

Goals and Purpose

DRC Guide #2



Churches of Greater Austin
Bringing Hope into Crisis™

Big Idea:

Influenced by the word of God and led by the example set by Jesus himself, we The Church are uniquely positioned and equipped to make an impact in every community we serve.

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

Explanation:

Introduced in this guideline are 3 goals we believe every Church should have on the forefront as its guiding principles while preparing for disaster response.

Goal #1: DEMONSTRATE & DECLARE Christ's love through the local Church!

As Christ followers we are mandated to stand in the gap for those facing insurmountable adversity, by serving and supporting them so they don't fight alone. When faced with natural disasters, this expectation remains the same. Therefore, the function of the local church is to be an organism that offers the message of redemption by serving affected communities and revealing Christ's limitless love through their actions.

For this reason, as Christ's ambassador of hope in the midst of chaos, the church has a responsibility to steward the vulnerability of each affected individual and community, with wisdom, prudence, efficiency, and love. Ultimately bringing hope into crisis through the transforming power of Jesus Christ to every life and community we serve. At the end of the day, it is the responsibility of the local church to:

Give Life and Empower – Protect and Persevere – Be Authentic and Intentional
Remain Diverse and Inclusive – Display Agility, Tenacity and Resilience

And above all.... **Be defined by the CROSS and share the love of CHRIST!**

Why we do what we do...

This is not an attempt to be elite, or exclusive.

It is the Church honoring its call to be an expert at loving people. Therefore, the goal is to yield the local church as the catalyst, the solution, and ultimately the HERO of each community we serve delivering hope and connecting people to Christ and a sustainable future found in Him.

Discuss:

What does it mean to be “defined by the CROSS”?

Describe a time when you witnessed Christ’s love through the local Church:

What makes “The Church” unique in disaster response?

List ways you have engaged your community in times of disaster:

“Simply coming in with the question... How can we serve you? We saw God open doors that were previously closed”. Daniel Geraci – ADRN Director

Goal #2: PROPEL Disaster Relief to its Next Level

In the beginning, God created from nothing. He created order, through chaos. Therefore, He is made of order.

When we (His children) are in alignment with Him, we adopt His identity and represent Him with our actions. It is through Christ that we “The Church”, can face the future in an extremely efficient, remarkably selfless, and with an extraordinarily fearless attitude to bring support to our local communities.

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” Philippians 4:13

Greg Forrester, CEO of National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) states, “About 80% of all recovery happens because of non-profits, and the majority of them are faith-based.” He further attests that the money is “all raised by the individuals who go and serve, raised through corporate connections, raised through church connections, and amounts to billions of dollar’s worth of disaster recovery assistance.” (USA Today, September 2017).

The local Church is uniquely equipped to create, implement, and execute a well-defined, functional infrastructure that successfully responds to natural disasters in their community. And through its strategic methodologies, it will prove to be an entity that redefines the very basis of such relief, and drives it to its next level to support local emergency response agencies within every community!

Discuss: Is the church a resource that can be utilized to support local government?

List ways The Church can support community pre/post disaster:

GOOD

List ways The Church can bring chaos and confusion in and out of disaster:

BAD

Goal #3: IDENTIFY Sustainable Solutions

When major disaster strikes, the reality is that active churches most likely will have a 'revival of relief' from day 1 to day 30, when generous amounts of resources and spontaneous volunteers appear to help.

But as days go by, the activity will progressively lose its momentum. Time, effort, and energy will begin to escape its meanings and motivations.

But, transformation takes time... and solutions take time to work!

Therefore, the local church should proactively prepare to establish sustainable solutions that will provide both consistency and longevity to affected communities and people. Offering hope to the hopeless and demonstrating the love of Christ in all that we do!

Discuss:

Have you been a part of a 'revival of relief'? Describe your experience:

What does sustainable mean to you? Resources? Relationships?

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

Pro-Active Church = Sustainable Church

Although we have no control over the cause of disasters, we do have the ability to mitigate its effects through **PLANNING**, **PREPARATION** and **PRACTICE**. Church core teams who commit themselves to the development of these three components will make a major impact on the sustainability of their Church leadership, their Congregation and their Communities!

PLANNING – It's time to start!

