

Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Cycle

What is disaster preparedness?

- Developing a plan to prepare for and respond to a disaster

Disaster (or emergency) is an event which

- Affects a group of people
- Is either natural or man-made
- Is expected or unexpected
- Requires a response

Examples of disasters

- Fire
- Flood
- Weather (wind, snow, ice)
- Earthquake and subsidence
- Disease
- Hazardous material events

Disaster preparedness cycle (starting and ending with planning)

- Plan/Prepare
- Event (disaster)
- Response
- Recovery
- Review

Preparation

- Taking actions to minimize effects
 - from the event
 - after the event, examples:
 - storing food, water, and equipment for use
 - identifying support facilities

Response (other than for parish facilities)

- Initial response comes from emergency services agencies
- Fire
- Police
- EMT and medical
- Red Cross and Salvation Army
- food and temporary shelter
- Specially trained individuals or groups
 - search and rescue
 - debris removal

Recovery

- Government forms and paperwork (disaster declaration)
- Restoration of social and educational services

- Insurance claims
- Longer-term housing
- Clearing and cleaning affected buildings
- Reconstruction
- Limited financial assistance (ER-D)

Review

- After event review what happened
- During disaster
- During response and recovery

Begin new planning cycle

What is parish role?

- Plan for loss of parish facilities
- Identify parish and congregational assets that can be used to assist others
 - physical
 - personal

Loss of parish facilities - most likely event

- Protect all records and inventory physical assets
- Have communication mechanism for congregation
- Designate alternate church/office facilities
- Store materials and equipment normally used for services off site.

Assist others

- Identify parish and congregational assets
 - Physical such as kitchens and shelter
 - Personal
 - Trained parishioners, e.g., medical, government paperwork
 - Counseling
 - Direct assistance to affected persons and families
- Develop written plans how and when to use assets
 - Make plans available to community responders and Diocese
- As requested, work with responders and statewide organizations such as Oregon Volunteer Organizations Assisting in Disasters (ORVOAD – Diocese is member)