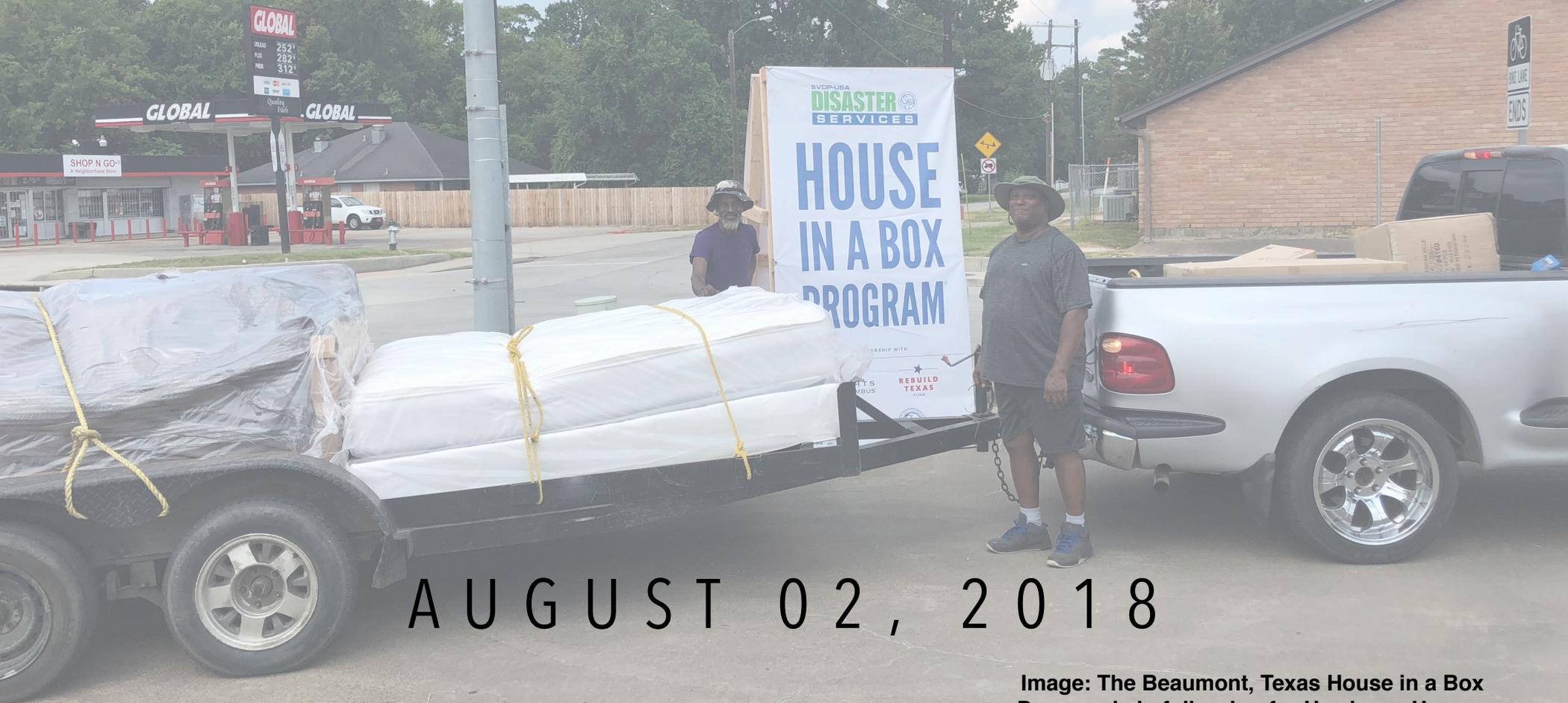


# DISASTER RECOVERY CORNER



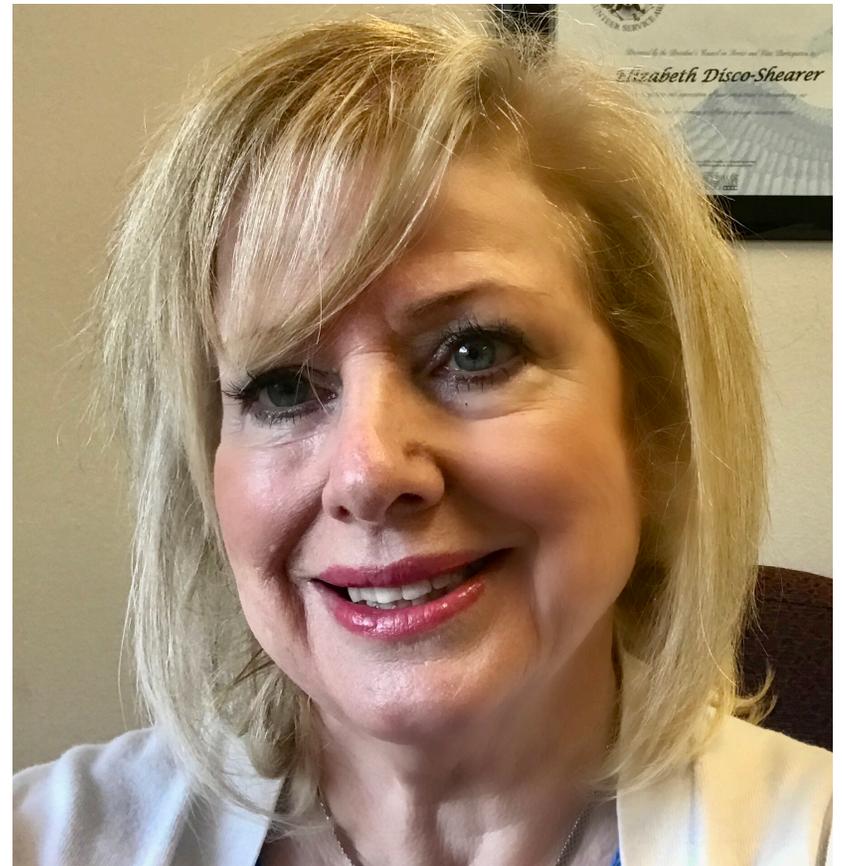
AUGUST 02, 2018

Image: The Beaumont, Texas House in a Box Program is in full swing for Hurricane Harvey Survivors.

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# AN UPDATE FROM OUR CEO, ELIZABETH DISCO-SHEARER

It has been a devastating week for fires in Northern California. The Carr Fires in Redding, California have taken six lives and there are ten people missing at this time. The fire has burned more than 110,000 acres and destroyed more than 1,200 structures. The Disaster Services Corporation is working with our local Western Region Disaster Rep and our local Conferences in the area to help support disaster recovery efforts. Preparedness for disasters is so critical and knowing how you would evacuate and what to take with you in a fire, could save your life and those of loved ones. This month in San Diego will be offering a Disaster Preparedness Workshop on August 29, 2018. If you are attending the National Assembly, please register for this important workshop.



# A R E C A P F R O M M A Y W I L D F I R E T R A I N I N G

## Shareables

[Wildfire Information Sheet \(PDF\)](#)

[Cloud of Smoke \(video\)](#)

[Fires and Your Health \(link\)](#)

[Fires Current Conditions \(link\)](#)

[When the fire starts \(video\)](#)

[United States Fire Administration \(link\)](#)

[Smokey Bear \(link\)](#)

[United States Forest Service \(link\)](#)

[American Red Cross \(link\)](#)

[Wildfire Banners and Web Badges \(link\)](#)

[NFPA's Firewise USA \(link\)](#)



# A R E C A P F R O M M A Y W I L D F I R E T R A I N I N G

## **Wildfires**

This page explains what actions to take if you receive a fire weather watch alert from the National Weather Service for your local area and what to do before, during, and after a wildfire.

## **Know your risk**

Wildfires can occur anywhere and can destroy homes, businesses, infrastructure, natural resources, and agriculture. For more information, download the [How to Prepare for a Wildfire](#) guide, which provides the basics of wildfires, explains how to protect yourself and your property, and details the steps to take now so that you can act quickly when you, your home, or your business is in danger.

## **What**

A wildfire is an unplanned, unwanted fire burning in a natural area, such as a forest, grassland, or prairie. As building development expands into these areas, homes and businesses may be situated in or near areas susceptible to wildfires. This is called the wildland urban interface.

