

Emergency Planning Resources

Lutheran Disaster Response
www.ldr.org

Virginia Department
of Emergency
Management
<http://vaemergency.com>

Centers for Disease Control
www.cdc.gov

Federal Emergency
Management Agency
www.fema.gov

American Red Cross
www.redcross.org

Salvation Army
www.salvationarmy.org

U.S. Department
of Homeland Security
www.ready.gov

Lutheran Family Services of Virginia

Lutheran Family Services of Virginia is
the Lutheran Disaster Response affiliate in
Virginia.

We offer adoption and foster care, commu-
nity-based services, and services for
older adults and adults with disabilities.
Lutheran Family Services also manages
five Minnick Schools in western Virginia
that offer intensive academic, developmental
and mental health services to young people
ages five to 22.

For more information, please visit our web
site at lfsva.org or call 1.800.359.3834.

**LFSVA/Lutheran Disaster
Response**
Toll-free 1.800.359.3834
www.lfsva.org

*LFSVA expresses God's love by
providing services and assistance
to empower communities, families
and individuals in their journey to
well-being.*

IS YOUR CHURCH



READY FOR A DISASTER?

Lutheran Family Services
of Virginia

www.lfsva.org

PLANNING AHEAD

We all think we know what to do in an emergency, but has your church developed a disaster plan to respond to an emergency involving your own members, church building or community? Disaster can strike in many different ways—floods, fire, tornado, hurricanes or pandemic. Be sure your church has a process for disaster planning.

Section 1 is for every church to complete. **Sections 2 and 3** are for congregations that are located in more disaster-prone areas (hurricane and flood zones) and also for churches who want to share their resources in response to a disaster.

1 CARE FOR YOUR CHURCH

Back up all important data and keep in a secure location off church grounds. Records to consider include:

- Computer files
- Financial records
- Insurance policies
- Property records
- Membership records
- Important church documents
- Irreplaceable historical records and pictures

Inventory your church in writing and through pictures or video.

Inspect property annually. Check smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, first aid kits, emergency lights and signs. Clean storage areas, furnace rooms and check location of flammable chemicals.

Review insurance policies annually to see if your insurance policy covers replacement costs. Check policies closely for riders, exclusions, coverage and binders.

Make sure **church property is appraised** and covered.

Have an **evacuation plan for fire** or tornadoes and PRACTICE!

Based on the type of disasters that could affect the location of your church, **determine the supplies you need on hand** to protect your building.

2 CARE FOR YOUR PEOPLE

Identify who will initiate the crisis plan.

Provides resources for members to prepare their homes, families and selves for disaster.

Prepare a disaster brochure or flyer for members with key instructions. Use newsletter and church bulletins to remind people to get prepared.

Recruit members for calling trees. Create a plan for rapidly communicating accurate information to members in case of a disaster.

Train persons to provide pastoral care after a disaster as well as skills that members will need in case of a disaster. Stephen ministers are excellent prospects for this.

Identify vulnerable members within your church. Have a way of contacting and caring for shut-ins and others who cannot meet their own needs. Have a plan in place to contact these people as soon as possible after the disaster. Maintain a list of names, phone numbers and directions to the addresses, where required.

3 CARE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

If your congregation feels called to be a resource in time of crisis, here are a few questions to ask yourselves:

- What can we do for our community after the disaster?
- Should we consider having our church certified as a shelter?
- If yes, how can we become one?
- Do we have relief supplies on hand or can we gather them quickly?
- Would we be able to provide support for firefighters or emergency responders?
- Do we know how best to contact other relief agencies or emergency responders?

A start is to create a record of physical assets, including facilities that the congregation can offer in response to a disaster.

Become familiar with emergency planning agencies and resources. A list is on the back of this brochure.

LFSVA is available for additional resources and training. Please call us!!

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