- **KNOW** the DRC Steps document and begin!
- **IDENTIFY** a staff point of contact you will report to and communicate with
 - Lead Pastors sometimes will want to be heavily involved
 - Most pastors will delegate to an outreach pastor or other staff member
 - Remember, honor your pastors in this!
- **DEVELOP** the Core Team (see Core Team doc)
- **IDENTIFY** ADRN trained individuals in your church (ask Sector Leader for your list)
- **GO OVER** Pre-Disaster Checklist with church pastoral leadership
- **COMPLETE** DRC Guidelines with your Core Team
- **COMMUNICATE** with church leadership about your plans moving forward
- Once DRC Guidelines are complete, **CUSTOMIZE** your disaster preparedness small group guideline that can be used to engage people groups in your church
- **HOST** ADRN Basic Training (DRC Step 4)

PREPARATION – Think about your Church and Community!

- **SET UP** Core Team meetings – we recommend monthly (Zoom works)
 - Just starting... Meet weekly to get your plan in place!
- **IDENTIFY** 2nd layer of leadership – Who are leaders in your church?
- **CONTINUE** communicating with church pastoral staff about your progress
- **IDENTIFY** areas of potential response for your church (see Pre-Disaster Checklist)
- **DEVELOP** a Church Communication plan to submit to leadership
 - **PRAY-GIVE-SERVE** (see Pre-Disaster Checklist)
 - Continue Small Group opportunities for Disaster Preparedness
 - Awareness = A Prepared Pro-Active Church
- **COMMUNICATE** with your ADRN Sector Leader for support & introduction to other DRCs in your community. Be proactive in developing relationships outside of your church for the purpose of collaboration & resource development

PRACTICE – Identify ways to engage outside of disaster times!

- **SERVE** (week 5 – Serving Outside of Disaster)
 - Get involved with teams at your church and begin serving with your community partners – Local Non-Profits, Serving Centers etc...
- **DEVELOP** a simple Incident Command System (week 4 - Roles & Responsibilities)
 - Utilize an ICS for any event at your church
 - Don't make it difficult... It's actually easy and fun!

PURPOSE

The purpose of the DRC guidelines in conjunction with ADRN trainings is to offer both systematic and practical solutions for churches that seek to respond during events of natural disaster. It is our mission at ADRN to glorify Christ by equipping, empowering, and mobilizing a network of churches to respond to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of those affected by disaster. *(Luke 10:25-37, Ephesians 4:12-16)*

As you work through each guideline, keep in mind that as a core team you are equipping yourselves to assist in building a Sustainable Church able to face the most difficult situations in and out of disaster! Now it the time to commit yourselves to prayer each day for your pastors and church leadership along with those who will take part in the preparation for years to come. The Goal – ultimately become a Sustainable Church able support your Church staff, your Congregation and your Community in and out of times of disaster!

NEXT STEPS:

Take time as a core team to revisit these documents (found on DRC Tools Page):

- **DRC Steps Doc** – Always keep the vision before your team!
 - THINK THROUGH the steps and set goals for your core team development
 - TALK THROUGH the idea of developing a disaster preparedness small group guide that will explain YOUR CHURCH actions in times of disaster. This is an important step that will help you engrain church and personal preparedness into your DNA and culture.
 - MEET WITH department leaders (Kids, Youth, Young Adults, Men, Women & Co-Ed) in your church and ask questions
 - *“Would it be valuable to share our church disaster preparedness plan with the people group you serve?”*
 - *“Do you have 2-3 leaders that would be willing to help lead groups?”*
 - *“Could those leaders join our DRC/Core Team for a walk through of the small group guidelines we have created?” SET A DATE!*

- **Pre-Disaster Checklist Doc** – Start forming your Plan!
 - GO OVER with church pastor leadership team
 - DISCOVER church strengths and areas you are best equipped to serve
 - LIST local partners and resources you have available
 - This list will continue to grow
 - Develop a core team folder with your documents (soft/hard copy)

HELP US!

Preparing for the future and building a healthy core team in your church is a process. At Austin Disaster Relief Network, it is our desire to walk you through a systematic and thorough step by step process that will introduce all aspects of how you can grow and learn together. We also want the best to be shared with other churches here locally and around the nation. Your feedback is extremely important!

Please take a moment to reflect on the content of this guideline and answer the following questions as a group. DRCs please email derick.z@adrntx.org with your answers.

1. Was this guideline beneficial to your team?
2. Was the information clear and concise?
3. Did you find the discussion questions helpful?
4. What would you add or take away from this guideline?

**Please expand on any of the feedback that you provide. Thank you!*