Wildfires can cause death or injury to people and animals, damage or destroy structures, and disrupt community services including transportation, gas, power, communications, and other services. The impact may cover large areas with extensive burning, embers traveling more than a mile away from the wildfire itself, and smoke causing health issues for people far away from the fire. Wildfires damage watersheds leave areas prone to flooding and mudslides for many years.

## **Where**

Wildfires can occur anywhere in the country. They can start in remote wilderness areas, in national parks, or even in your back yard. Wildfires can start from natural causes, such as lightning, but most are caused by humans, either accidentally—from cigarettes, campfires, or outdoor burning—or intentionally.

# A R E C A P F R O M M A Y W I L D F I R E T R A I N I N G

## **Fire Weather Watch**

Fire weather watch = dangerous fire weather conditions are possible over the next 12 to 72 hours

## **Steps to Take**

- Turn on your TV/radio. You'll get the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.
- Know where to go. If you are ordered to evacuate, know the route to take and have plan of where you will go. Check-in with your friends and family.
- Keep your car fueled, in good condition, and stocked with emergency supplies and a change of clothes.

## **Make a Wildfire Plan**

Know your wildfire risk.

Familiarize yourself with local emergency plans. Know where to go and how to get there should you need to evacuate. Make a wildfire emergency plan including an evacuation plan and a communication plan.

Many communities have text or email alerting systems for emergency notifications. To find out what alerts are available in your area, search the Internet with your town, city, or county name and the word "alerts."

Build or restock your emergency preparedness kit, including a flashlight, batteries, cash and first aid supplies, medications and updated asthma action plan. Stay tuned to your phone alerts, TV, or radio, for weather updates, emergency instructions or evacuation orders. Pay attention to air quality alerts. For people with asthma, heart or lung disease, follow your doctor's advice. Everyone should stay inside if there are high levels of smoke.

# A RECAP FROM MAY WILDFIRE TRAINING

## During a Wildfire

- If there is a wildfire in the area, be ready to evacuate on short notice.
- If you see a wildfire and haven't received evacuation orders yet, call 9-1-1. Don't assume that someone else has already called.
- If ordered to evacuate during a wildfire, do it immediately- make sure and tell someone where you are going and when you have arrived.
- If you or someone you are with has been burned, call 9-1-1 or seek help immediately; cool and cover burns to reduce chance of further injury or infection.
- If you are not ordered to evacuate but smoky conditions exist, stay inside in a safe location or go to a community building where smoke levels are lower.



# A R E C A P F R O M M A Y W I L D F I R E T R A I N I N G

## After a Wildfire

### Returning Home

- Return home only when authorities say it is safe.
- For several hours after the fire, maintain a "fire watch." Check and re-check for smoke, sparks or hidden embers throughout the house, including the roof and the attic.
- Use caution when entering burned areas as hazards may still exist, including hot spots, which can flare up without warning. Evacuate immediately if you smell smoke.

### Cleaning Your Home

- Wear a NIOSH certified-respirator (dust mask) and wet debris down to minimize breathing dust particles.
- Discard any food that has been exposed to heat, smoke or soot.
- Do NOT use water that you think may be contaminated to wash dishes, brush teeth, prepare food, wash hands, or to make ice or baby formula.
- Photograph damage to your property for insurance purposes.



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# A R E C A P F R O M M A Y W I L D F I R E T R A I N I N G

## **Prepare Your Home**

Create and maintain an area approximately 30' away from your home that is free of anything that will burn, such as wood piles, dried leaves, newspapers, brush, and other landscaping that can burn. From 30 feet to 100 feet reduce or replace as much of the most flammable vegetation as possible and prune vegetation, create "fuel breaks," such as driveways, gravel walkways, and lawns. Work with neighbors to create spaces up to 200 feet around your homes where vegetation is thinned to remove underbrush and tall trees do not touch each other for continuous canopies.

Regularly clean the roof and gutters.

