



Episcopal
Relief & Development
Healing a hurting world

Lamplight

A Newsletter of the US Disaster Program



"Be dressed, ready for service and keep your lamps burning." – LUKE 12:35

A Note from the Team

Issue #38 | May 2016

Hi Everyone!

Holding multi-diocesan, regional preparedness trainings is one of the most exciting activities of the US Disaster Program. It's a time when we work directly with the leaders who passionately strive to boost the resilience of their dioceses. The best part is hearing the success stories from around the Diocesan Disaster Coordinator network. Over the past six years, we have seen an increase in local preparedness trainings, collaborations with community partners and Episcopal churches responding to meet the needs of their communities in times of disaster.

Our approach to disaster preparedness and response trainings continues to evolve. In the past, we've held separate Level 1 and Level 2 trainings.



Join **"Ready to Serve"**:
[Sign up here](#) to offer your services to your vulnerable neighbors after a disaster.

A Season of Resilience is our new five-week curriculum designed to encourage preparedness. [Check it out!](#)

Episcopal Relief & Development-supported Projects:

However, last fall, we piloted smaller, multi-level training groups in California and Province 1.

During these regional gatherings, participants were able to meet and learn with their peers from neighboring dioceses, some of the very people that they would partner with should there be a large-scale disaster. More experienced Diocesan Disaster Coordinators were able to share lessons learned with folks who were just starting out, and because participating dioceses faced similar hazard profiles, the training content was able to more directly address specific concerns of the participants.

The US Disaster Program team is continuing to pilot these smaller regional trainings in 2016. As our training schedule develops for 2017, a member of our team will contact your local Diocesan Disaster Coordinator and diocesan leadership with training details.

We are also excited to announce that we will be holding more web-based workshops and conversations. Please let us know if there is a topic that you would like us to address!

In Peace,

Katie, Lura, Sara and Tamara



Participants sing "Amazing Grace" at a recent training at the Bosque Center, Diocese of the Rio Grande. (Photo courtesy of Nicole Krug)

Hurricane Preparedness Week Social Media Graphics

Disaster Response:

Episcopal Diocese of Texas

The Diocese of Texas is providing housing support and spiritual and emotional care in Houston after severe flooding in April 2016 led to widespread evacuations and damaged more than 1,100 homes.

Episcopal Diocese of Texas

The Diocese of Texas is responding through spiritual care, temporary housing assistance and replacing a school computer lab in Deweyville after significant rainfall in March 2016 flooded the town and heavily damaged several schools.

Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana

After record storms resulted in widespread flooding and evacuations in March 2016, the Diocese of Louisiana is responding to needs through gift card assistance, housing assistance and a local Meals-on-Wheels program.

Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana

After severe flash flooding in March 2016 caused property damage and led to widespread evacuations, the Diocese of Western Louisiana is responding to physical, emotional and spiritual needs through housing assistance and spiritual care.

Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi

The Diocese of Mississippi is responding to needs in Holly Springs after a tornado ripped through in late December 2015, destroying almost 90 homes and damaging many more.

Disaster Recovery:

Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan

The Diocese of Eastern Michigan is responding to the long-term effects of lead contamination in the water system in Flint by providing nutrient-rich foods that can help mitigate the effects of lead poisoning and cooking classes to teach residents how to best use these ingredients.

Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey

The Diocese of New Jersey is aiding vulnerable individuals and communities by providing direct assistance, partnering with various long term recovery groups and working with parish-based programs following Hurricane Sandy.

Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma



A Season of Resilience - Week 2

Add to your Emergency Kit This Week (for each adult):

- 3 gallons of water - include some in gallon jugs and some in smaller bottles
- 3 cans of food you'd like to eat such as beans, meat, fish, pasta or soup that would taste good cold
- 1 can of fruit or veggies
- Lots of tasty snacks such as dried fruit, nuts, seeds, crackers, granola bars, wasabi peas and peanut butter
- A beverage that you would like to drink such as juice, a sports drink or oral electrolyte solution
- Comfort food such as candy or chips; be sure your chocolate has a candy coating so that it doesn't melt!
- Eating utensils
- Manual can opener

Download "A Season of Resilience" at www.episcopalrelief.org/press-and-resources/resource-library

Social media can be a powerful tool to encourage disaster preparedness! Our friends in the Diocese of Louisiana took our [Season of Resilience](#) bulletin inserts and created a series of graphics that can be shared on social media. They will be posting them on their diocesan webpage throughout May to help folks prepare for hurricane season and National Hurricane Preparedness Week, May 15-21. Check them out on the [Diocese of Louisiana Disaster Prep](#) webpage, and let us know if you share them in your own diocese or congregation as well!

Historic Flooding in Texas

Early last week, the Houston area was hit with historic rainfall and widespread flooding. The Episcopal Diocese of Texas will utilize Spiritual Care Teams to assess needs and identify vulnerable flood survivors in need of further assistance. Supported by Episcopal Relief & Development, the teams will be able to provide gift cards for immediate needs, as well as offer rent assistance for temporary housing in cases where people have evacuated from their homes and are unable to stay in a shelter. Episcopal Relief & Development is [accepting donations](#) for the recovery. To learn more about the flood recovery, please see [this article](#) from The Episcopal Diocese of Texas via ENS and Episcopal Relief & Development's [press release](#).

The Diocese of Oklahoma is working with congregations and long-term recovery groups around the state to meet the needs of vulnerable people following tornadoes in the spring of 2013.

Resources for Disaster Preparedness and Response:

Visit Episcopal Relief & Development's online [Resource Library](#) for numerous case studies and best practices in disaster response at the diocesan and congregational level.

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