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Disaster *Preparedness*

**TOGETHER WITH OUR PARTNERS, WE PROVIDE HEALTHY
SOLUTIONS TO END HUNGER IN OUR COMMUNITY.**

WHAT IS A DISASTER?

The American Red Cross defines a disaster as an occurrence such as a hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, earthquake, volcanic eruption, drought, blizzard, pestilence, famine, fire, explosion, building collapse, transportation wreck, or any other situation that causes human suffering or creates human needs that the victims cannot alleviate without assistance.

The Scope of AFFB's Disaster Relief Efforts

In providing a framework for disaster relief response, All Faiths Food Bank (AFFB) acknowledges that each disaster is a unique event. A disaster may result in tragic consequences for those affected, yet most disasters also produce stories of heroism and compassion reflecting the best in all of us. With this in mind, it is essential that those involved in disaster relief strive to frame and conduct their efforts in a manner which reflects the following characteristics:

COMMITMENT – Disaster relief efforts invariably require a maximum commitment in terms of time and psyche from those involved.

COOPERATION – In order to be successful, disaster relief efforts must be conducted in an expedient and effective manner. Cooperation is essential to a timely, effective response. Your agency may be asked to contribute volunteers and space. Your agency may also be asked to extend your hours of operation and the range of services it provides. In some cases, your agency may only be asked to share your parking lot with the Food Bank. It is important to note that the Food Bank may publicize your agency in the larger community as a disaster relief site.

COMPASSION – Although efficiency and expediency are essential, those involved in disaster relief must be compassionate and sensitive to those they serve and to those with whom they work. A disaster is, by definition, a crisis. Often friends and families of those involved in the disaster relief efforts are themselves victims. One must be sensitive to this and be flexible in understanding that we all cope with crisis in a variety of ways.

REFLECTION – While a disaster may present partner agencies and AFFB with incredible challenges, it will also provide an opportunity to gain expertise. In the aftermath of a disaster, despite the high emotional cost of reliving the experience, it is essential that those involved in the relief efforts reflect upon and evaluate their performance.

Your Responsibilities as a Food Bank Partner Disaster Relief Agency

Established partner agencies in good standing with All Faiths Food Bank may be asked to serve as a disaster relief agency. In this way, AFFB can meet its charge to effectively and efficiently respond to the needs of the local disaster area.

In the event of a disaster, partner agencies that are designated as disaster relief agencies should continue to provide food distribution and/or mass feeding under normal operating procedures once safe to do so. In an effort to ensure the essential food needs of those affected by the occurrence of a disaster are met, disaster relief agencies will incur no shared maintenance fees during a disaster relief operation.

In addition to providing food distribution and/or mass feeding under normal operating procedure and receiving disaster relief product with no shared maintenance fees, some of the partnership requirements are

temporarily suspended during pre-disaster operations and during disaster response operations.

→ During a disaster, agencies may distribute donated product where meeting the emergency needs of the community may result in some of those products being consumed by volunteer workers, etc., who may not otherwise be ill, needy, or infants.

→ During a disaster, agencies are temporarily able to distribute Food Bank product to all persons regardless if individuals qualify for agency assistance under normal circumstances. Agencies will not discriminate against any person based on one's race, creed, national origin, religious affiliation or lack thereof, sex or sexual orientation or disability, during a disaster relief operation.

→ During a disaster, *normal* record keeping requirements may be waived, but some record keeping is required.

Food provided by AFFB to its disaster relief agencies is on an "as is" basis and does not make any express or implied warranties of the food or grocery products that it distributes.

Further, AFFB qualifies for the limited limitations of the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act (P.L. 04-210, 110 Stat 3011 (1996) when it distributes donations of apparently wholesome food and apparently fit grocery products.

The federal law is applicable so long as AFFB is acting in good faith, but it does not apply if damages are the result of intentional acts or gross negligence. This law may also be applicable to agencies depending upon the facts and circumstances.