Connect garden hoses long enough to reach any area of the home and fill garbage cans, tubs, or other large containers with water. Review your homeowner's insurance policy and also prepare/update a list of your home's contents. Designate a room that can be closed off from outside air. Close all doors and windows. Set up a portable air cleaner to keep indoor pollution levels low when smoky conditions exist.

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# TINA MARTINEZ

## PAYROLL SPECIALIST



I began my career with a major plumbing company and progressed from a payroll clerk to advancing to the company's office manager. I processed payroll, electronic deposits and employee payroll adjustments. Responded to employee inquiries regarding payroll and timekeeping. Prepared and filed sales receipts, handled tax returns, gross receipts, franchise taxes, annual reports and other misc. filings. Processed data validation and transmission of sales for weekly, semi-monthly and sales payrolls. Handled all contracts, change orders, proposals and job quotes for new commercial construction projects. Provided all material and skill craftsmen personnel. I have worked as an Assistant to an Entrepreneur who owned 186 franchised restaurants. I handled all the President's and other company VIP's travel arrangements and expenses. Organized all files and spreadsheets. Collaborated with other admin assistants, human resource and finance departments on special projects and events. Also, I was an Assistant to the owner of an international packaging company that specialized in purses, handbags, jewelry and other accessories. Handled all his travel arrangements, domestic and international. Handled all personal business matters and any other issues that came up during business hours.

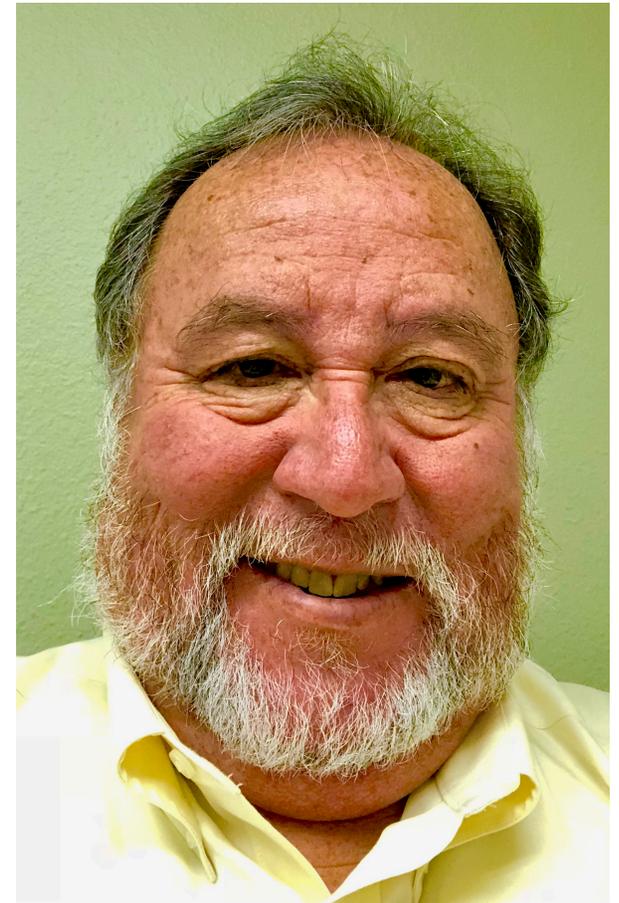
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# REV. MR. HECTOR MALDONADO

## DISASTER CASE MANAGER

My name is Rev. Mr. Hector Maldonado and I am a member of our Orange, Texas SVDP disaster recovery team. A native of El Paso, Texas, my family and I moved to the Southeast Texas area in 1995. I and my wife Cindy, have been married for 37 years, and have 3 children, Hector II, Stephen, and Diane, as well as one crazy grandson, Kass Maddex, age 3. I was ordained into the Permanent Diaconate in 2006, and am assigned to the Diocese of Beaumont, at St. Francis of Assisi Parish. I am also a disabled Navy veteran. With service being an important part of my diaconate ministry, I felt that assisting others with recovery was important, since I, my wife and my family, are also survivors of Harvey's devastating flood waters. I feel that my efforts With SVDP USA-DSC is simply a further extension of my calling and an opportunity to continue to serve my parish and community in a positive manner.



