

2020 Disaster Relief

Are you prepared?

Tropical Storms are part of life here on the Gulf Coast. The uncertainty, yet regularity, affect both our personal and our church lives. We want you to be prepared during Hurricane Season (June 1 - November 30) so that your church can be well positioned to minister to both your people and your community if/when a storm hits.



Before a Storm

When Hurricane Season begins, and definitely when a storm is tracking our way, preparation must begin to secure your church campus and prepare for a continuity of ministry. Questions to consider:

- What items need to be brought inside, boarded up or secured?
- What administrative documents need to be gathered (ex. insurance, membership roll) and who will keep them?
- What communication platforms need to be formed or updated to give leadership and information to the church?



During a Storm

The size and strength of storms vary greatly. As a result, vulnerable individuals in your church and community may need more secure housing. Some may ask if your church campus is open for them to ride out the storm. Questions to consider:

- Is our church campus open to members and/or community? If so, who and what do they need to bring. If not, do you know of other shelters to direct the general population? Those with health needs? With pets?
- If your church is open to broader community, do local officials know so they can promote and to give their expertise?



After A Storm

When the storm passes, the real work begins. People in your church need to evaluate their own safety and that of their property. People in your community may be in deep need. This is an optimal time for your church to serve your mission field in the name of Jesus. Questions to consider:

- How will we follow-up with each family to determine any needs (ex. Small Group, Deacons)?
- Who will coordinate relief teams helping our members and/or community?
- How can we partner with local and state partners to serve (ex. Association, Disaster Relief, Schools)
- Note: if people in your church would like to participate in local Disaster Relief Efforts, and have not already been trained/credentialed by the Florida Baptist Convention Disaster Relief, they will need to complete and submit this form to the local volunteer center set up by the Florida Baptist Convention Disaster Relief Team (usually Hillcrest Baptist)

A word from DR Director, Dealton Beall

Recently our Florida State Emergency Management suggested attending a CDC Webinar, you may view the slide show at: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/epic/pdf/3-2020-Hurricane-Season-During-COVID-19.pdf>

Many of us may elect to only respond locally, please determine who you may enlist to help locally and go to <https://fbaptist.org/dr-volunteer/> download day volunteer forms. Both our day volunteer and DR Personal Information Form state that "I represent that I am acting in a strictly voluntary capacity, that I am paying my own expenses and providing my own insurance, both health and property." There are many short term Charitable Mission insurance policies available that are very reasonable. If bringing or enlisting a group from your Church you may want to check with your Church office. How sad it would be to have a volunteer hospitalized miles from home with no insurance, when a few dollars would fill the gap!

If people in your church would like to give to PBBA Disaster Relief efforts, they may do so:

By Mail: Make Check to PBBA | memo: Disaster Relief |
mail to: 9999 Chemstrand Road, 32514

Online: pbbassociation.org/give | follow onscreen instructions

To form your plan, we encourage you to planning team to help your church think through it's unique issues. If the PBBA can assist in the development of the plan, contact us and we will be happy to come.