

Disasters

Prepare and Respond



Part 5

For more information

Sources and Resources

In addition to the individual contributors identified in the introductory letter in Part 1, p. 7, many Episcopal dioceses have developed preparedness manuals that served as source material for much of this manual. Chief among them are New York, Western New York, Southwestern Virginia, Southeast Florida and East Tennessee. Other sources of information include:

- The American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress
- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- The Religion Communicators Council
- Virginia Cooperation Extension
- The National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
- The National Park Service

The discussion in Part 4 about preparedness for specific disasters borrows liberally from materials found on the sites listed below. All of them offer tremendous volume and variety of materials. They are listed in alphabetical order:

- **American Red Cross** (www.redcross.org/services; www.prepare.org/)

The Red Cross is widely known and respected for its response to disasters, and the “services” area of its Web site shares the organization’s expertise in an alphabetical, clickable index. In addition, its “prepare.org” site offers information specific to “vulnerable populations” in the United States: seniors, children, immigrants (the materials are offered in eight languages), people who have disabilities and owners of animals.

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (www.bt.cdc.gov/)

In addition to the expected information about the spread of disease, the CDC has an up-to-date and easy-to-use emergency response and preparedness subsite with areas on bioterrorism, chemical threats, weather emergencies, natural disasters and more. Many of its resources are available in multiple language translations.

- **DisasterHelp** (www.disasterhelp.gov/portal/jhtml/index.jhtml)

DisasterHelp is part of the U.S. President’s Disaster Management E-gov Initiative, which is designed to enhance disaster management cooperation among governmental agencies and branches. This information portal will bring up other sites within its window, and it offers citizens weather forecasts, preparedness tip sheets, news of recovery efforts and more. First responders are invited to register for access to additional materials.

- **The Episcopal Church’s Bishop Suffragan for Chaplaincies** (www.ecusa-chaplain.org)

This office prepared a DVD following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, “What to Do Next When a Disaster Strikes.” It includes video segments and other resources that may help a parish team to understand how people react to a disaster and to consider appropriate responses and helping behaviors. It has links to Web, liturgical and other resources.

The Internet is a treasure trove of materials related to emergency and disaster preparedness; however, not all sites are authoritative.

- **Episcopal Relief and Development** (www.er-d.org)

ERD is the relief arm of the Episcopal Church. The organization maintains a speakers bureau, and it freely offers printed resources, such as bulletin inserts, for congregational use. Many are photocopy-ready and available for immediate download.

- **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** (www.fema.gov)

Besides being the primary contributor of photography for this manual, the FEMA web site offers an overwhelming volume of information about disasters to which it has responded, as well as helpful information about specific types of disasters. For FEMA's independent study courses in a number of disaster-related areas, visit training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp. FEMA-produced print resources are available through the FEMA Distribution Center (1-800-480-2520 or Federal Emergency Management Agency, P.O. Box 2012, Jessup, MS 20794-2012) They include:

“Are You Ready? An In-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness” (IS-22)

“Preparing for Disaster (FEMA 475) (A4600)

“Preparing for Disaster for People with Disabilities and Other Special Needs”
(FEMA 476) (A4497)

“Food and Water in an Emergency” (FEMA 477) (A5055)

“Helping Children Cope with Disaster” (FEMA 478) (A4499)

Remember also to check individual state Emergency Management Agency sites for information specific to the hazards in your state.

- **Lutheran Disaster Response** (www.ldr.org/)

LDR is a collaboration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The web site identifies ways individuals and parishes can prepare for disaster and ways they can help following a disaster. From information on programs for disaster-impacted youth to print resources, many helpful links are to be found on this site. Within the print resources are materials available through the ELCA publishing house, Augsburg Fortress. They include:

“New Every Day: Forty Devotions for Disaster Survivors” (Item No.: 97860000206956)

“Meeting God in the Ruins: Devotions for Disaster Relief Volunteers” (Item No.:
97860000167882)

“Prepared to Care: Booklet for Pastors to Use in the Aftermath of National Disaster” (Item
No.: 97860000174477)

“Prepared to Care: Booklet for Pastors to Use in the Aftermath of Human-Caused Disaster”
(Item No.: 97860000174460)

- **National Institute of Mental Health** (www.nimh.nih.gov/healthinformation/index.cfm)

This site offers a wealth of materials on common mental health conditions including how to cope with traumatic events and related stress. It indexes by condition and by population subsets, such as gender and age.

- **New York Disaster Interfaith Services** (www.nydis.org/resources/2db2.php)

Following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, organizations in New York were among the first to mobilize for future preparedness, and in its “disaster resource library,” this site offers extensive databases of articles searchable by keyword and/or category.

- **ReadyAmerica** (www.ready.gov/america/index.html)

A governmental site that targets private citizens, ReadyAmerica focuses on three primary areas: emergency kits, family plans in the event of a disaster and information about specific threats. This site offers some of the best information available for individual and family preparedness.

Additional helpful web sites, in alphabetical order, are:

- American Hospital Association (www.aha.org)
- American Veterinary Medical Association (www.avma.org)
- Citizen Corps, U.S. Department of Homeland Security (www.citizenscorp.gov)
- Crown Weather Services (www.crownweather.com)
- Disaster News Network (www.dnn.org)
- Disability Preparedness (www.disabilitypreparedness.gov)
- Disaster-Resource (www.disaster-resource.com)
- Institute for Business and Home Safety (www.ibhs.org)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Weather Service (www.nws.noaa.gov)
- National Organization on Disability (www.nod.org)
- National Resource Center on Advancing Emergency Preparedness for Culturally Diverse Communities (www.diversitypreparedness.org)
- National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (www.nvoad.org)
- Pandemic Flu, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (www.pandemicflu.gov)
- The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (www.asPCA.org)
- The Humane Society of the United States (www.hsus.org)
- U.S. Small Business Administration (www.sba.gov)
- Weather Underground (www.wunderground.com)

The Internet is a treasure trove of materials related to disaster preparedness. But beware; not all sites are authoritative. For example, Wikipedia, which is an open-source Internet site (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page), relies on community policing of content. In general, plan to check unfamiliar sources, and ask the advice of local authorities when unsure of Internet recommendations.

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