



MISSION PRESBYTERY
— BETTER TOGETHER —

Presbytery Disaster Response Protocol

Hurricane/Disaster Immediate Response Protocol

Immediately prior to an event (2 days)

- Broadcast fax and e-mail to church offices a pastoral letter and the protocol.
- Presbytery office takes steps to prepare for alternate location if necessary.
- Presbytery staff and DPAC share proposed shelter location arrangements (where will they go if unable to stay at home or church).
- **During any event, take actions for yours and others safety.**

Immediately following an event

- Presbytery staff, Disaster Recovery Coordinator, and the Disaster Preparedness & Assistance Committee (DPAC) are in touch with each other.
- Initial calls are made by unaffected members of DPAC leadership team.
- General Presbyter/Stated Clerk/Disaster Recovery Coordinator will make pastoral visits to pastors of affected churches as soon as safe and possible.
- The 1st or 2nd contact person from each affected church will call the Presbytery office to give initial assessment to DPAC of their church, staff, and congregation.
- **48 hours (the 2nd day) after a storm** at 3:00 p.m. (the first church listed is the primary location; if damage prohibits, the secondary location will serve as host), all pastors (if there is no pastor the clerk of session or 1st or 2nd person should attend) and regional reps in the affected area will meet at one of the following:

- ▶ Victoria Region
 - Grace Presbyterian Church, Victoria, Tx (Primary)
 - FPC Cuero, Tx (Secondary)
- ▶ Corpus Christi Region
 - Parkway Presbyterian Church, Corpus Christi, Tx
 - FPC Beeville, Tx
- ▶ Rio Grande Valley Region
 - FPC McAllen, Tx
 - FPC Brownsville, Tx
- ▶ Hill Country Region
 - FPC Kerrville, Tx
 - St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Marble Falls, Tx
- ▶ Austin Region



- Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Austin, Tx
- FPC Georgetown, Tx
- ▶ San Antonio Region
 - Presbytery Office, San Antonio, Tx
 - New Braunfels Presbyterian Church, New Braunfels, Tx
- To check-in with a coordinator from the Committee leadership team, talk about next steps, and pray.
- **72 hours (3 days) after an event**, members and others who are concerned, can join a conference/Zoom call with the Presbytery for debriefing, prayer, and beginning recovery work. A Zoom Call announcement will be sent out designating time and date.

Be Pastoral – you may be anxious, but many of the people you are working with have lost family members and their homes.

Disaster Preparedness & Assistance Committee (DPAC):

1. Works with the General Presbyter to maintain awareness of disaster preparedness with the churches, members, and communities.
2. Creates a budget to maintain equipment, facilities, and training to support the Presbytery and Synod Network
3. Administer the Mission Presbytery Preparedness Guidelines and the data that comes from the Congregation Survey and Church Preparedness Checklist
4. Review Disaster Preparedness & Response Plan annually
5. Staffs Disaster Control Center as applicable
6. Work with and through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
7. Reviews after-action reports of disasters to determine the effectiveness of available resources and plan implementation to meet the Presbytery's and congregations' needs
8. Maintain relationships with local Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), Long Term Recovery Groups (LTRG), and other faith-based organizations
9. Develop relationships with corporations, Non-Profit Organizations (NPO), and governmental agencies
10. Support development of disaster resources for churches' training and preparation
11. Work within your region to help promote the Guidelines in the church and community
12. In times of crisis act to help those in need;
 - Work with General Council to disburse designated offerings during and after disasters
 - Help establish criteria for disbursement or classification of leftover designated funds
 - With the Disaster Recovery Coordinator organize volunteers to help in the disaster area
 - Listen to Disaster Preparedness & Assistance Teams on the ground and other volunteers to assist in coordinating equipment, people, and facilities.



Disaster Preparedness & Assistance Teams (DPAT):

Are made up of at least four people and are divided into teams specializing in fire, flood, hurricane, tornado, and manmade disasters. Team members must be trained.

1. Advise DPAC on best practices for preparation, response, and recovery
2. Help with training in congregations and communities
3. Know how to use equipment supplied by the Presbytery for response and recovery
4. Respond to crisis situations as deemed by General Presbyter and Disaster Recovery Coordinator
5. Promote disaster preparedness
6. Help set up facilities in coordination with local congregations to host first responders and emergency volunteers

Disaster Recovery Coordinator (DRC):

1. Reports to the General Presbyter
2. Develops Disaster Preparedness & Response Plan and budget
3. Coordinates with churches and sessions developing local disaster preparedness plans
4. Staffs Disaster Control Center after Presbytery's normal office hours
5. Maintains resources needed for the Disaster Control Center's operation
6. Keeps informed of responses by and participates in forums with interfaith agencies
7. Keeps informed of responses by and participates in forums with disaster management agencies
8. Recruits and trains churches' Disaster Preparedness & Response Representatives
9. Provides communications and information for the webpage, newsletters, e-mails, Minutes for Missions, Cluster and Presbytery Meetings
10. Provides periodic assessments to General Presbyter
11. Assists preparing for opportunities of religious observances for the impacted community(s)
12. Staffs the Presbytery's Call Center, if activated, and participating with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance operations within the Presbytery
13. Advise churches on ways to harden facilities to best survive future disasters