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ANGELA CARTER  
DISASTER CASE MANAGER



My name is Angela Carter. I am a mother of two and a grandmother of four. I have a Bachelor's and Master's degree in the field of Social Work.

My professional background stems from working with the elderly and disabled population. Since 2007 I have been employed in long-term care and rehabilitation.

In August of 2017 Hurricane Harvey devastated the Southeast Texas area. Many people were affected by this natural disaster, some people I knew, most I did not. For a few days I was unable to go to my job because of the routes being blocked by the flood waters. So, I begin to volunteer at a local shelter in my hometown of Jasper, Texas. I saw the need to reach out and help as many as I could. St. Vincent de Paul Disaster Services Corporation offered that opportunity and I look forward to using my abilities to work one on one with individuals and families as I and my community recover together.

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# MONIQUE BRENT IN ACTION



Monique Brent, Manager of Volunteer Programs, Deployments, and Administrative Support for Hurricane Harvey Relief is hard at work in the Fredricksburg, Virginia Disaster Services Corporation, SVDPUSA Office. Monique is a great support and we are blessed to have her talent supporting DSC.

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# HOUSE IN A BOX® - BEAUMONT IN FOCUS

The Project Comeback Texas House in a Box® Program is underway throughout the state of Texas. These images spotlight the Beaumont, Texas program. Furniture is delivered to a centralized distribution warehouse in San Antonio and from there truckloads are delivered to stations throughout the state. Clients are vetted through DSC's Disaster Case Management Program. St. Vincent de Paul and the Disaster Services Corporation target the most vulnerable to earn these kits as the need is great and all these home goods are available through donations, grant programs, and partnerships with other faith based community partners from the National VOAD organization. To learn more about DSC's HIB® Program visit: <https://www.svdpdisaster.org/house-box-program> and consider donating at: <https://www.svdpdisaster.org/civicrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=1>



# MARSHALLTOWN, IA TORNADO RESPONSE

## **Quick and some approximate stats:**

- About 700 households were affected by the tornado.
- About 500 homes sustained major damage.
- 616 families/households came through the Marshalltown MARC
- 265 families/households hit our table
- We provided \$10,675 in gas and food assistance via Casey (gas) and Walmart (food) \$25 gift cards (427 gift cards)

## **MARC SVdP Table Volunteers:**

- TUE 7/24: 1 Des Moines Vincentians (me), 12 hrs; 1 Des Moines non-Vincentian (Mike Beck) and 7 Marshalltown non-Vincentians, 36 hours;
- WED 7/25: 2 Des Moines Vincentians (Rita Dette and I), 30 hrs; and 7 Marshalltown non-Vincentian volunteers, 22 hrs;
- THU 7/26: 3 Des Moines Vincentians (Rolla and Mary Lu Herman, and I), 34 hrs; 4 Marshalltown non-Vincentians, 12 hrs.

A Note from Jim Wachuta, Council President

Thanks to all of your help and guidance it went, in my opinion, very smoothly and clean on our part. Our table was very popular and the MARC coordinator really appreciated our contribution. Our volunteers were very efficient, compassionate and wonderful to work with and kept the line moving. All of the folks were grateful for our presence and the fact that we were there to help, even though our offerings were small in comparison to the challenges they were facing! I think we made a pretty good impression on the Marshalltown volunteers as well and they were grateful for the opportunity to serve their community in this way, seemed to enjoy the experience and got personal satisfaction from serving.

In addition to the cards we provided, Steve and I agreed to offer ALL of our services in Des Moines to any Marshalltown tornado victim and we provided each of them hardcopy instructions on services available and how to access them. The staff has been instructed to be sure to work with them should they get a call from one of them, and to treat them with TLC.

Thanks again for all of your help!

