



DISASTER RECOVERY CORNER

TORNADO PREPAREDNESS

RECAPPED

IN FOCUS

MAY 23, 2019

DISASTER SERVICES CORPORATION CEO UPDATE

Dear Fellow Vincentians,

We invite you to join us in Denver, CO on August 28, 2019 for our Annual Disaster Preparedness Workshop. Our morning sessions will consist of guest speakers from FEMA and other National VOAD partner organizations discussing disaster preparedness and recovery programs. In the afternoon, the Department of Homeland Security will lead us in an Active Shooter Training.

As we deal with yet another round of Spring Tornadoes and Flooding this week across the nation, I urge you to learn more about preparing your Conference, Council, and or local community for disasters.

We are our own greatest resource. Please reach out with how we can help prepare and support your Conference, Council, or Community.



MAY MONTHLY BLOG
OPEN YOUR HEART AND YOUR HOME
AUTHORED BY MARK PAWLOSKI OF AIRBNB

St. Vincent de Paul is partnering with Airbnb to house disaster relief paid staff and volunteers. Airbnb's Open Homes program enables the community to offer free, temporary housing for those who are displaced and for relief workers who have deployed as part of the disaster recovery process.

Through a combination of donated travel credits and access to the Open Homes platform, St. Vincent de Paul's disaster volunteers will be able to stay close to communities impacted by disaster and perform critical disaster case management services.

Airbnb's mission is to create a world where anyone can belong anywhere, and the Open Homes program looks to solve the "anyone" part of their belonging ethos. Whether it's neighbors evacuating or relief workers deployed to help, a home gives people much-needed space to figure out what's next. Hosts can play an important role in their community's response and recovery — just by offering their extra space. Since 2012, hosts have opened their doors to people affected by disasters all over the world.

Click the link to continue reading our guest blog: <https://www.svdpcdisaster.org/blog/open-your-heart-and-your-home>



Open your heart and home to people who need it the most.

Airbnb's 5-year goal is to provide free short-term housing to 100,000 people in need. Join us by donating your home and help make a difference.

Refugees

People from around the world are forced to leave the countries they call home because it is no longer safe for them to stay. Join the community of people who are opening their homes for free to refugees.

[Learn more](#)



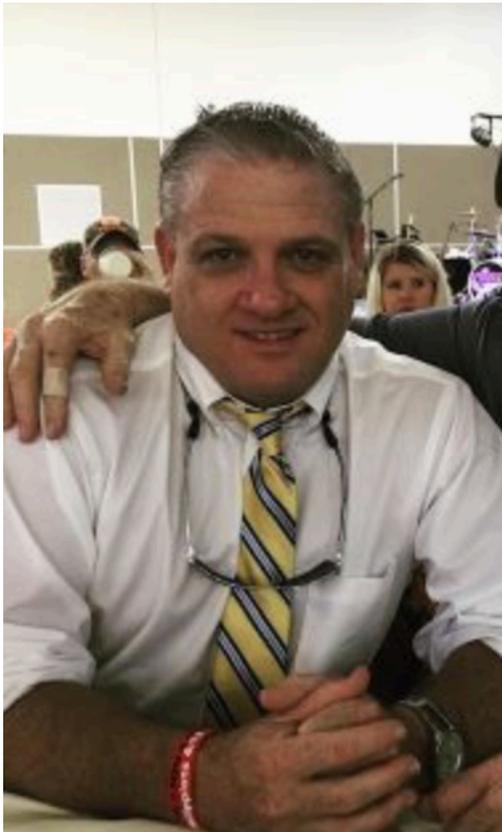
Evacuees

Natural disasters happen around the globe and are responsible for displacing people every year. Join by opening your home for free to your neighbours in need.

[Learn more](#)



DISASTER CASE MANAGER ROYCE LARISON OF FLORIDA



My name is Royce Larison and I have been a DCM with SVDP Disaster Services since November of 2018. I recently graduated from Everglades University with a Bachelors in Crisis and Disaster Management and then an MBA in Human Resource Management. I have one daughter, Lindsey who lives in South Carolina and attended Clemson University where she earned her Master's in Agriculture. She is just the best human being she can be. Some of my hobbies include golfing, going to church, working out (not lately) and spending time with family and friends.

I became a DCM because I love helping people and it kind of fit with my major. I do have to say it is challenging and overwhelming at times, but I enjoy it, especially when I feel that I have truly helped someone. My previous lines of work were in corrections and the military where I worked with some of the most dedicated and fierce soldiers on the planet. It's kind of like here at St. Vincent DePaul Disaster Services where all my supervisors and teammates prove their unwavering dedication daily by helping to rebuild their client's lives, homes, relationships, and their future one referral/service at a time.

My career plan is to become an insurance adjuster but use those skills working as a CCA in this path of work. I plan to work in uplifting environments, like this one, for the rest of my career around people, like these, who continue to motivate and inspire me every day.

