
DISASTER RECOVERY CORNER

JULY 26, 2018



AN UPDATE FROM OUR CEO, ELIZABETH DISCO-SHEARER

This past week has brought an unprecedented amount of rain to the Northeast. Sadly, there has been loss of life from the flooding and extensive home damages. What many people do not realize is that they may not have the necessary insurance to rebound from floods.

Flood damage is excluded under standard homeowners and renter's insurance policies. Separate flood insurance coverage, however, is available for both homeowners and renters as a separate policy both from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and from a few private insurers.

As Vincentians, we work with individuals who have been impacted by manmade and natural disasters to help them on the road to recovery. One of the most important things we can do to help families prepare for disasters and to not fall into situational poverty is to educate them on what type of coverage they will need for various disasters. Please go to <https://www.floodsmart.gov/> for more information.



PREPARE BEFORE A FLOOD

Prepare for Flooding

Protecting yourself today means preparing your home or workplace, collecting sources of information, developing an emergency communications plan and knowing what to do when a flood is approaching your home or business. FEMA's [How to Prepare for a Flood](#) is a valuable resource.

Things to know and do before the flood

- Reduce the risk of damage from flooding by elevating critical utilities, such as electrical panels, switches, sockets, wiring, appliances and heating systems.
- In areas with repetitive flooding, consider elevating the entire structure.
- Make sure basements are waterproofed and your sump pump is working. Then, install a battery-operated backup in case of power failure.
- Installing a water alarm will also let you know if water is accumulating in your basement.
- Clear debris from gutters and downspouts.
- Anchor any fuel tanks.
- Move furniture, valuables and important documents to a safe place.
- Store copies of irreplaceable documents (such as birth certificates, passports, etc.) in a safe, dry place. Keep originals in a safe deposit box.
- Build an emergency supply kit. Food, bottled water, first aid supplies, medicines and a battery-operated radio should be ready to go when you are. Visit [Ready.gov](#) for a complete disaster supply checklist.
- Plan and practice a flood evacuation route. Ask someone out of state to be your “family contact” in an emergency, and make sure everyone knows the contact’s address and phone number.
- Make a pet plan. Many shelters do not allow pets. Make plans now on what to do with your pets if you are required to evacuate your residence.

Check your policy and coverage to be sure you have sufficient coverage

- Standard insurance policies do not cover flooding, but flood insurance is available for homeowners, renters and business owners through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
- Know your flood risk. Learn if you live, work or travel through areas that are prone to flooding. To help communities understand their risk of flooding, FEMA creates flood maps (Flood Insurance Rate Maps, or FIRMs) to show the locations of high-risk, moderate-to- low-risk and undetermined risk areas. To check your flood risk, look up your address in the [FEMA Flood Map Service Center](#).
- Conduct a household inventory, and keep a record of all major household items and valuables. These documents are critically important when filing insurance claims. For help conducting a home inventory, visit [knowyourstuff.org](#).

What to do when a storm is imminent or occurring

- Be smart. [Know Your Alerts and Warnings](#).
- Stay informed. Monitor the weather reports provided by your local news media. Consider buying a NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) All Hazards receiver, which receives broadcast alerts directly from NWS.
- Plan for how you will stay informed if there is a power outage.
- You can use USGS’s [WaterAlert](#) system to receive text or email messages when a stream in your area is rising to flood level.

DISASTER CASE MANAGER

GLEN SWIFT



I am a Disaster Case Manager with SVDP-USA Disaster Services in Texas City since June 4th. I actively participate in veteran resource activities sponsored by the Galveston County Long Term Recovery Group.

I am a military veteran and an active lead volunteer with SERVE (South East Resource Veterans' Effort). The mission of SERVE is to bring gulf coast area veterans groups and organizations together to combine resources and information to improve the lives of veterans, military personnel and their families. We meet monthly to discuss our needs, successes and areas of opportunities to expand. We recently completed two major rebuilds for veterans in Dickinson and San Leon. Our goal is to complete one major rebuild per month starting in August – September. I have been able to refer veterans impacted by Hurricane Harvey to get their homes repaired through this program.

Previously, I managed the conversion of Hurricane Ike Disaster Vouchers, HUD-VASH Emergency Disaster Vouchers, IKE Home Repair Mitigation and Family Self-Sufficiency Programs at the Galveston Housing Authority, supported emergency financial disaster relief assistance and disaster recovery case management activities with the Galveston County Community Action Council and Mainland Community Partnership.

