

## **PDA Disaster Response Levels**

Knowing that all disasters are different and may present new challenges for both PDA and Mid Councils (presbyteries and synods), here are helpful descriptions of the severity of disaster that may affect Mid Councils and the anticipated levels of disaster response by PDA.

### **Level 1**

Localized Disaster – affecting one community with no church building damage and less than 50 homes damaged. Focus on supporting presbytery leadership.

#### **Disaster Preparation**

- Work with Mid Councils utilizing partnership with Presbyterian Women

#### **Immediate Aftermath of Disaster**

- PDA National Response Team(s) (NRT) and Team Lead(s) deployed
- Prepare to open host site(s) that can, in total, accommodate up to 30 volunteers (this includes sites placed on the PDA website)
- Initial National Call Center support is offered
- Connect with Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) partners
  - Connect with presbytery
  - Connect with presbytery disaster committee, if applicable

#### **Long-Term Recovery (LTR)**

- Find work partners
- Support host sites through National Call Center
- Team(s) seek local (Presbyterian) contact to help support the long-term recovery group (LTRG), host sites, and for continued communication
- Plan and present an LTR Orientation
- Train host site(s) in hosting volunteers, Emotional Spiritual Care (ESC), finding work, etc.
- Be aware of need for Compassion Fatigue (CF) and Care for Caregivers (C4CG) workshops
- Plan exit strategy (when is it time to close host sites, etc.)

## Level 2

Area Disaster within one presbytery – more than one community impacted, 50 - 100 homes damaged, minimal church damage. Focus on capacity building within the presbytery and facilitating the connection with local and state resources for disaster response and rebuilding.

### Disaster Preparation

- Work with Mid Councils utilizing partnership with Presbyterian Women

### Immediate Aftermath of Disaster

- NRT(s) and Team Lead(s) are deployed
- Prepare to open host site(s) that can, in total, accommodate 75 volunteers (this includes sites placed on the PDA website)
- Initial National Call Center Support is offered
- Associate determines need for Disaster Response Coordinator (DRC), DRC will:
  - Connect with affected Mid Council(s)
  - Connect with state &/or local VOAD
  - If needed, work with Associate to establish budget for this particular disaster response
  - Connect with FEMA and establishes a presence at local Joint Field office (JFO)
  - Seek local (Presbyterian) contact(s) to help support the LTRG, host sites, and for continued communication
  - Connect with presbytery disaster committee, if applicable
  - Connects with local code and governmental officials
  - Support and coordinate all training (LTR, ESC, C4CG, CF, etc.) throughout the recovery process
  - Ensure PDA presence at LTRG and VOAD meetings
  - Work with Associate to create an exit strategy

### Long-Term Recovery

- Find work partners
- Plan and present an LTR Orientation
- Support host sites through National Call Center
- Establish an administrative support position that can dedicate at least 50% of their time to supporting PDA's response to this disaster.

## Level 3

Multi-Jurisdiction/Multi-Community impact: 100 - 500 homes damaged. Church impact is moderate. Focus on assisting Mid Councils to assess next steps, connect with State and National response and LTR partners and assessing potential church hosting sites.

### Disaster Preparation

- Work with Mid Councils, utilizing partnership with Presbyterian Women

### Immediate Aftermath of Disaster

- NRT(s) and Team Lead(s) deployed
- Prepare to open host sites that can, in total, accommodate 120 or more volunteers (this includes sites placed on the PDA website)
- Initial National Call Center Support
- Associate determines need for DRC, DRCs will:
  - Connect with affected Mid Council(s)
  - Connect with state &/or local VOAD
  - Work with Associate to establish budget for this particular disaster response
  - Connect with FEMA and establishes a presence at local JFO
  - Seek local (Presbyterian) contact(s) to help support the LTRG, host sites, and for continued communication
  - Connect with presbytery disaster committee, if applicable
  - Connects with local code and governmental officials
  - Support and coordinate all training (LTR, ESC, C4CG, CF, etc.) throughout the recovery process
  - Ensure PDA presence at LTRG and VOAD meetings
  - Work with Associate to create an exit strategy

### Long-Term Recovery

- Find work partners
- Plan and present an LTR Orientation
- Support host sites through National Call Center
- Establish an administrative support position that can dedicate 50% – 100% of their time to supporting PDA's response to this disaster

## Level 4

Multi-Presbytery Disaster: 500 - 1000 homes damaged, severe loss of life requiring addition emotional and spiritual care support. Church damage may be significant, complicating the involvement of presbytery and Presbyterian congregations. Focus on enabling leadership, building partnerships with State VOADs and National Partners.