The Feeding America Network of more than 200 Member food banks and food-rescue organizations provides relief supplies to emergency feeding centers serving disaster victims.

Feeding America was first involved with disaster relief in 1989 following Hurricane Hugo and the Loma Prieta earthquake that struck San Francisco and the Central California Coast.

Since then, the Feeding America Network has taken an active role in recovery efforts following major disasters and is a member of the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD).

LOCAL DISASTER RELIEF AFTER HURRICANE IAN

In cooperation with Feeding America and Feeding Florida, All Faiths Food Bank mobilized to help victims of Hurricane Ian.

WHAT WE DID:

→ Food Bank served as a collection agency of food

and water to be transported to the affected areas. More than a million pounds of disaster relief product was received and distributed.

→ Local food bank agencies were designated as disaster relief agencies to receive product that was donated for use by people affected by the hurricane. People from the affected areas were

relocated all over the country and state. Not all agencies that volunteered to be disaster relief agencies were selected to serve in this capacity.

→ Agencies were selected based on their ability to meet those needs. These agencies received additional disaster relief product at no shared maintenance or

delivery cost. Several agencies offered to extend and/or increase their service hours to accommodate higher demand.

→ Collaborated with sister food banks to ensure adequate supplies were distributed to more heavily affected regions.

If you would like to become a Disaster Relief Site or want to learn more about All Faiths Food Bank's role in disaster relief throughout Sarasota and DeSoto counties, please contact your Agency Representative:

Amber Lee
alee@allfaithsfoodbank.org
941.379.6333



**ENDING
HUNGER**

PRE-DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

AFFB assumes that some degree of advance warning will be available for most disasters. Since the greatest threat to the AFFB service area is from a hurricane, flood, and thunder and lightning storms, AFFB will implement Pre-Disaster Preparedness of advance warnings when available. These are instructions to help your agency prepare so that you are ready to help distribute relief product to those affected.

72 HOURS BEFORE

- Conduct a thorough review with staff/volunteers of disaster relief responsibilities
- Get the cell number of your AFFB Agency Representative
- Identify primary and alternate points of contact
- Acquire additional equipment and supplies from donors or AFFB
- Notify volunteers and establish alternate post disaster meeting site
- Prepare for surge in food requests from community
- Establish communications with all appropriate agencies and organizations
- Contact volunteers available for pre-disaster support
- Schedule your volunteers (and identify backups) for post-disaster so that your agency has coverage to address the needs of those requiring assistance

48 HOURS BEFORE

- Charge cell phones
- Prepare for manual operations by ensuring that sufficient quantities of forms, office supplies, etc. are available
- Completely fuel all vehicles and generators and prepare all equipment for post-disaster operations
- If your agency has one, pre-position forklift and other support equipment at alternate locations as necessary

- Make a thorough check of your facility, prepare for high winds and flooding, and check exterior to ensure that vulnerable equipment and other loose items are properly secured

- Continue to distribute food and supplies to community members

24 HOURS BEFORE

- Shut down and secure your agency until post-disaster relief is necessary
- Contact your Food Bank representative to updates regarding post-disaster relief activity



Relief After the Storm

AFFB will respond to the increased need for food and related products resulting from a disaster in an effective manner using the standardized procedures established for normal operation of AFFB modified according to this document. The tempo of operations will be such that flexibility and sound decision-making will be required of all disaster relief partner agencies. Success will be measured by how well AFFB and disaster relief partner agencies meet the needs of both its normal clients and the affected community at large.

POST DISASTER ASSESSMENT – Immediately following the disaster, AFFB will conduct a disaster assessment to determine the impact on AFFB and the community overall.

OPERATIONAL PROCESS – As a disaster relief agency, determine the needs of your community and let the food bank know what your agency and community needs are.

