



Georgia Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency

Preparing Houses of Worship for Emergencies and Disaster

Jason Ritter & Joe Barnum

How Praise and Preparedness Is Designed

Built upon traditional roles of the house of worship in readiness & recovery:

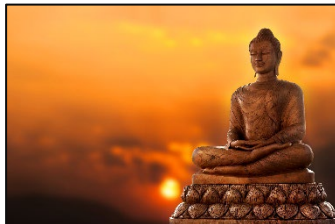
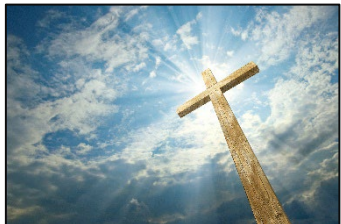
- Facility Safety
- Congregant Safety
- Community Involvement



Who Can Participate?



- Open to any faith-based organization or house of worship
- No two houses of worship are the same and congregations are different sizes
- Activities are scalable based on the size of the facility and congregation




Facility Safety

Conducting a facility safety assessment and completing or updating your emergency operations plan for all of the congregational buildings



Facility Safety: Facility Emergency Operations Plan



Purpose & Scope

The purpose of this document is to outline the process for how [insert name of Organization] will prepare, respond to and recover from emergency or disaster incidents. This document will cover:

- Facility Safety Assessments
- Member Demographics
- Potential Emergencies/Disasters
- Different levels of Emergencies/Disasters
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Response Protocols (for incidents requiring internal and/or external coordination)
- Procedures for specific types of emergency/disaster incidents

Situation Overview

Organizations, like [insert name of Organization] are typically places that provide their members with [comfort and inspiration]. Most of the members who attend [insert name of Organization] expect to find [peace and solace]. Unfortunately, disasters and emergencies can strike any place at any time! An emergency or disaster could have devastating long lasting impacts on [insert name of Organization] and [insert name of community]. Impacts could include: injury or loss of life, negative emotional impact on members, damage or loss of the facility, damage or loss of equipment or furnishings, loss of personal property, loss of revenue or loss of donations. To mitigate the potential impacts on [insert name of Organization] as well as [insert name of community], the [Organization leadership team] developed this Emergency Operations Plan as a guide for how to address disaster or emergency situations that may impact the facility, the members, the leadership or the surrounding community.

- Customizable template
- Easy-to-follow directions
- Adaptable to various sizes/types of facilities

Insert name of house of worship or faith-based organization

Facility Safety: Facility Assessment

[Insert Name of Organization] Facility Safety Assessment Checklist

Assessment Date: 00/00/0000
 Assessor: [insert Name]
 Facility Name: [insert name of organization]
 Facility Address: [insert facility address]
 Primary Contact: [insert name of head of establishment]
 Facility Coordinator: [insert name of facility coordinator]

Section A: Organization Profile

Criteria	Yes/ No/NA	Description/Comments
Facility Capacity		[total including all buildings on campus]
Facility Campus Type		[single building, one story building (s), multi-story, multiple building(s), etc.]
Type of Building Materials		[construction materials: brick, siding, wood, etc.]
Total Number of Buildings		
Names of Each Building on Campus		
Total Number of Floors		[each building]
Approximate Total Square Footage		[each building=total]
Year of Construction		[each building]
Number of Rooms of Each Bldg.		
#of Exits		
Type of Surrounding Community		[urban, suburban, rural]
Are the following pieces of equipment and campus locations checked on a regular basis?	Fire/Life Safety Systems (i.e., fire pump, fire panel, alarm system) & Life Systems (AED)	
	HVAC	
	Fire suppression	
	Fire extinguishers	
	Smoke/Heat Detectors	
	Generators	
	Security Alarm	
	Kitchen	
Playground		
Were mechanical, custodial and electrical rooms found to be locked?		
Were all chemicals properly stored, labeled and in their original containers?		
Total Number of Members		
# of Staff Members		
# of People with Disabilities		
Average # of Visitors Daily		

- Customizable template
- Checklist provides road map for assessment
- Addresses Key Information that may not readily be known by church staff/security
- Also informs you on commonly overlooked areas of your facility

Facility Safety: Other Forms and Templates

- Communications Template Form
- Emergency Management Team Form
- Medical Response Team Form
- Relocation and Staging Areas
- Reference Appendix
- Additional Resources Appendix
- Human Caused Disasters Annex
- Natural Disasters Annex




Congregant Safety

Encourage members of the congregation to develop family emergency plans for their homes



Congregant Preparation Resources



Ready Georgia
Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.

