

PARISH DISASTER RESPONSE COORDINATOR Role Description*

When a disaster strikes, Parish Disaster Response Coordinators enable local parishes to effectively and efficiently bring the love of Jesus to their communities. As Anglicans in disaster response, we turn chaos into compassion, assisting families to find their “new normal” in times of disaster.

There are 3 stages to any disaster and 4 components in each stage.

Stage 1 - First Response. When a disaster strikes, First Responders provide search and rescue activities for public safety in which congregations do not engage.

Stage 2 - Emergency Relief. Congregations engage with the community to provide spiritual care, distribution of emergency relief supplies, meals and coordination of debris removal. Parishes may establish volunteer housing and showers for volunteer disaster response teams. The first steps of case management are initiated during Emergency Relief.

Stage 3 - Long Term Recovery. Long Term Recovery includes the repair and rebuilding of family homes, providing spiritual care, volunteer coordination and donations management. The local parish provides case management of recovery projects.

The 4 components incorporated in the above 3 stages are: **spiritual care, volunteer coordination, donations management, and case management.**

Parish Disaster Response Coordinators will strive to:

- Seek growth and wisdom in God’s call to serve those in need.
- Assist Diocesan Disaster Response Coordinator in scheduling Disaster Preparedness Training for their congregation.
- Assist Diocesan and National Disaster Network Director in scheduling Youth and/or Adult mission trips that are disaster-focused.
- Assist Rector in recognizing a Disaster Preparedness Month each year.
- Coordinate a parish disaster preparedness event of your choosing, such as Family Preparedness training, or the assembly and distribution of emergency kits or survival kits.
- Recruit a team of congregational members to develop and implement a Parish Disaster Plan and Community Disaster Response Plan.

When a disaster strikes in the Diocese:

- Report to the Diocesan Disaster Response Coordinator, completing an initial assessment of damages to the church building, members’ homes, and the community.
- Track with the parish treasurer any disaster-related donations.
- Mobilize Community Disaster Response teams to serve disaster survivors with the gifts of your parish such as distributing relief supplies, cooking and serving meals, removing debris and rebuilding or providing spiritual care.
- Participate in recurring briefings established by the Diocesan Disaster Response Coordinator with the National Disaster Network Director.

*Modified for use by the Anglican Relief & Development Fund, April, 2022. Parish Disaster Response Role description based on the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) Disaster Response Program. We give thanks to God for Mary Bates, National Director & Disaster Response Coordinator, for her partnership and generous sharing of resources, experience and wisdom.