### Disaster Preparation

- Work with Mid Councils, utilizing partnership with Presbyterian Women

### Immediate Aftermath of Disaster

- NRT(s) and Team Lead(s) deployed
- Prepare to open host sites that can, in total, accommodate 120 or more volunteers (this includes sites placed on the PDA website)
- Initial National Call Center Support
- Associate determines need for DRC, DRCs will:
  - Connect with affected Mid Council(s)
  - Connect with state &/or local VOAD
  - Work with Associate to establish budget for this particular disaster response
  - Connect with FEMA and establishes a presence at local JFO
  - Seek local (Presbyterian) contact(s) to help support the LTRG, host sites, and for continued communication
  - Connect with presbytery disaster committee, if applicable
  - Connects with local code and governmental officials
  - Support and coordinate all training (LTR, ESC, C4CG, CF, etc.) throughout the recovery process
  - Ensure a PDA presence at LTRG and VOAD meetings
  - Work with Associate to create an exit strategy

### Long-Term Recovery

- Find work partners
- Plan and present an LTR Orientation
- Support host sites through National Call Center
- Establish an administrative support position that can dedicate 50% – 100% of their time to supporting PDA's response to this disaster

## Level 5

Regional Disaster that affects three or more presbyteries and possibly more than one synod, 10+ churches damaged, 1000+ homes damaged, severe loss of life requiring potential emotional and spiritual care support during the immediate aftermath of the disaster. Church Damage may be significant, complicating the involvement of presbytery and Presbyterian congregations. Focus on enabling leadership, building partnerships with State VOADs and National Partners through multiple synods if necessary. Engage PDA staff early in assessment with Mid Council staff, and conduct on-going consultations in or near disaster area.

### Disaster Preparation

- Work with Mid Councils, utilizing partnership with Presbyterian Women

### Immediate Aftermath of Disaster

- NRT(s) and Team Lead(s) deployed
- Prepare to open host sites that can, in total, accommodate 120 or more volunteers (this includes sites placed on the PDA website)
- Initial National Call Center Support
- Associate determines need for DRC, DRCs will:
  - Connect with affected Mid Council(s)
  - Connect with state &/or local VOAD
  - Work with Associate to establish budget for this particular disaster response
  - Connect with FEMA and establishes a presence at local JFO
  - Seek local (Presbyterian) contact(s) to help support the LTRG, host sites, and for continued communication
  - Connect with presbytery/synod disaster committees, if applicable
  - Connects with local code and governmental officials
  - Support and coordinate all training (LTR, ESC, C4CG, CF, etc.) throughout the recovery process
  - Ensure PDA presence at LTRG and VOAD meetings
  - Work with Associate to create an exit strategy

## **Long-Term Recovery**

- Find work partners
- Plan and present an LTR Orientation
- Support host sites through National Call Center
- Establish an administrative support position that can dedicate 50% – 100% of their time to supporting PDA's response to this disaster

## **Level 6**

National Disaster: 6+ presbyteries, 3+ synods impacted, major population displacement, 100+ churches damaged, 10,000+ homes damaged; immediate PDA presence at Emergency Operations Center in affected states, liaison with FEMA Field Coordination Office and National VOAD operations center. PDA staff to conduct early assessment and engagement with Mid Councils. Major NRT multiple deployments for 10+ days depending on access to disaster sites. Early PCUSA conference call to review early assessments and request multi-discipline/multi-agency task force to review congregational needs and support PDA field operations. Significant long-term PDA involvement will require additional staff as field representatives and provide coordination of multiple services.

## **Disaster Preparation**

- Work with Mid Councils, utilizing partnership with Presbyterian Women

## **Immediate Aftermath of Disaster**

- NRT(s) and Team Lead(s) deployed
- Prepare to open host sites that can, in total, accommodate 120 or more volunteers (this includes sites placed on the PDA website)
- Initial National Call Center Support
- Associate determines need for DRC, DRCs will:
  - Connect with affected Mid Council(s)
  - Connect with state &/or local VOADs
  - Work with Associate to establish budget for this particular disaster response
  - Connect with FEMA and establishes a presence at local JFO
  - Seek local (Presbyterian) contact(s) to help support the LTRG, host sites, and for continued communication

- Connect with presbytery disaster committees, if applicable
- Connects with local code and governmental officials
- Support and coordinate all training (LTR, ESC, C4CG, CF, etc.) throughout the recovery process
- Ensure PDA presence at LTRG and VOAD meetings
- Work with Associate to create an exit strategy

### **Long-Term Recovery**

- Find work partners
- Plan and present an LTR Orientation
- Support host sites through National Call Center
- Establish an administrative support position that can dedicate 50% – 100% of their time to supporting PDA's response to this disaster