

A dramatic background image of a storm. A bright lightning bolt strikes the ground on the right side of the frame. The sky is filled with dark, swirling clouds. In the foreground, a paved road with yellow double lines stretches into the distance, flanked by green grassy hills. The overall atmosphere is one of intense weather and potential disaster.

DISASTER RECOVERY CORNER

TORNADO PREPAREDNESS

CONTINUED

IN FOCUS

MAY 30, 2019

DISASTER SERVICES CORPORATION

CEO UPDATE

This past week the nation witnessed an unprecedented number of strong tornadoes torrential flooding. DSC has been supporting our Councils in the Midwest, Mideast and South Central Regions with Rapid Response Grants, intake and release forms, and other resources to help in the immediate relief phases of these disasters.

As I have said in previous articles, it is critical to have weather apps on your phones and to be prepared. Many of these tornadoes hit in the evening hours and it's difficult to respond at night if you do not have a Preparedness Plan in place.

I am also saddened to report that we lost our Midwest Disaster Co-Chair, Daniel Joseph Cosgrove last month. Dan had deployed to Hurricanes Harvey and Irma and a multitude of the Midwest Flooding disasters. Please remember Dan and his family in your prayers.

Your continued support of our mission enables us to support our Councils and those they serve during times of disasters.

Thank you and God bless!



WEBINAR TRAININGS FOR VINCENTIANS COMING SOON
EFFORT LED BY MONIQUE BRENT OF DSC



Alfred “AC” Claud, FEMA Voluntary Agency Liaison to the Disaster Services Corporation (DSC) met with Elizabeth Disco-Shearer, CEO, and Monique Brent, Manager of Volunteer Resources and Deployment, on Thursday, May 23rd. During this meeting, these representatives were able to network – effectively establishing a greater understanding of the aforementioned agencies (FEMA and DSC) and discussing ongoing partnerships. AC provided wonderful resources as well as his expertise regarding the training of DSC Volunteers. Moving forward, we hope to provide a webinar series to volunteers and staff members alike centering on such topics as an introduction to FEMA and its programs, procuring adequate insurance before a disaster strikes, and a host of other topics. Please check in with us periodically and tune in when the webinar schedule is finalized! We hope to launch this first webinar in August. As we support this endeavor, additional training opportunities may also be available.

KEVIN PEACH, COO, CONTINUES TO EXPAND DSC NETWORK

Kevin Peach gave a presentation this week to DC Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) on the various projects that SVDP provides during the relief and recovery stages of disasters.



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
MARIA REYES OF FLORIDA



My name is Maria Reyes. I am married and have 2 sons. I enjoy spending time with my family, traveling, and reading. We are excited about expecting our first grandchild later this year. I graduated from Hodges University, with a bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. My background experience is in social and human services.

I currently hold a position with SVDP Disaster Services as a Disaster Case Manager. I am part of the Florida team which services Hendry and Glades Counties. These rural communities are under served and lack resources. So, I am passionate about connecting clients to resources and choices that help meet their goals. I enjoy working with children and families and feel it is a privilege to be part of their recovery process. As a Disaster Case Managers, my role is to build positive goal-oriented relationships with clients from intake and through out recovery process. Through advocacy opening doors of opportunities that assist clients with repairing and or rebuilding. Also, showing outcomes that reflect how clients and families benefit from participating in disaster case management services.

MARIA REYES OF FLORIDA SHARES A SUCCESS STORY FROM THE FIELD

I would like to introduce Bernadette Green (right) and Maria Reyes/DCM. Ms. Green's home sustained interior and exterior damage from Hurricane Irma. A large tree fell on the front part of her home which caused damage to living room and bedroom. This home had damage to the roof, ceilings and walls. Ms. Green had a five-gallon bucket in the bedroom that would catch water sipping in during rainy days. Ms. Green is currently on a fixed income and is not able to work due to disability. Ms. Green does not drive and has challenges understanding information. DCM linked Ms. Green to community resources for assistance with utilities and clothing. Ms. Green's address was also identified on the ARC damage assessment list. These unmet needs were identified through intake and recovery plan was initiated. DCM assisted Ms. Green in applying for ARC BNA and CNA. So, Ms. Green was awarded 6,500 from ARC but was not enough to fund roof replacement. DCM assisted Ms. Green in submitting unmet needs packet to Hendry & Glades Coalition for roof replacement. Ms. Green was awarded 5236.00.00 for roof replacement. DCM assisted Ms. Green in stacking ARC and H & G funding so that roof replacement of 10,736.00 was possible. Ms. Green met her first goal of home roof replacement on 4/2019.