ROYCE LARISON OF FLORIDA SHARES A SUCCESS STORY FROM THE FIELD

This is a case that I received in February but SVDP Disaster Services took on the client in June of 2018. At issue was our lack of resources early in the client's case. Finally, in the spring of 2019 the Salvation Army became a funding source for our clients in Highlands County. Client is also registered with Rebuild Florida and she has formally applied for assistance there as well. Our client is a 72-year-old single female who owns a mobile home that sits in one of Highlands County's 55+ communities. She has a part time job working at one of Highlands County's Schools. She has a low income and has a hard time making ends meet. Her home has over \$25000 worth of damage per our CCA and she cannot afford to make the repairs herself. Our client has dealt with constant ridicule from her neighbors because she has not been able to repair her roof or her home since the hurricane hit. She has received assistance from 3 case managers to include, replacement of her adjustable bed, replacement of her stove and dishwasher and she is currently in the cue for the Salvation Army to approve having her roof replaced. Client also made repairs to several of her electrical outlets using an electrician. Our client was asked about her experience with SVDP Disaster Services and she said that she is just so thankful for us. Can't get any better than that!



TORNADO SAFETY RECAPPED

Tornadoes can destroy buildings, flip cars, and create deadly flying debris. Tornadoes are violently rotating columns of air that extend from a thunderstorm to the ground. Tornadoes can:

- Happen anytime and anywhere;
- Bring intense winds, over 200 MPH; and
- Look like funnels.

IF YOU ARE UNDER A TORNADO WARNING, FIND SAFE SHELTER RIGHT AWAY

- If you can safely get to a sturdy building, then do so immediately.
- Go to a safe room, basement, or storm cellar.
- If you are in a building with no basement, then get to a small interior room on the lowest level.
- Stay away from windows, doors, and outside walls.
- Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You're safer in a low, flat location.
- Watch out for flying debris that can cause injury or death.
- Use your arms to protect your head and neck.



TORNADO SAFETY RECAPPED

Prepare NOW

- Know your area's tornado risk. In the U.S., the Midwest and the Southeast have a greater risk for tornadoes.
- Know the signs of a tornado, including a rotating, funnel-shaped cloud; an approaching cloud of debris; or a loud roar—similar to a freight train.
- Sign up for your community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts. If your community has sirens, then become familiar with the warning tone.
- Pay attention to weather reports. Meteorologists can predict when conditions might be right for a tornado.
- Identify and practice going to a safe shelter in the event of high winds, such as a safe room built using FEMA criteria or a storm shelter built to ICC 500 standards. The next best protection is a small, interior, windowless room on the lowest level of a sturdy building.
- Consider constructing your own safe room that meets FEMA or ICC 500 standards.



TORNADO SAFETY RECAPPED

Survive DURING

- Immediately go to a safe location that you identified.
- Take additional cover by shielding your head and neck with your arms and putting materials such as furniture and blankets around you.
- Listen to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio, or local alerting systems for current emergency information and instructions.
- Do not try to outrun a tornado in a vehicle.
- If you are in a car or outdoors and cannot get to a building, cover your head and neck with your arms and cover your body with a coat or blanket, if possible.



TORNADO SAFETY RECAPPED

Be Safe AFTER

-Keep listening to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio, and local authorities for updated information.

-If you are trapped, cover your mouth with a cloth or mask to avoid breathing dust. Try to send a text, bang on a pipe or wall, or use a whistle instead of shouting.

Stay clear of fallen power lines or broken utility lines.

-Do not enter damaged buildings until you are told that they are safe.

-Save your phone calls for emergencies. Phone systems are often down or busy after a disaster. Use text messaging or social media to communicate with family and friends.

-Be careful during clean-up. Wear thick-soled shoes, long pants, and work gloves.



TORNADO PREPAREDNESS

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

[Tornado Playbook \(PDF\)](#)

[Prepare Your Organization for a Tornado
Playbook \(PDF\)](#)

[Tornado Creative Materials \(PDF\)](#)

[National Creative Resources \(PDF\)](#)

[Organizational Tabletop Exercises \(PowerPoint\)](#)

[Taking Shelter from the Storm: Building a Safe Room](#)

[Inside Your House\(pamphlet PDF\)](#)

[Taking Shelter from the Storm: Building a Safe Room](#)

[Inside Your House\(publication PDF\)](#)

[Tornado Protection - Selecting Refuge Areas in
Buildings \(PDF\)](#)

[How to Guides to Protect Your Property or Business
from High Winds\(PDF\)](#)

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



PREPARE NOW

LEARN HOW



FEMA

Ready. 

FOR MORE INFORMATION



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](https://twitter.com/svdpusadisaster)

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

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

Monique Brent, mbrent@svdpdisaster.org
Manager, Volunteer Resources and 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.svdpdisaster.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.