Basic Readiness Steps

Ready Georgia asks that all Georgia homes and homes ready for at least 72 hours create an emergency communications appropriate responses.

Prepare a Ready Kit of Basic Emergency Supplies


- Water: at least one gallon per person per day
- Food: at least a three-day supply
- Manual can opener: If kit contains canned food
- Radio: battery-powered or hand-cranked
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First-aid kit
- Whistle: to signal for help
- Face mask: to help filter contaminants
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties
- Wrench or pliers: to turn off utilities
- Local maps: in case you need to find your way

Create an Emergency Communication Plan

- Create a list of important phone numbers
- Identify an out-of-town contact: might be easier to make a long-distance call to someone in another state
- Identify a neighborhood spot to meet in case of a disaster.
- Identify a meeting place away from home
- Map out evacuation routes and exits
- Know your insurance policies

Stay Informed about Potential Threats

- Find out what types of disasters are most likely to affect your area
- Learn your community's warning system
- Familiarize yourself with the local emergency alert system
- Monitor NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts
- Follow instructions of local, state and federal officials



Ready Family Emergency Plan

Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.

Make sure your family has a plan in case of an emergency. Before an emergency happens, sit down together and decide how you will get in contact with each other, where you will go and what you will do in an emergency. Keep a copy of this plan in your emergency supply kit or another safe place where you can access it in the event of a disaster.

Out-of-Town Contact Name: _____ Telephone Number: _____
 Email: _____
 Neighborhood Meeting Place: _____ Telephone Number: _____
 Regional Meeting Place: _____ Telephone Number: _____
 Evacuation Location: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Fill out the following information for each family member and keep it up to date.

Name:	Social Security Number:	Important Medical Information:
Date of Birth: _____	_____	_____
Name: _____	Social Security Number: _____	Important Medical Information: _____
Date of Birth: _____	_____	_____
Name: _____	Social Security Number: _____	Important Medical Information: _____
Date of Birth: _____	_____	_____
Name: _____	Social Security Number: _____	Important Medical Information: _____
Date of Birth: _____	_____	_____
Name: _____	Social Security Number: _____	Important Medical Information: _____
Date of Birth: _____	_____	_____
Name: _____	Social Security Number: _____	Important Medical Information: _____
Date of Birth: _____	_____	_____

Write down where your family spends the most time: work, school and other places you frequent. Schools, daycare providers, workplaces and apartment buildings should all have site-specific emergency plans that you and your family need to know about.


Work Location One	School Location One
Address: _____	Address: _____
Phone Number: _____	Phone Number: _____
Evacuation Location: _____	Evacuation Location: _____
Work Location Two	School Location Two
Address: _____	Address: _____
Phone Number: _____	Phone Number: _____
Evacuation Location: _____	Evacuation Location: _____
Work Location Three	School Location Three
Address: _____	Address: _____
Phone Number: _____	Phone Number: _____
Evacuation Location: _____	Evacuation Location: _____
Other place you frequent	Other place you frequent
Address: _____	Address: _____
Phone Number: _____	Phone Number: _____
Evacuation Location: _____	Evacuation Location: _____

Important Information	Name	Telephone Number	Policy Number
Doctor(s): _____			
Other: _____			
Pharmacist: _____			
Medical Insurance: _____			
Homeowners/Rental Insurance: _____			
Veterinarian/Kennel (for pets): _____			

Dial 911 for Emergencies

Online toolkit includes:

- Basic readiness steps flyer
- Emergency supply checklist
- Family emergency plan template
- Family emergency contact pocket cards



Ready Family Emergency Plan

Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.

Make sure your family has a plan in case of an emergency. Fill out these cards and give one to each member of your family to make sure they know who to call and where to meet in case of an emergency.