Additionally, DCM assisted Ms. Green in submitting unmet needs packet to Hendry & Glades Coalition for interior repairs. Ms. Green was awarded 1,300 for interior repairs. Ms. Green met her 2nd goal of interior repairs completion on 5/2019. Ms. Green asked DCM to thank SVDP and Hendry & Glades Coalition for their assistance with replacing her roof and completion of interior repairs. She also did receive assistance from Goodwill Industries for electric bill of 250.00. Ms. Green expressed that she no longer worries about the rain entering her home and has a safe place to live. Ms. Green expressed appreciation for being part of this opportunity.



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

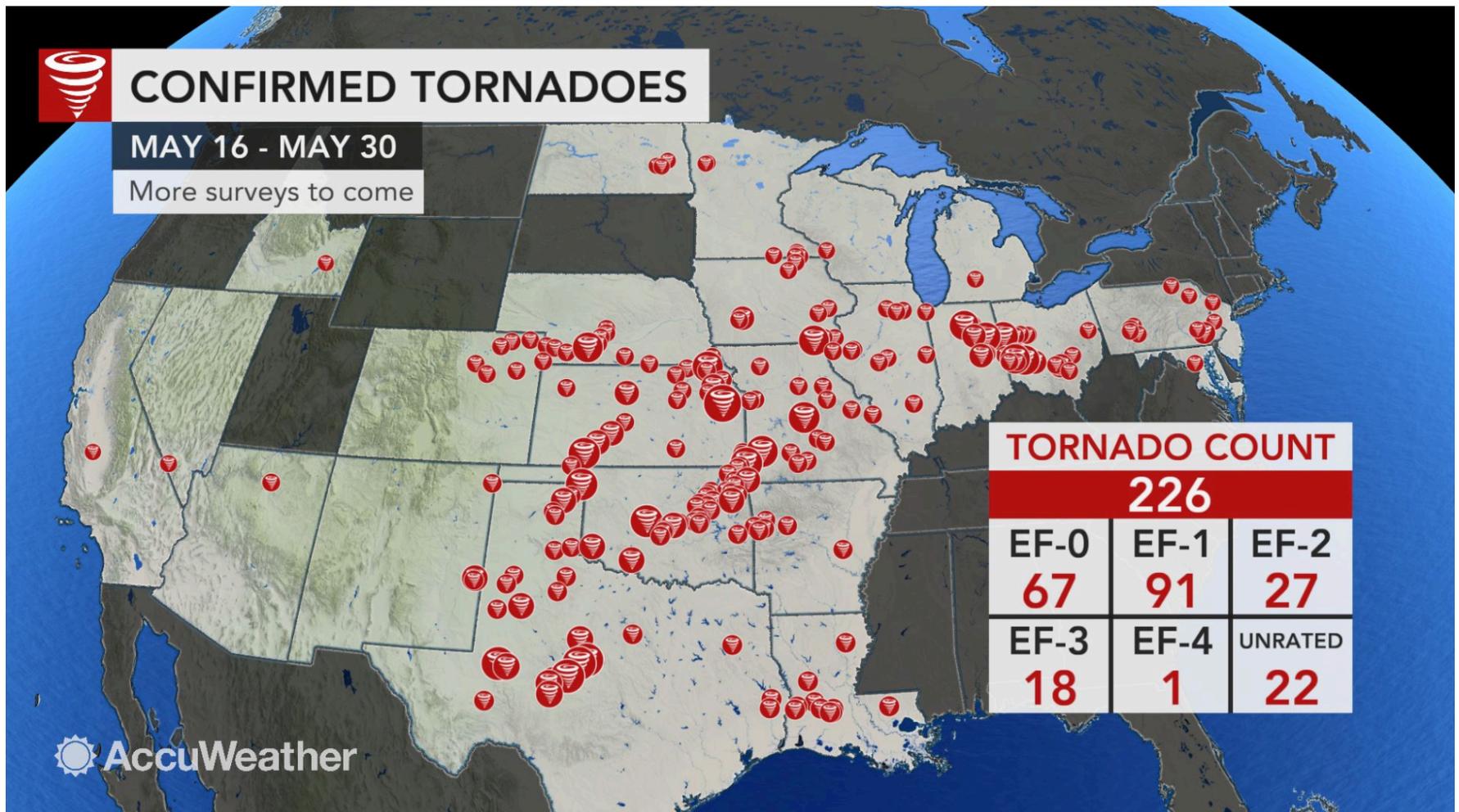
This is a case that I received in February but SVDP Disaster Services took on the client in June of 2018. At issue was our lack of resources early in the client's case. Finally, in the spring of 2019 the Salvation Army became a funding source for our clients in Highlands County. Client is also registered 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 COVERAGE