PUERTO RICO UPDATES

William Rodriguez, SVDP Council President in PR, visited Yabucoa PR this week and conducted assessments on homes needed roof and structural repairs. DSC is working with Team Rubicon on a major roof repair program in Puerto Rico for the survivors of Hurricane Maria.



PUERTO RICO UPDATES

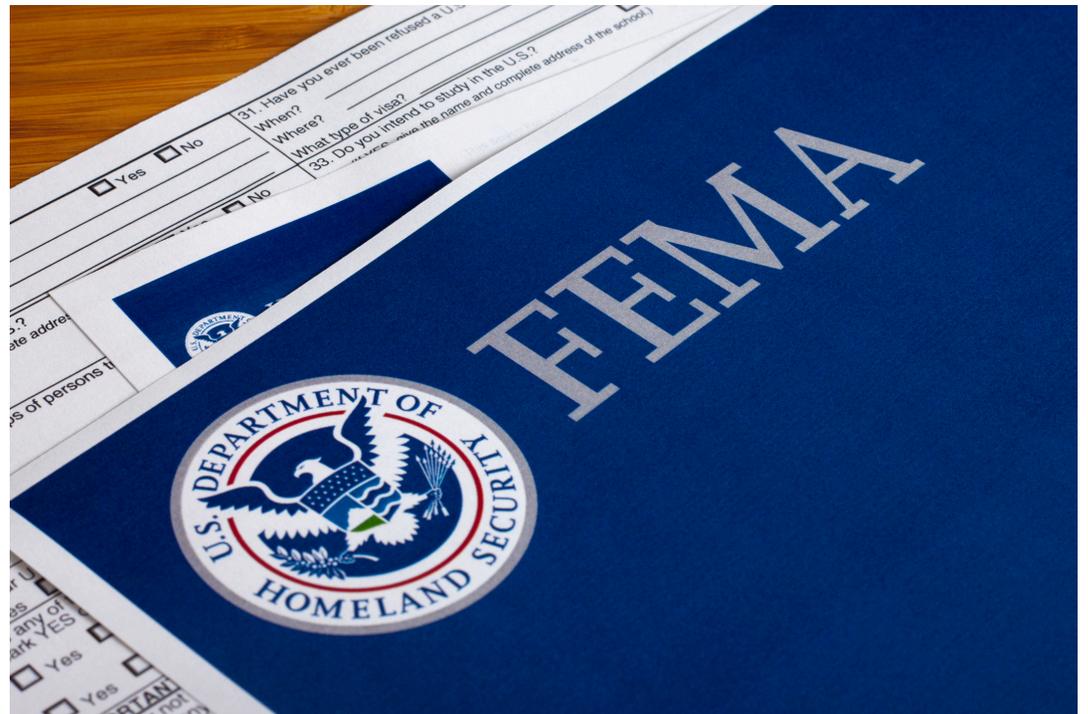
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OUR FEATURED MONTHLY GUEST BLOG: BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER: FEMA AND THE DISASTER SERVICES CORP., SVDP-USA

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>



A RECAP ON FLOODING IN THE NEWS



Flooding in Colorado from this past week's rain storm.

East Coast Rain Forecast Floods: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2018/07/23/east-coast-rain-forecast-floods/817844002/>

Central PA Flooding: <https://www.pennlive.com/expo/news/erry-2018/07/fd555fc11f6741/flooding-in-central-pa-the-lat.html>

Hershey Park Flooding: <http://6abc.com/weather/hersheypark-reopens-following-flooding-some-rides-closed/3812979/>

Flash Flooding in Colorado: <https://www.denverpost.com/2018/07/23/flash-flood-shuts-down-colorado-24/>

Flooding in Baltimore: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/weather/weather-blog/bs-md-weather-tuesday-20180724-story.html>

Extreme Weather Wildfires and Flooding: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/extreme-weather-temperatures-wildfires-flooding-forecast-today-2018-07-23/>

W E M O V E D !



"Responding to Local Disasters Nationally"

The DSC DC Metro Office has Relocated to:
600 Caroline St., Suite D
Fredericksburg, Virginia
22401

DSC Headquarters:
320 Decker Drive; Suite 100
Irving, Texas
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FOR MORE INFORMATION



Please stop by our newly updated website: 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/

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

Monique Brent, mbrent@svdpcdisaster.org
Manager, Volunteer Resources and Deployment

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 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 to keep our programs running so that we can in turn support those who have been impacted by disaster here in the United States.