Family Emergency Plan

EMERGENCY CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: _____

OUT-OF-TOWN CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: _____

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING PLACE: _____

REGIONAL MEETING PLACE: _____

EVACUATION LOCATION: _____

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION: _____

DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES

Ready

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Family Emergency Plan

EMERGENCY CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: _____

OUT-OF-TOWN CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: _____

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING PLACE: _____

REGIONAL MEETING PLACE: _____

EVACUATION LOCATION: _____

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION: _____

DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES

Ready



Disaster Relief Services Key

Disaster Response

Service Type	Organization Offering Services
Assessment Team (Damage/Needs)	American Red Cross http://www.redcross.org/ga/atlanta 404-876-3302 World Renew http://www.worldrenew.net/ 1-800-552-7972
Childcare	United Methodist N. GA Conference http://ngdisasterresponse.ngumc.org/ 678-533-1399 Georgia Baptist Convention http://missiongeorgia.org/georgia-disaster-relief/ 770-455-0404
Crisis Intervention/Chaplaincy	Adventist Community Services http://www.gccsda.com/?option=com_content&view=article&id=18 1-877-227-2702 Georgia Baptist Convention http://missiongeorgia.org/georgia-disaster-relief/ 770-455-0404 Hope Animal Assisted Recovery http://hopeaacr.org/ 1-877-467-3597 Salvation Army http://www.salvationarmy-georgia.org/Display.asp?ID=10 770-441-6200
Chainsaw Team/Debris Removal/Clean Up/Dry Out/Mud Out	Georgia Baptist Convention http://missiongeorgia.org/georgia-disaster-relief/ 770-455-0404 United Methodist Church http://ngdisasterresponse.ngumc.org/ 678-533-1399

Community Involvement Key:

Communications/Transportation

- **Call Center**: A physical location manned by volunteers where people who have been affected by a disaster can call and share their needs. The volunteer who receives the call then relays the information to a group of organizations to see who can go out and help fulfill the need.

Disaster Response

- **Assessment Team (Damage/Needs)**: Immediately following a disaster, it will be necessary to quickly and as accurately as possible assess the damages and impacts. The initial damage assessment focuses on damages to residences, business, and public infrastructure. A timely damage assessment will give important information to emergency managers to enable them to support emergency response personnel and provide resources to the areas in the most need, effectively assisting the population with critical emergency needs.
- **Childcare**: When families go to places like the Disaster Assistance Center to find resources to help them get back to a new normal, childcare is usually needed. With this service, houses of worship will learn the proper way to handle children and keep them safe.
- **Crisis Intervention/Chaplaincy**: This service helps provide mental health service to those affected by an emergency or disaster.
- **Chainsaw Team/Debris Removal/Clean up/Dry out/Mud out:**
 - The **chainsaw team** uses heavy duty, usually stainless steel, chain saws to cut up trees that may be an obstruction in a neighborhood or has caused damage to a resident's home in the event of a disaster. The chain saw teams are trained to properly and safely perform this job before being allowed to go out and do so.



Praise & Preparedness Website

gema.georgia.gov/praise-preparedness





Praise & Preparedness Partnership Program

Complete or update a facility emergency plan plus perform at least three of the actions listed below:

- Create a communications plan to contact congregants in the event of an emergency
- Work with other local organizations to organize, sponsor or participate in an emergency preparedness fair
- Conduct at least one evacuation drill each year or participate in at least one statewide drill, such as the tornado drill conducted during Severe Weather Awareness Week each February
- Promote individual emergency preparedness to members, through a newsletter or other means



Partnership Program (Continued)



Praise & Preparedness Partnership Program Checklist

Your organization must complete an emergency plan and at least three (or more) of the actions below to be recognized as a partner in the campaign. Please check each action completed and submit this form.

- Create or update a facility emergency plan
- Create a communications plan to contact congregants in the event of an emergency
- Work with other local organizations to organize, sponsor or participate in an emergency preparedness fair
- Conduct at least one evacuation drill each year or participate in at least one statewide drill, such as the tornado drill conducted during Severe Weather Awareness Week each February (see the GEMA website or Ready Georgia site for activities taking place)
- Promote individual emergency preparedness to members, through a newsletter or other means

Once you have completed these actions, submit your Praise & Preparedness Partnership checklist to praise@gema.ga.gov or ATTN: Praise & Preparedness, P.O. Box 18055, Atlanta, GA 30316. Visit gema.georgia.gov/praise-preparedness for more information.

Local Emergency Management Agency Signature: _____



Date: _____

House of Worship Leader Signature: _____

Date: _____

- Each house of worship will have a checklist so that they can keep track of the actions that they've completed.
- Engage with your local EMA
- Houses of worship will receive a certificate of recognition and partnership once we have received their checklist

Contact Your Local Emergency Management Agency



Praise & Preparedness Partnership Program Checklist

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- Contact your local EMA to discuss the partnership program and how it can benefit the community, especially if you plan to conduct training related to local disaster relief.
- Once these actions are completed, submit Praise & Preparedness Partnership checklist to praise@gema.ga.gov.





