?
 - Resources, Volunteers, Transportation?

Assessment

- Initial assessment is completed based off ICS-201 objectives to provide a Situation Report for the Go/No-Go Meeting.

Go/No-Go Meeting

- IMT present a Situation Report to Church leaders or a Go/No-Go for Response. After Go/No-Go meeting, If YES ... the team deployment process is ACTIVE. **Planning Cycle - Phase 2**

Objectives Meeting

- Set Priorities, Objectives, Strategies and Tasks for the incident
- What information have we gathered and what is the best way we can assist in the most productive way? Objectives must be **SMART**

Specific – In a Nut shell... What are we going to doing?

Measurable – How does this action demonstrate and declare the love of Christ?

Action oriented – Next steps must be clear for everyone involved

Realistic – Do we have the volunteers and resources needed? Set Expectations

Time sensitive – Identify the time to start and end date from the beginning

OK... TIME OUT! Is all of this necessary?!?!

At this point, let's remember that we are volunteer church leaders. We are not the emergency services department for our community! It is our job to encourage our congregations and community:

PRAY – Share with your pastoral team the main needs for prayer

GIVE – Share with your pastoral team the estimated needs for financial support

SERVE – Ask your pastoral team to share the need for volunteers

*Remember the Pre-Disaster Checklist you went over with your pastors? Now is the time to pull it out and ask for COMMUNICATION to the CONGREGATION.

*Communication is KEY at this time – Share opportunities and capture the information for those ready to get involved through your PRAY – GIVE – SERVE portal (website, serve app, text to get info)

*SET UP your response and commitment based on the response and commitment of your pastors and congregation... NOW IS THE TIME you can set realistic expectations!

TEAM DEPLOYMENT

Once you have established a clear plan to mobilize volunteers from your church to support a specific need due to disaster, it is always important to **COMMUNICATE CLEARLY** and **SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS**.

Local Incident:

IDENTIFY and **SHARE** times and locations

- Team 1 – 9:00am – 12:00pm @ Harris Elementary School (meeting place)
- Team 2 – 12:00pm – 4:00pm @ Harris Elementary School (meeting place)
- Team 3 – 4:00pm – 8:00pm @ Harris Elementary School (meeting place)

ESTABLISH TEAM LEADERS and **NUMBER** to Volunteers Needed

- Team 1 – John Willis / Amanda Stark #555-555-5555
- Team 2 – Jeff Dean / Rhonda Hall #555-555-5554
- Team 3 – David Smith / April May #555-555-5556

COMMUNICATE (Example only)

- **WHAT TO BRING** - Snacks or premade lunch (to care for yourself)
 - We will provide water but no food this time
- **WHAT TO WEAR** - Closed toe shoes or boots, pants, serve t-shirt
- **OTHER ITEMS** - Backpack, gloves, sunscreen, bug spray, jerky or power bars, small first aid kit, knife, cell phone and charger, flashlight, spare batteries if serving late shift

Tools are acceptable to bring but not necessary - Please bring anything that you would see fit to assist with demolition and **MUCK-OUT** of flooded homes. Tools could include: Hammer, flat bar, shovel, pry bar, screw driver and box knives.

Good attitude, ready to serve in whatever fashion you are asked! Work may include cooking, serving food, muck-out of homes, organize relief stations, etc.

NOTE: For any roles involving manual labor, it is required that you wear work boots or tennis shoes, work clothes, gloves & proper eye protection. Long sleeves and respiratory protection are suggested in the field due to airborne debris.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

As with any organization, you will want to discuss the specifics of a qualified Serve Team member with your pastoral oversight. This is a must for keeping the safety of all team members and your church in mind before sending out teams! Discussions should include:

- Release of Liability
- Background check (leadership roles)
- Statement of Faith (leadership roles)
- Van Driver Safety course (all van drivers)
- Church Guidelines

ADRN Training and Volunteer Opportunities!

This Deploying Teams Guideline is merely an introduction to the idea of gathering volunteers to support efforts in your community! There are more in-depth training opportunities and ways to volunteer that you can find and share!

Go to: <https://adrn.org/training-opportunities/>