

## Presbytery Disaster Response Protocol

## Situations, Assumptions and Types of Disasters

## Fabricated Hazards we might expect to encounter:

Individual plans need to address a wide range of human-caused and natural disasters – including incidents related to fires, coastal storms, floods, earthquakes, severe thunderstorms and tornadoes, security incidents, pandemics, public violence, terrorism, chemical explosions, transportation accidents, hazardous waste spills, as well as hurricanes.

Initially, it may seem that such a wide range of potential disasters makes prior planning an impossible task. However, many disasters have similar preparatory and post-hazard responses.

Identifying your actions and completing a local plan will considerably increase your congregation's quality of life during and after any disaster. It will reduce your burden by helping you to identify the necessary actions and complete the corresponding tasks with a minimum of problems. Creating, implementing and maintaining a disaster plan are the most important acts of stewardship you will ever work on. Positive preplanning can help save your church assets. However, in the execution of your plan, remember that people are far more important than facilities. Your plan should cover both church assets and the safety of church members.