



MISSION PRESBYTERY  
— BETTER TOGETHER —

# Presbytery Disaster Response Protocol

## Understanding Disasters - the Scope of the Problem

Disasters are considered to have three basic phases, (1) Before, (2) During, and (3) After the disaster. However, the following presents a more complete picture.

### Phases of Disaster and Response

Phase 1. Blue Skies/Anticipation/Warning

Phase 2. Impact/Emergency

Phase 3. Aftermath/Inventory

Phase 4. Relief/Remedy

Phase 5. Recovery/Reconstruction

Every planning model must consider two factors. The first is **people**; your plan must prepare your congregation for a disaster, as well as help them to survive and then recover. The second factor is **property**. Every disaster plan must help prepare your facilities to meet a disaster and help them to recover as quickly as possible after the disaster has ended. This planning model is based upon the above criteria and addresses the five phases of a disaster. In addition, at each phase, the model helps you to plan to meet the needs of your congregation and your facility.

### Applying This Plan to Your Church

Your first task as a congregation is to determine who will develop, implement and maintain your individual plan. One approach could be to develop a committee/task force. Whatever approach you take, the session should ensure an annual review of the plan and appropriate updates.

The checklists should be tailored to meet your needs and requirements. Members of the Presbytery Disaster Preparedness and Assistance Committee are available to advise your team.