RESPONSE TO REQUESTS – Flexibility is of the utmost importance. After a disaster arrives, AFFB will determine which service area to attend to, based on the disaster assessment and in response to requests for assistance. It must be realized that all requests will be considered the most important to the requestor. Generally, responses to requests for assistance will be handled in the order received. However, AFFB may deviate from this based on direction from County Emergency Management, Feeding Florida, or based on its disaster assessment.

TYPES OF PRODUCT NEEDED IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION

****PLEASE NOTE:** THE FOOD BANK WILL PROVIDE PARTNER AGENCIES WITH THE MOST UP-TO-DATE LIST OF AVAILABLE OF ITEMS.

1 Level One Priority

Water
Ice
Flashlight
Batteries (C, D and lantern)
Canned goods (tuna, ravioli, vegetables, fruit)
Shelf stable juice
Baby items (diapers, formula, wipes)
Prepared packaged meats (doesn't require cooking)

2 Level Two Priority

Water
Ice
Canned goods
Shelf stable juice
Baby items
Prepared packaged meals
Shampoo
Toothpaste/toothbrush
Soap
Feminine hygiene products
Toilet paper
Paper products (paper towels, cutlery)

3 Level Three Priority

Canned goods (meat/meals, fruit, vegetables)
Peanut butter and jelly
Cereal
Instant milk
Bread
Crackers
Rice
Beans (dry)
Beverages (coffee, water, juice)
Meat
Cooking oil
Can openers
Charcoal, lighter fluid and matches
Paper products (cutlery, paper towels)
Hand sanitizer
Cleaning supplies (trash bags, bleach, scrub brushes)

DISASTER CLASSIFICATIONS

These classifications of disaster are in accordance with Feeding America Disaster Relief Plan. A brief description of each classification is provided below:

CLASS 1

A Class 1 disaster is limited in scope, affecting less than 25 households in a single food bank service area and the demand can be met with existing Food Bank resources.

CLASS 2

A Class 2 disaster is also limited in scope but would affect up to 250 households in one to three food bank service areas, would require up to 50,000 pounds of additional product and the demand could be met by the affected food banks.

CLASS 3

A Class 3 disaster would affect 250-1,000 households in one or more food bank service areas. It would require up to 250,000 additional pounds of product, would require product resources from outside the affected service area(s) and would require some food bank resource diversion and labor support to meet the additional demand. Feeding America would coordinate support on request.

CLASS 4

A Class 4 disaster would affect more than 1,000 households in one or more food bank service areas and would require in excess of 250,000 pounds of additional product, including a demand for special product and would significantly impact food bank operations. Feeding America would coordinate efforts with the American Red Cross, the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NCVOAD), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and other food banks.

CLASS 5

A Class 5 disaster would affect tens of thousands of households in one or more food banks service areas, requiring massive quantities of food and special products and long-term support from All Faiths Food Bank and other unaffected food banks. This class disaster would likely cause major damage to AFFF and its capabilities. Feeding America would coordinate efforts with the American Red Cross, NCVOAD, FEMA, and other food banks.

Wrapping Up After the Storm

AFFB will make the decision to return to normal operations after a disaster. Returning to normal operations will require a transitional period. Planning to determine the length and extent of this transitional period should begin as early as possible. Considerations for returning to normal operations include but are not limited to:

- Speed at which survivors are resettled
- When the number of individuals or families being served by AFFB partner agencies returns to normal
- Continued availability of additional warehousing, equipment and volunteer personnel
- Availability of food supplies from normal sources
- Projected reduction and/or termination of additional food relief supplies coming into the AFFB system

As soon as possible after the return to normal operations, AFFB will establish a date, time, and place for an extensive after-action review of AFFB's disaster relief operation. After the post-disaster review, AFFB will review with disaster relief agencies. Areas or topics to be covered during this review, may include:

- Overall effectiveness of the AFFB Disaster Relief Plan
- Did any problems occur and how to avoid them in the future?
- What other areas need to be addressed for future operations?
- Discussion of the elements or tasks that went well and those that need improvement