The Plain Truth About Faith-Based Organizational Planning

Don’t be afraid. Be Ready.
“White Horse Syndrome”

FEMA always rides to the rescue

Would this be a disaster to you or members?

Would this be a disaster to the federal government?
The “True Nature” of Disaster

Disasters overwhelm the community’s emergency response systems.

U.S. averages for citizens to emergency workers: as high as 410 to 1

Citizens need to prepare to sustain themselves for 72 to 96 hours
Reality Bytes: A Local Hazard Assessment
Three Keys for Your Organization’s Safety & Survival

• YOUR All-Hazard emergency plan
  - All types
  - All sizes
  - Adaptable

• YOUR emergency supplies

• YOUR information sources
The Key is Basic Preparedness For Your Organization

- Have a Plan!
- Contact local EM for preparedness plan help
- Consider CERT training
- Consider Spotter Training
Preparedness for
Citizens * Family * Congregations

Local churches have the “pulse of the community”

Churches and other faith based organizations are often called upon to provide for the community’s needs.
Preparedness for
Citizens * Family * Congregations

Do you have a way
to get emergency
information
including Severe
Weather/Tornado
Messages?
Planning Basics

• Emergency Contacts
  • Establish yours in advance

• Warnings & Information
  – NOAA Weather Radio
  – Battery powered radio or TV
  – Text Alerts
  – Internet information sites
Outdoor Warning Sirens

- Are NOT designed to be heard indoors!
- Warn those outside to go in to a safe place and tune in for specific information
- Do NOT sound all-clear signals
- Should NOT be your primary or only source of warning
Your Emergency Plan should provide a guide to critical decision making for all hazards emergencies.
“Does my church really need a written plan?”

- Written plans are:
  - The foundation for necessary actions to take during an emergency.
  - The guide for both leaders and members
  - Tailored for your organization’s specific needs
“What should be in your plan?”

- Basic plan
  - How to accomplish key tasks
  - Applies in many types of circumstances

- Special Situations
  - Specific to certain types of emergencies
“Who Can Help?”

• Local Emergency Management
  - Local hazard information
  - Plan templates
  - Best Practices
  - Lessoned learned from real life

• Governmental and Non-Governmental Agencies

• Other Faith-Based organizations
St Peters Police Department
Office of Emergency Management
636-477-6600 ext. 3522

St Charles County Sheriff’s Department
Division of Emergency Management
636-949-3023

Warren County
Emergency Management Agency
636-456-3786