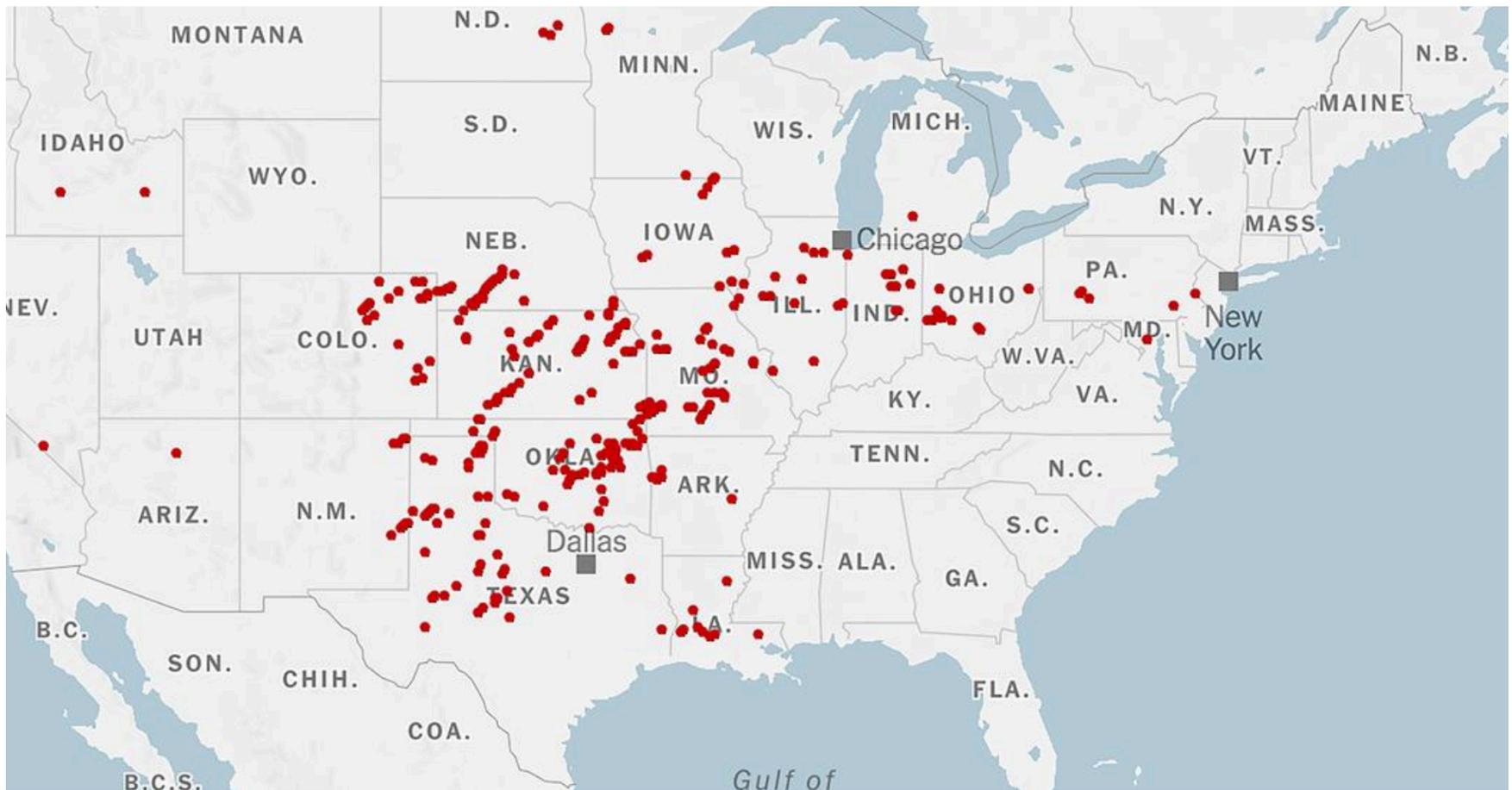
For the 13th consecutive day, at least 8 tornadoes were reported on Wednesday across the U.S. This map shows just how active it's been the past several weeks:

https://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/12-straight-days-of-tornadoes-shatter-twister-record-leave-heartland-storm-weary/70008393?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_term=&utm_content=&utm_campaign=breakingweather



TORNADO COVERAGE

Tuesday was the 12th consecutive day with at least eight #tornado reports, breaking the record set in 1980. <http://ow.ly/1pR250uss7V>



WHERE TO GET HELP FOR DISASTER RELIEF RECOVERY

Dayton, Ohio Recovery:

<https://www.daytonohio.gov/827/Tornado-Response>

<https://ema.ohio.gov/RecoveryBranch.aspx>

Kansas Recovery Support:

<https://fox4kc.com/2019/05/29/what-supplies-and-where-to-take-them-to-help-linwood-tornado-victims/>

<https://www.hud.gov/states/kansas/library/disasterrelief>

Missouri Disaster Resources:

<https://dnr.mo.gov/disaster.htm>

<https://recovery.mo.gov/>

<https://agriculture.mo.gov/flood/>

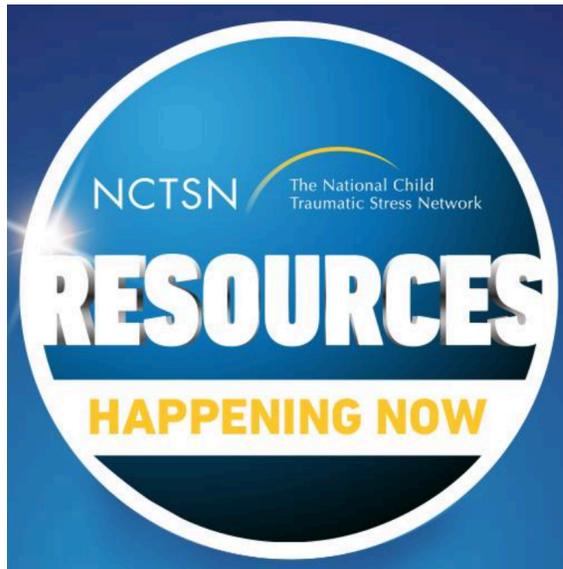
Arkansas Disaster Resources:

FEMA Note: Sand bags are available for Little Rock residents affected by the flooding of the Arkansas River. Sand bags may be picked up from our Public Works Operations Division at 3313 J.E. Davis Drive between 6:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. To call first, dial 501-918-3600.

