DISASTER RECOVERY CORNER

Flooding in Focus

March 8, 2018

A LOOK AT FIRST BOOK MARKET PLACE

Gail Bertrand, Director of Long Term Recovery Programs states, “We received a grant from First Book Market Place, for the Louisiana Disaster Case Management Program. These are books for children 0-18. The recipients are the children of our clients affected by the March 2016 floods. Robyn has selected and received the most wonderful books and families are coming by the pick them up. The families are delighted with the books.”

Shown Left: Robyn Sanchez with in Shreveport, LA who is an employee of DSC working on the Disaster Case Management Program.

MARCH BLOG: PROVIDING DISASTER ASSISTANCE IN LOW ATTENTION DISASTERS FROM THE CENTER FOR DISASTER PHILANTHROPY

With a record-setting $306 billion price tag for natural disasters, 2017 was, the Year of Loss. We all heard about the California wildfires and Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria because they all were given hours of national news coverage that included interviews with survivors, news about FEMA, and celebrities on TV raising money.

But in the ten Midwest states I serve, we had one of the largest floods in Missouri history, record breaking wild fires in Kansas, Oklahoma and Montana, and dozens and dozens of small, localized disasters. But you may have not heard about these losses because low attention disasters aren't news worthy. Click HERE to continue reading.

Shown Above: A flooded home in Van Buren, Missouri, population 871, after the May 2017 floods.

UPCOMING DEPLOYMENTS TO USVI

Shown Below: Images of Vincentians (local and deployed) to St. Thomas of the US Virgin Islands with Bishop Bevard.

We have a series of four deployments coming up from March through June and are actively fundraising to cover the costs. We will alternate between St. Croix and St. Thomas, with a one week long deployment each month. As there are no Vincentian conferences on the island of St. Croix we will also be trying to recruit and begin a conference there on the ground in addition to providing a Parish Recovery Assistance Center (P-RAC) to support the local community that was impacted by hurricanes Irma and Maria. ***Currently we are full for March and April at this time and are recruiting for May and June's deployments.*** Please pray for our Vincentians as they take on these great tasks. For interest in our mission and work that we carry out, please visit us at: www.svdpdisaster.org

MARCH IS SPRING WEATHER SAFETY MONTH

Each Month FEMA National Readiness establishes training that National VOAD members are encouraged to share with their faith based and non-profit members.

With spring comes a feeling of renewal. Families everywhere begin cleaning out their basements and garages. Windows are opened, flowers bloom and the days grow longer thanks in part to Daylight Saving Time, which this year began on March 13.

When you set your clocks forward, the National Safety Council reminds you also to review a safety checklist for your home. We covered Fire Alarms and Carbon Monoxide preparedness training last month and now we'll focus on additional items in preparation of Spring weather.

Family Emergency Plan

The National Safety Council recommends every **family have an emergency plan** in place in the event of a natural disaster or other catastrophic event. Spring is a great time to review that plan with family members to make sure they know what to do.

Have a home and car emergency kit. The Federal Emergency Management Agency says an emergency kit should include one gallon per day of water for each person, at least a three-day supply of food, flashlight and batteries, first aid kit, filter mask, plastic sheeting and duct tape, and medicines. Visit the FEMA website for a complete list.

The emergency plan also should include:

A communications plan to outline how your family members will contact one another if they are not in the same place and where you should meet if it's safe to go outside

A shelter-in-place plan if outside air is contaminated; FEMA recommends sealing windows, doors and air vents with plastic sheeting

A getaway plan including various routes and destinations in different directions

What Else Should You Do This Spring?

NSC recommends you take unwanted or expired medicines to a prescription drop box or take-back event near you, update your first-aid kit and, most of all, get outside and have fun!