Yours in friendship and service,  
Jim Wachuta, Council President

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# MARSHALLTOWN, IA TORNADO RESPONSE



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# MARSHALLTOWN, IA TORNADO RESPONSE

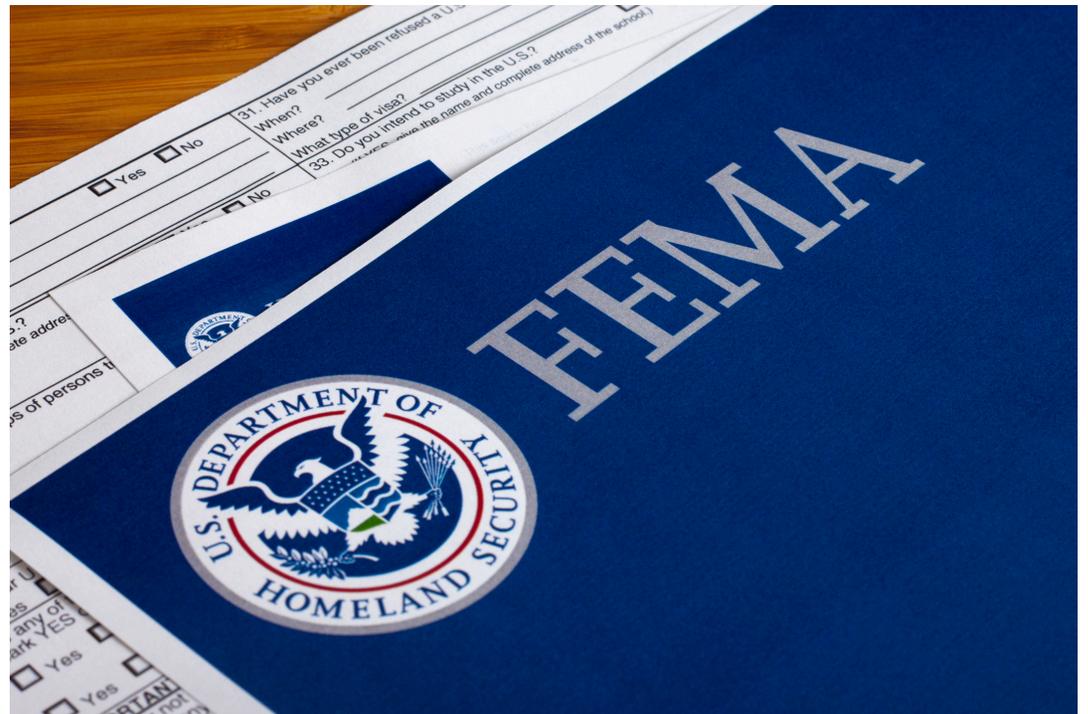


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# OUR FEATURED MONTHLY GUEST BLOG: BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER: FEMA AND THE DISASTER SERVICES CORP., SVDP-USA

FEMA maintains strong relationships with many voluntary organizations under the umbrella of the **National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (National VOAD)**, of which the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a member. Together, we promote the National movement's core principles — cooperation, communication, coordination, and collaboration — in order to build strong, resilient communities and help survivors impacted by disasters.

To continue reading our guest blog click the link found here: <http://bit.ly/2ubwhdy>



# FOR MORE INFORMATION



Please stop by our newly updated website: [www.svdpcdisaster.org](http://www.svdpcdisaster.org)

An online store and training resources will soon be available exclusively for Vincentians active in disaster recovery.

Follow us on Twitter: [@svdpcusadisaster](https://twitter.com/svdpcusadisaster)

Follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/DisasterServicesCorp/](https://www.facebook.com/DisasterServicesCorp/)

Follow us on LinkedIn: Disaster Services Corporation, SVDP-USA

Monique Brent, [mbrent@svdpcdisaster.org](mailto:mbrent@svdpcdisaster.org)  
Manager of Volunteer Programs, Deployments

**Please consider supporting our mission by donating your time, providing financial support, and/or becoming active in your local community on disaster preparedness and recovery as a Vincentian.**

For those of you interested in volunteering, please stop by our website at [www.svdpcdisaster.org](http://www.svdpcdisaster.org) and click on the volunteer button at the top right corner. It will take you to a webform to complete. This information will help us gain better insight on you and be able to better pair you with what we have open and available to volunteer with. We will set up a one on one phone call shortly after the form has been completed. As a reminder, we cannot continue all these great works without your help. Please consider donating to the general disaster fund at [www.svdpcdisaster.org](http://www.svdpcdisaster.org) to keep our programs running so that we can in turn support those who have been impacted by disaster here in the United States.