<https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/emergency-response-and-preparedness>

<https://www.fema.gov/ARMIT>

WHERE TO GET HELP FOR DISASTER RELIEF RECOVERY



National Child Traumatic Stress Network has developed **resources** to help families and communities cope with the recent Tornadoes <https://bit.ly/2X9kNU1> and #Floods <https://bit.ly/2JoMzcY>



If you've been impacted by disaster and are experiencing distress or other mental health concerns, you're not alone: the national [@Distressline](#) (call 1-800-985-5990 / text TalkWithUs to 66746) offers 24/7 support. <https://bit.ly/2VJOqKh>

"Recovering from the Emotional Aftermath of a Disaster for Older Adults" <http://bit.ly/QHBGSe>

Free resource to read, bookmark, download, or print/share from the national [@Distressline](#) (1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746) [#MentalHealthAwarenessWeek](#) [#MentalHealthMonth](#)

CREATING A CULTURE OF PREPAREDNESS FEMA PODCAST

How do we create a culture of preparedness? @FEMA_Dan has been leading this effort for the last year. In our latest podcast episode, we sit down with him to hear more:

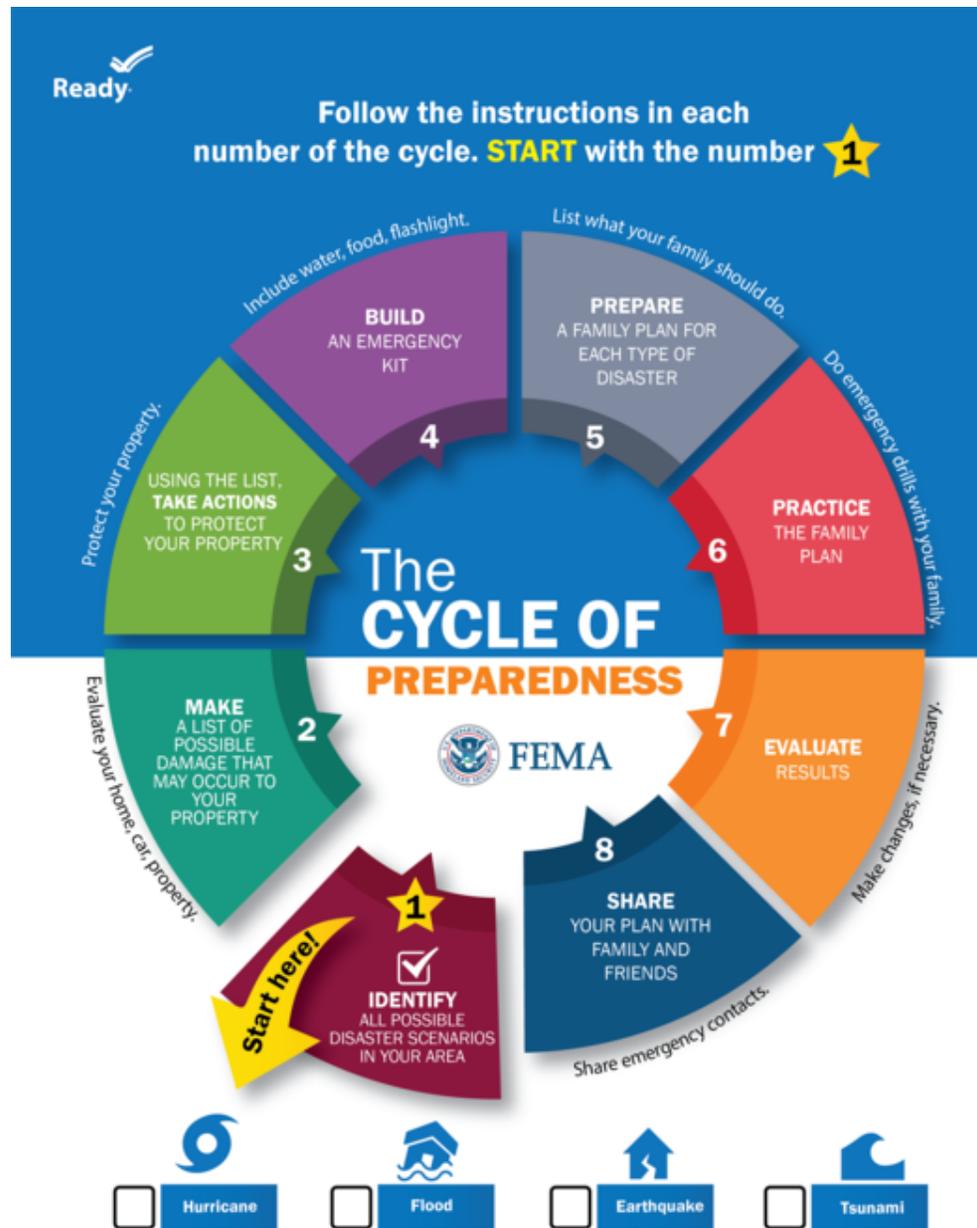
Web: <http://go.usa.gov/xmUnr>

iTunes: <http://apple.co/2Q2bEdz>

Google Play: <http://bit.ly/2Jre9oj>



THE CYCLE OF PREPAREDNESS



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.

