

History of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief

From Hurricanes . . .

In 1967, Hurricane Beulah ravaged the Rio Grande Valley along the Texas coast, leaving thousands of victims homeless and countless towns and cities damaged. Texas Baptist Men volunteered to provide assistance. Southern Baptists soon realized the need for an organized, coordinated system of disaster response.



To Terrorist Attacks . . .

Out of the Texas experience, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief has grown into a well-organized, cooperative network of volunteers, churches, and associations with leadership from the state Baptist conventions. Approximately 25,000 volunteers have been trained in disaster relief with responses to floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, fires, earthquakes, and terrorist attacks, both in the United States and abroad. The North American Mission Board provides leadership during multistate and international responses.



The Work

- Contribution of manpower, physical resources, financial assistance, and hope to disaster areas worldwide.
- 397 mobile units—mass feeding, cleanup and recovery, child care, command center, water purification, shower trailers, and airlift kitchens.
- Emotional and spiritual counseling with chaplains and other trained intervention volunteers.
- Short-term repair and long-term rebuild and recovery in affected areas.
- Partnerships with the American Red Cross, The Salvation Army, and other private agencies through NVOAD (National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster).



Motivation

“A cup of cold water in Jesus' name”

A disaster hits suddenly and with it the opportunity for immediate ministry. There seems to be no area of mission action that requires more rapid response than during times of disaster. Southern Baptist Disaster Relief is Christian love in action—meeting urgent needs of humanity in crisis situations.



The arch represents the worldwide link of the Southern Baptist Convention. The wheat stalk represents physical help. The fish symbolizes spiritual help.

Disaster Relief Units:

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|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Feeding | Command Center |
| Communication | Crisis Counseling |
| Water Purification | Shower Trailer |
| Airlift Kitchens | Child Care |
| Chain Saw | Cleanup |
| Salvage | Mudout |
| Repair/Rebuild | Recovery |

FOR INFORMATION ON BECOMING INVOLVED IN SOUTHERN BAPTIST DISASTER RELIEF, CONTACT YOUR STATE CONVENTION OFFICE.

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| Alabama—(334) 288-2460 | Mississippi—(601) 968-3800 |
| Alaska—(907) 344-9627 | Missouri—(573) 635-7931 |
| Arizona—(480) 945-0880 | Montana—(406) 252-7537 |
| Arkansas—(501) 376-4791 | Nevada—(775) 786-0406 |
| California—(559) 229-9533 | New England—(508) 393-6013 |
| Canada—(403) 932-5688 | New Mexico—(505) 924-2300 |
| Colorado—(303) 771-2480 | New York—(315) 433-1001 |
| Dakota Fellowship—(701) 255-3765 | North Carolina—(919) 467-5100 |
| District of Columbia—(202) 265-1526 | Northwest—(360) 882-2100 |
| Florida—(904) 396-2351 | Ohio—(614) 258-8491 |
| Georgia—(770) 455-0404 | Oklahoma—(405) 942-3800 |
| Hawaii—(808) 946-9581 | Pennsylvania/South Jersey—(717) 652-5856 |
| Illinois—(217) 786-2600 | Puerto Rico—(787) 725-7271 |
| Indiana—(317) 241-9317 | South Carolina—(803) 765-0030 |
| Iowa—(515) 278-1566 | Tennessee—(615) 371-7927 |
| Kansas/Nebraska—(785) 228-6800 | Texas—(214) 828-5100 |
| Kentucky—(502) 245-4101 | SBC Texas—(972) 953-0878 |
| Louisiana—(318) 448-3402 | Utah/Idaho—(801) 572-5350 |
| Maryland/Delaware—(410) 290-5290 | Virginia—(804) 672-2100 |
| Michigan—(248) 332-6426 | SBC Virginia—(804) 270-1848 |
| Minnesota/Wisconsin—(507) 282-3636 | West Virginia—(304) 757-0944 |
| | Wyoming—(307) 472-4087 |

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Serving Christ in Crisis