

CHURCH OF THE PACIFIC: DISASTER PLAN

The mission of the Church of the Pacific, a united Church of Christ, is to bear witness to God's love and to do Christ's work of service and justice.

Christ calls us and we aspire to: Follow his teachings; Worship together and nurture faithfulness and spiritual growth; provide community leadership and service through our own efforts and in cooperation with other churches and other community organizations and welcome ALL people with love into the fellowship of the Church.

Thus:

Our role when our Island community is faced with a natural or manmade disaster, it is imperative that we have helped in the preparedness before the actual event, assist during the disaster and be ready for and able to support both the short and long term recovery period after the event spiritually and physically for those in need.

Facing the potential disasters on Kauai can be daunting but with good planning the following aspects of disaster can be mitigated.

The risk to person and property is determined by the type of disaster we usually face and the steps we take to prevent loss of life, injury or property damage.

The cycle for disaster includes: Preparedness→Incident→Response→ Recovery→Mitigation.

Preparedness: Preparedness includes activities that seek to provide a safe area, prevent casualties, expedite response activities, and minimize property and physical human and animal damage in the event of a disaster.

Personal Preparedness: Have important papers in a water proof container, Medications for 7 days, first aid kit, water treatment tablets or bleach and water, portable flashlight, hygiene/personal items and change of clothes. Portable radio/cell phones/computers/ipad or other device that can pick up vital information, list of emergency contacts (family/friends, doctor, insurance), emergency food supply (if you have pets have food for seven days, medication, plastic bags etc.) regular trash bags, duct tape, toilet paper and wipes/moist towlets. Cards, books, sleeping bags, pillows blankets, eye glasses, cash.

Know where emergency shut off for gas, electricity and water are.

Be prepared for evacuation or shelter in place based on the nature of the event.

Incident: The response is initiated as soon as incident has occurred or prior to the onset of an event such as an approaching tsunami, hurricane or storm.

Note if the disaster has been declared is localized, State wide or National, also note level of threat based on what the disaster is (flooding, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic activity, wildfire, land slide/erosion).

Be sure your house hold is safe, all members are accounted for and your disaster kit is within easy reach. Note if there are neighbors who have difficulty with mobility or need assistance and are prepared to evacuate or be sheltered in place.

Activate telephone tree and ham radio contact if phone lines are not available. Text can be sent even if cell service is not available.

Turn on radio or TV if available to determine if Civil Defense has ordered evacuation, shelter in place or other direction. Note bridge closures, severe flooding areas, pending land fall in hurricane, mud slides or other unsafe areas and drivable roads.

If safe go to church and begin to assemble disaster equipment and stored food from pantry. Contact Ham Operator to verify availability of services at the Church of the Pacific through Civil Defense, Red Cross, CDS or other voluntary agencies if necessary.

As people begin to arrive, note name, address and other information including the number of people and what service (s) was provided for each person in the Church that volunteer and those that come for care. Keep this information in a confidential place to be given to the proper authorities when able.

Note possible need for first aid, emotional trauma, and spiritual care needs. Check for possible condition of damage to the environment that was left behind, if possible on the return to the environment take pictures/ video and carefully account for damage, friends, neighbors, those living alone and those that are handicapped or mentally challenged and may need further assistance.

Evaluation/Recovery: Recovery starts soon after impact and may last for an extended period of time while infrastructure is restored, systems are returned and daily routines reemerge.

Do an after action assessment as soon as possible by noting how many people were served, fed or who came for shelter. Note the communication that took place with local agencies, county, voluntary organizations and those served.

Check and replenish supplies, clean area and verify usefulness of supplies and actions taken during the event.

Check for caregiver/ helper fatigue, if disaster has lasted more than 12 hours check for status of relief workers, set space for rest and food to include personal / hygiene breaks.

Follow up with family recovery plan for those seen at the church from Government and voluntary organizations who can verify needs and address them. Have resource referral/contact information or location.

In all interactions demonstrate non judgmental, non condemnation attitudes. Motivate, listen, encourage and assure privacy.

Mitigation: The important element of a long term recovery program that helps to reduce disaster's devastation and risk while aiding in permanent recovery to people and property. Mitigation is also preparedness for activities that lessen the impact of disasters.

Review emergency contingency plan, educate and make the community aware of the plan, evaluate potential high, medium and low risk areas, check the home for potential risk and individual preparation. Check Church plan and continue to work closely with VOAD, Church world services, UCC, local and Governmental agencies including local Fire and Police Departments.

Assure that there is a church after action group that meets to discuss potential problems, progress, things done well and areas of improvement for care givers and those receiving care. Begin to note what needs to be cleaned, resupplied and restock items that were used.

Designate a follow up team to be sure areas of concern were addressed with clients, members and all using our services and those that provided services.

Look at long range goals for recovery and tasks for drills and collaboration with community and Governmental agencies to assist in being ready for our next disaster.