

Faithful Readiness

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Weapons of Mass Destruction



Lesson in Mitigation?



Challenges

- Diverse group, no "one-stop shop" to reach the faith-based community.
- Many churches already have a mission, and it does not include emergency preparedness
- Active churches have multiple programs and activities that compete for time and attention.

Opportunities

- Churches are mission minded-adept at raising money, developing volunteers
- Churches are trusted and in many ethnic communities, serves as a one stop shop for community resources
- Able to reach a large group at one time

The First Emergency Manager

"A prudent man foresees the difficulties ahead and Prepares for them; the simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences."
- Proverbs 22:3



In other words....

Plan ahead! It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.



Two Typical Questions

- How will it impact me?
(Y2K/Pandemic Flu)

- How can we help?
(Hurricane Katrina/Haiti Earthquake)



Questions to ask...

- Why prepare?
- What does "preparing" mean for the faith based community?
- Why develop an emergency plan?
- What can you do, as a faith leader, when disaster strikes?

Why develop an emergency plan?

- A plan is a guide for your church to:
 - Protect property
 - Continue services
 - Care for members
 - Allow for self-sufficiency for at least 72 hours
 - Communicate information

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What we are you to do?

- Make a plan-Response, Recovery & Outreach
- Share info about how to prepare for an emergency
- Ask your team, staff, and conegation to prepare
- Work with local public safety to get ready and prepare
- Look specifically at your 'vulnerable populations' and help plan for their safety in an emergency

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Common Excuses

- We thought we had no risk
- It takes too much time/money
- We had more important things to think about
- We thought we were too small to need a plan
- We backed up our computers and thought that was enough
- We didn't know where to go for help



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It can't happen to me, right?

Or can it?

- **First Christian Church**
Tornado - Moore, Oklahoma (May 8, 2003)
- **Mother Liberty CME Church**
Tornado- Jackson, Tennessee (May 6, 2003)
- **Holy Name Cathedral**
Fire- Chicago, IL (February 4, 2009)
- **First Baptist Church of Eldorado, Texas**
Church Bus Accident- Tallulah, Louisiana (10/14/03)
- **First Assembly of God in Radcliff, Ky**
Bus accident- Carrollton, Kentucky (May 14, 1988)




Prayer House AG
Kenosha, WI (January 7, 2008)

- 2 tornadoes hit Kenosha County-Prayer House hit by EF-1 tornado
- Church, built in 2003, was partially destroyed- exterior walls to youth room, storage area and portion of the sanctuary
- Structural and moisture damage
- Worked out of a mobile office trailer and relocated services for 10 months
- Added sprinkler system in rebuild



Prayer House-What Happened?



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Emergency Planning



"Everyone has a plan until they get hit!"

Plans

- Emergency Response Plan
- Church/Business Recovery Plan
- Church Outreach Plan

1. Emergency Response Plan

- Designate a planning team
- Identify hazards that may impact the church/congregation.
- Assign personnel-Who Is In Charge? Who Speaks for the Church, What will they Say?
- General Evacuation Procedures-designate exits & meeting places
- SOP's-Fire, Severe Weather, Winter Storms, Reunification, Bomb Threat, Disturbance, Medical Emergency, Active Shooter, In-Place Sheltering
- Put together a crisis response kit, Get a NOAA Weather Radio
- Develop and train a crisis response team
- Practice plan

2. Church Recovery Plan

- Data Loss
- Loss of the Building
- Loss of a Key Person-Pastor, Key Parishioner
- Serious reputational issue
- Damaging press coverage
- Pandemic Flu
- External Factors-Neighbors, railroad tracks

In other words...

- *No Building*
- *No Computers*
- *No Network*
- *No Staff*
- *No Stuff*

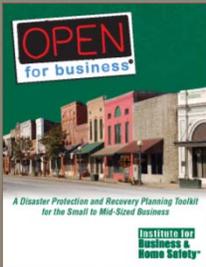


Church Recovery Plan

Plan should:

- ensure that the organization/church has enough insurance coverage,
- identify key assets as well as an alternate location,
- include backing up important documents and computer files and storing them off-site

Church Recovery Plan



- *Open for Business*® Basic or EZ
- Free from IBHS
- Step-by-step instruction
- Valuable planning worksheets
- Peril-specific property mitigation information
- www.disastersafety.org/open-for-business/

Reaching a community

How faith based groups can help?