Georgia Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency

Non-governmental Recovery Programs:
Nonprofit, voluntary and faith-based organizations

Joe Barnum
Community Partnerships Manager

Community Involvement

Houses of worship are encouraged to explore new opportunities to become involved in community emergency disaster relief efforts, feeding and sheltering programs



Samaritan's Purse®
INTERNATIONAL RELIEF



Georgia Baptist
Convention
*Serving & Sharing Christ
Throughout the World*



**American
Red Cross**



**National
Voluntary Organizations
Active in Disaster**

COOPERATION | COMMUNICATION | COORDINATION | COLLABORATION





Georgia Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency

Georgia VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster)

40+ nonprofit and faith-based organizations who work together to ensure more efficient and effective services to people impacted by disasters in Georgia.

Operate under the 4 C's: **cooperation, coordination, communication**, and **collaboration** at all levels.

Hold monthly calls, trainings, and exercises. Activate with daily calls and communications during a larger event.

Supported by the **National VOAD** and its organizations and resources.



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Voluntary, nonprofit, and faith-based organizations play a critical role in filling the gaps.





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How do they help?

Nonprofit and faith-based organizations can provide immediate emergency assistance and longer-term recovery assistance.

Advocacy

Bulk Distribution

Case Management

Child Care

Clean-Up and Rebuilding

Clothing + Sanitation Items

Community Outreach

Counseling

Damage Assessment

Debris Removal

Donations Management

Elder Care

Emergency Rapid Repairs

Financial Assistance

Financial Planning

Funeral Services

Health Care

Health & Welfare Inquiries

Mass Care

Mental Health Services

Mitigation Planning

Mobile Feeding

Organizational Mentoring

Pastoral Care

Pet Care

Radio Comm. Services

Relocation Services

Resource Coordination

Sheltering

Sanitation Services

Special Needs

Technical Assistance

Translation Services

Transportation Services

Volunteer Coordination

Warehouse Management



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Georgia VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster)

Statewide network of orgs who collaborate, communicate, coordinate and cooperate.

35+
member
orgs



Local VOAD or COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disaster)

Local network of partner organizations who plan for and lead the coordination of volunteer and donations following a disaster.



Long-Term Recovery Groups (LTRGs)

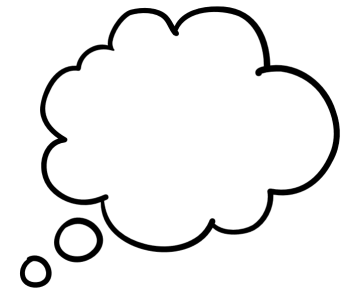
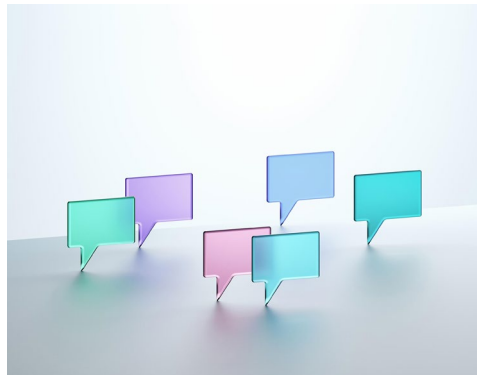
Cooperative body of local partners formed following a disaster that works to directly assist and families and individuals in recovery.





What is a COAD?

- COADs are a collective group of organizations, based within a community or geographic area, which is composed of representatives from public, private and not-for-profit agencies.
- COAD partners can include businesses, faith-based organizations, community organizations, disability organizations, and community stakeholders.
- COADs must have a strong working relationship with the Local EMA.





Purpose of COAD

A COAD's mission is to coordinate emergency human services, thus ensuring that human needs, inherent in a disaster situation, are evaluated and addressed.

Successful COADs will enhance the community's ability

- to mitigate
- prepare for
- respond to
- recover from disasters.

COAD should provide a forum for information sharing by promoting the 4 C's.

- coordination
- communication
- cooperation
- collaboration

COADs are an example of FEMA's 'Whole Community' approach to emergency management.



Benefits of COAD

- Maximizes communication, collaboration, cooperation, and coordination between organizations.
- Minimizes duplication of services.
- Increases community awareness of member organizations and the services they offered.
- Improves efficiency of service delivery.
- Enhances community resilience.
- Boosts community engagement in all human service activities.
- Prepares community for disasters.
- Connections to State and National disaster resources.



Steps to Form COAD

Talk to local emergency manager.

Reach out to GA VOAD/GEMA Community Partnerships Manager.

Call a meeting of local leaders to discuss forming a COAD.

Create a working group.

Formation of COAD



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What happens when survivors aren't eligible or can't access federal recovery programs?

- Live in an undeclared county
- Unable to navigate application process
- Distrust in government
- Ineligibility despite hardship
- Other uncovered expenses
- Simply not enough to get back on their feet



Thank You!

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Questions?