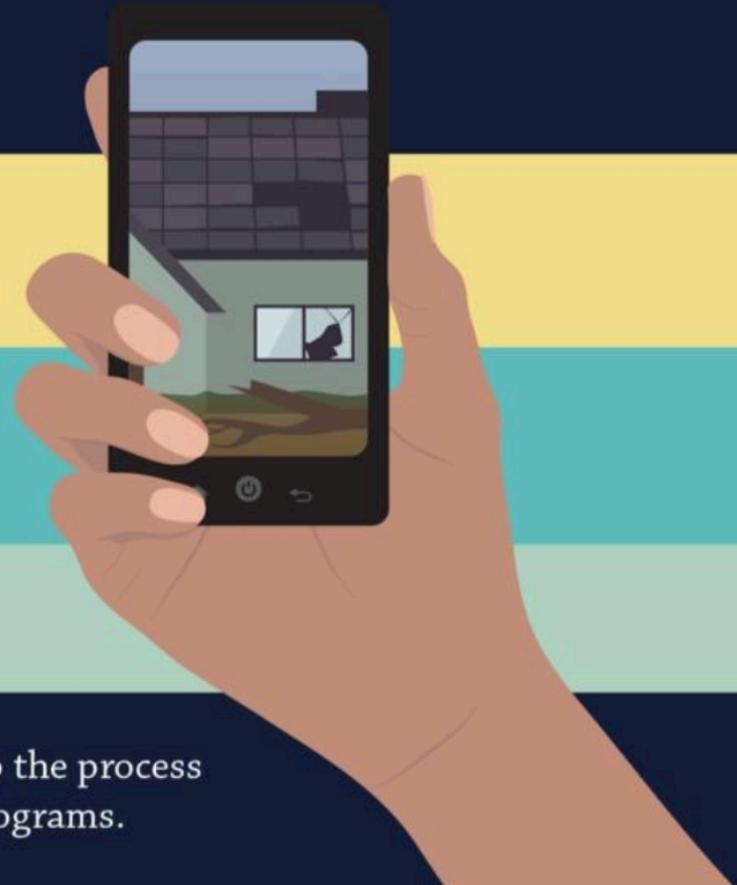


TORNADO SAFETY RECAPPED

Storm Damage?

- 1** Before you start cleaning up, take photos of the damage to your home and belongings.
- 2** Make a list of damaged/lost items, and gather any original receipts you have for those items.
- 3** Call your insurance agent to submit a claim.

Having this info on hand will help speed up the process with your insurance company and other programs.



AFTER A DISASTER

SAFETY TIPS DURING POWER RESTORATION

Panel 1: Avoid power lines and wires that are sparking, even if you are in a vehicle. If you see sparking wires, call 911. Keep children away from electrical equipment and power lines.

Panel 2: Do use a power inlet box and transfer switch to connect to your home wiring. Do use extension cords to connect electrical devices directly to your generator.

Panel 3: Do not connect your generator directly to your home's wiring. Do not plug your generator into a regular household outlet or socket.

Panel 4: If you see utility trucks in your neighborhood, turn off your generator to keep technicians safe while they work.

FEMA

After a Disaster Resources:
<https://www.usa.gov/after-disaster>

Obtain Assistance:
<https://www.disasterassistance.gov/get-assistance/other-recovery-help>

Not sure if your area is covered?
<https://www.disasterassistance.gov/>

FEMA Disaster Resources:
<https://www.fema.gov/recovery-resources>

https://www.fema.gov/pdf/areyouready/recovering_from_disaster.pdf

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.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 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 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.