- Create a plan to help the community to include:
 - Spiritual Support
 - Felt needs food, water, shelter
- Work with local authorities--Two Common Problems:
 - Emergent Volunteers
 - Donated Goods

Donations

- FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE OFTEN THE BEST KIND OF DONATION TO MAKE.
- USED CLOTHING IS RARELY A USEFUL ITEM TO COLLECT FOR DISASTER RELIEF.
- CONFIRM THE NEED BEFORE BEGINNING A COLLECTION OF DONATED GOODS.
- DONATE THROUGH AN ORGANIZATION.
- TRANSPORTATION MUST BE PLANNED IN ADVANCE.
- DONATED GOODS MUST BE WELL PACKED AND LABELED
- VOLUNTEERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO AFFILIATE WITH AVOLUNTARY AGENCY INVOLVED IN DISASTER RESPONSE AND RECOVERY.



Identify your niche

- Running a soup kitchen
 - Providing a food pantry
 - Providing childcare services
 - Transporting seniors to appointments
- If you run a soup kitchen, you may be suited to serving as a mass feeding facility.

Consider your facilities

- A large space equipped with bathing facilities, such as a recreation center
- A commercial kitchen
- A fleet of vehicles, especially if they are wheelchair accessible
- If you have a recreation center, you may be suited to serving as a shelter (or a housing facility for out-of-town volunteers).

Consider skills and employee/volunteer assets

- Carpentry skills
- Medical skills
- A large volunteer base
- If your organization often sends volunteers overseas to build churches or schools, you may be suited to supporting rebuilding efforts.

Closing Thought

“In a crisis, you will not rise to the level of your expectations, but you will fall to your level of training.”

For more information:

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"Building a Disaster Resistant Community-Making Disaster Resistance a Way of Life"

Resources

- National Disaster Interfaiths Network — Training & Tip Sheets for U.S. Religious Leaders : www.n-din.org
- Light Our Way-A Guide for Spiritual Care in Times of Disaster for Disaster Response Volunteers, First Responders and Disaster Planners: www.nimrod.org/Academy/OurWay6-30-2013.pdf
- Be Ready Sunday: www.be-ready.org/BeReadySunday
- Guide for Developing High-Quality Emergency Operations Plans for Houses of Worship: rems.ed.gov/docs/Developing_EOPs_for_Houses_of_Worship_in_FINAL.pdf
- Partnership Resources: www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/faithbasedtoolkit.pdf

Resources

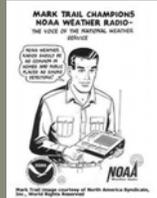
- Pandemic Flu Planning: www.fdu.edu/planning-2014-2015/faith-based-planning-toolkit.pdf
- Open for Business: www.fdu.edu/readyforbusiness
- Ready, Set, Go! Faith Community Emergency Preparedness Toolkit: www.fdu.edu/readyforbusiness/readysetgo/
- Ready Church: www.namb.net/readychurch
- Ready Church Training: www.christianemergencywork.org/training-program/readychurch
- Ready Faith (Wheaton College): www.wheaton.edu/rtf/resources
- Ready.gov

Emergency Response Plan Outline

- CRISIS COMMUNICATION
- GENERAL EVACUATION PROCEDURES
- REUNIFICATION
- FIRE
- SEVERE WEATHER/TORNADOES
- WINTER STORMS
- BOMB THREAT
- WORKPLACE THREATS/CIVIL DISTURBANCE
- MEDICAL EMERGENCY
- SHELTER-IN-PLACE
- MAIL PROCEDURE ADVISORY

Equipment/Supplies

- o NOAA Weather Radio
- o Smoke Detectors/Fire Alarms/Sprinkler System
- o CO Detectors
- o Fire Extinguishers
- o First Aid Kits/AED/Wheel Chair(s)
- o Flashlights/Batteries
- o Other???



Faith Based organizations can...

- o Provide special child care services
- o Encourage survivors. Your prayers and personal caring are important.
- o Form survivor support groups.
- o Support appropriate chaplaincy at the scene, the morgue, and with rescue workers.
- o Offer temporary shelter (in homes and church buildings), food and personal care items.

Faith Based organizations can...

- Assist survivors in salvaging personal property.
- Organize volunteer work groups to help survivors clean up debris—and later to assist in repair and rebuilding.
- Offer housing and food for out of town recovery volunteers
- Direct survivors to recovery resources—American Red Cross, The Salvation Army, the FEMA, and other care giving agencies.

Faith Based organizations can...

- Encourage members and people in the community to apply for the assistance. Help them through the application process, completing forms for them, and advocating on their behalf with other care giving agencies that provide assistance.
- **Contribute** money and material goods, if requested.
- **Communicate** and cooperate with other disaster organizations.
- **Encourage** local religious leaders to explore the need for a cooperative disaster recovery program to address long term disaster-caused unmet needs.