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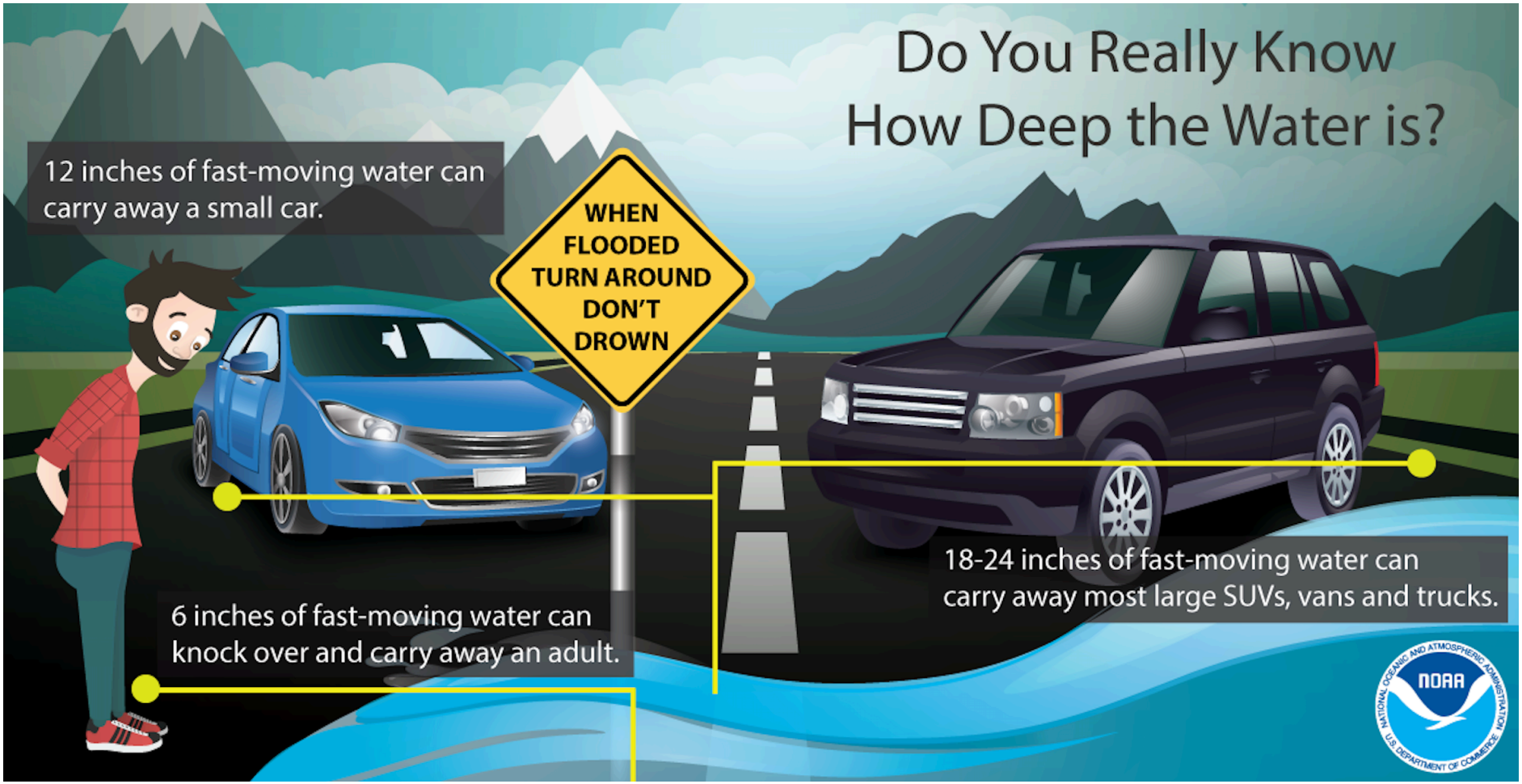

Turn Around Don't Drown Video Found Here: https://youtu.be/eI6mIlHKrVY

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Get Weather Ready Video Found Here: https://youtu.be/uE66ganofF0

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Find a American Red Cross Shelter Near You:
http://www.redcross.org/get-help/disaster-relief-and-recovery-services/find-an-open-shelter

What to Pack if You go to a Shelter:
Emergencies can happen suddenly and you may not have time to pack. Your safety is most important – grab your loved ones and get out of harm's way! However if you do have time to pack, please consider these tips.

Do Bring:
Bedding
Clothing
Medications
Your child's stuffed animal,
Blanket or other "lovey"
Your emergency kit

Don't Bring:
Alcoholic beverages
Illegal drugs
Weapons

FACT vs. FICTION

Fiction:

You will never be able to buy flood insurance if your property has been flooded in the past.

Fact:

You are still eligible to purchase flood insurance after your property has flooded, provided your community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Check with your local emergency management office for more information.

After a Flood:
Let friends and family know you're safe. Register yourself as safe on the Safe and Well website. If evacuated, return only when authorities say it is safe to do so. Continue listening to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for updated information and instructions. Keep children and pets away from hazardous sites and floodwater.

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Prepare Your Organization for a Flood PlayBook:
https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1409930512086-e6a6bd53bf0cc73603f0a28771137cb3/prepareathon_playbook_flood_final_090414_508.pdf

American Red Cross Flood Safety Checklist:
http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m4340128_Flood.pdf

The National Insurance Program:
https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program

FOR MORE INFORMATION

SVDP-USA DISASTER SERVICES

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.

Please stop by our newly updated website: www.svdpdisaster.org

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

Follow us on Twitter: @svdpusadisaster

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/DisasterServicesCorp/

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

Brooke Newton, Deputy Director: bnewton@svdpdisaster.org

For those of you interested in volunteering, please stop by our website at www.svpdisaster.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.svdpdisaster.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.