

## Emergency Planning Resources

Lutheran Disaster Response  
[www.ldr.org](http://www.ldr.org)

Virginia Department of  
Emergency  
Management  
<http://vaemergency.com>

Centers for Disease Control  
[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

Federal Emergency  
Management Agency  
[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

American Red Cross  
[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

U.S. Department  
of Homeland Security  
[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

## Lutheran Family Services of Virginia

LFSVA is the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response affiliate in Virginia.

Our programs include foster care and adoption, children's behavioral health, an array of services for adults with disabilities, supported employment and educational services through six Minnick Schools.

For more information, please visit our web site at [lfsva.org](http://lfsva.org) or call us at 1.800.359.3834.

**LFSVA/Lutheran Disaster Response**  
Toll-free 1.800.359.3834  
[www.lfsva.org](http://www.lfsva.org)

*LFSVA expresses God's love by providing services and assistance to empower communities, families and individuals in their journey to well-being.*

## Is your church



## ready for a disaster?

Lutheran Family Services  
of Virginia

[www.lfsva.org](http://www.lfsva.org)

## PLANNING AHEAD

We all think we know what to do in an emergency, but has your church developed a disaster plan to respond to an emergency involving your own members, church building or community? Disaster can strike in many different ways — floods, fire, tornado, hurricanes or pandemic. Be sure your church has a process for disaster planning.

Section 1 is for every church to complete. Sections 2 and 3 are for congregations that are located in more disaster-prone areas (hurricane and flood zones) and also for churches who want to share their resources in response to a disaster.

## 1 CARE FOR YOUR CHURCH

**Back up all important data and keep in a secure location off church grounds.** Records to consider include:

- Computer files
- Financial records
- Insurance policies
- Property records
- Membership records
- Important church documents
- Irreplaceable historical records and pictures

**Inventory your church in writing and through pictures or video.**

**Inspect property annually.** Check smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, first aid kits, emergency lights and signs. Clean storage areas, furnace rooms and check location of flammable chemicals.

**Review insurance policies** annually to see if your insurance policy covers replacement costs. Check policies closely for riders, exclusions, coverage and binders.

**Make sure church property is appraised** and covered.

**Have an evacuation plan for fire or tornadoes and PRACTICE!**

Based on the type of disasters that could affect the location of your church, **determine the supplies you need on hand to protect your building.**

## 2 CARE FOR YOUR PEOPLE

**Identify who will initiate the crisis plan.**

**Provides resources for members to prepare their homes, families and selves for disaster.**

**Prepare a disaster brochure or flyer for members with key instructions.** Use newsletter and church bulletins to remind people to get prepared.

**Recruit members for calling trees.** Create a plan for rapidly communicating accurate information to members in case of a disaster.

**Train persons to provide pastoral care** after a disaster as well as skills that members will need in case of a disaster. Stephen ministers are excellent prospects for this.

**Identify vulnerable members within your church.** Have a way of contacting and caring for shut-ins and others who cannot meet their own needs. Have a plan in place to contact these people as soon as possible after the disaster. Maintain a list of names, phone numbers and directions to the addresses, where required.

## 3 CARE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

**If your congregation feels called to be a resource in time of crisis, here are a few questions to ask yourselves:**

- What can we do for our community after the disaster?
- Should we consider having our church certified as a shelter?
- If yes, how can we become one?
- Do we have relief supplies on hand or can we gather them quickly?
- Would we be able to provide support for firefighters or emergency responders?
- Do we know how best to contact other relief agencies or emergency responders?

**A start is to create a record of physical assets, including facilities that the congregation can offer in response to a disaster.**

**Become familiar with emergency planning agencies and resources.** A list is on the back of this brochure.

**LFSVA is available for additional resources. Please call us for more details.**

**800-359-3834**