

During a disaster

Phases of a disaster

1. Rescue or emergency (chaos and confusion are experienced)

- Needs: food, shelter, energy (electricity, natural gas, etc. for food preparation and warmth)
- Items needed: dry ice, generators, chain saws
- Your church may be needed as temporary shelter (Red Cross inspection needed).
- Pastoral services may be needed where there are casualties or deaths.
- Survey staff and members to determine needs.
- Inspect congregation's facilities; make temporary repairs.
- Contact your synod.

2. Relief phase begins (abandonment and fear are experienced)

- Meeting secondary needs: patching roof, removing debris, cooking
- Contact the Illinois Conference DREAM Team coordinator in your Association.
- Provide volunteers at feeding centers, Red Cross shelters, where clean up is needed.
- Provide a listening ear.
- Discourage rumors.
- Encourage all persons affected to apply for assistance.
- Start planning long-term recovery.
- Plan to receive special offering.

3. Recovery (emotions span from anger and depression to hope and acceptance)

- Stay involved in the disaster-response ministry that begins to evolve.
- Mobilizing a community interfaith response
- Work in cooperation with the local Lutheran social-ministry organizations.
- Call and/or attend an emergency meeting of religious leaders in a ministerial association or already established interfaith group.
- Establish human needs - immediate relief and long-term recovery both spiritual and physical.
- Explore available resources of the religious community including provision of emotional, spiritual and pastoral care.
- Match resources to needs without duplication and waste.