

All Hazard Incident Response

Wildland firefighters often respond to large scale disasters that can cover extensive geographic areas and impact many people. Often times these impacts are to large urban centers. Typical assignment tasks include search and rescue, debris clearing, and distribution of basic necessities. When responding, consider that basic services, utilities, transportation, medical care, credit card/ATM capability, and law enforcement and security will likely be disrupted. Be considerate of those impacted by the disaster.

- Plan to be self-sufficient for 24 to 48 hours.
- Bring a GPS unit if possible.
- Be prepared for extreme weather conditions associated with storm disasters.
- Establish central rally points for assigned responders.
- Develop local contacts for information gathering.
- Dust and debris may interfere with respiration and visibility.
- Weakened structures, fires, leaking hazardous materials, raw sewage contamination, and waterborne diseases may pose additional risks.
- Mobility and access may be impaired by critical infrastructure damage, disrupted utilities, structural collapse, flooding, ice covered roads, or other barriers.
- In the case of natural disasters, be aware of the additional threats following the initial storm or earthquake.