Seasonal Preparedness Resources from UMCOR & FEMA – Summer into Fall

UMCOR responds to natural or civil disasters of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community’s ability to recover on its own. Through UMCOR, United Methodists extend loving care to people within the United States, as well as internationally. These beneficiaries are seen as partners, not victims, and UMCOR works to empower them. In its holistic response to disasters, UMCOR:

- Offers disaster preparedness training. In addition, UMCOR helps communities in the United States and abroad prepare for emergencies and to reduce the risk of disasters through a roster of training programs.
- Provides essential supplies and care—both physical and psychological—in the immediate aftermath of a disaster.
- Supports long-term rebuilding efforts and assists communities as they adapt.
- Financial Assistance. If the bishop of the affected conference contacts UMCOR, an emergency grant may be sent.
- Networking. Getting connected with NGOs, volunteers, experts, local government, and other organizations can help communities recover from disaster.

UMCOR’s US Disaster Response

When disaster strikes, it is local churches that provide the first response to their communities. This basic understanding—that disaster response is local—forms the foundation for UMCOR’s US disaster training and response.

General Preparedness

- **Make a plan**, including a family emergency communication plan and include your pets.
- Identify an out of town emergency contact to coordinate information with family/friends.
- Check on neighbors and church members.
- Keep an emergency kit wherever you spend time: home, car, work etc.
- Take action to be prepared [https://www.ready.gov/get-involved](https://www.ready.gov/get-involved)
- Download the FEMA App and set up local alerts
- Listen to local officials by radio, TV, or social media and take action.
- Practice your preparedness plans with a drill or exercise.
- Take a first aid class so you can help until first responders arrive.

Children & Youth + Back to School

- Ensure children are included in preparedness conversations.
- Know the emergency plan for your child’s school, college and child care facility.
- Practice evacuation plans and other emergency procedures with children on a regular basis.
- Make sure children have emergency contacts memorized or written down in a secure place.
- [Children and Youth Preparedness Social Media Toolkit](https://www.ready.gov/get-involved)

Severe Weather

- [National Weather Service/NOAA Summer Safety Resources](https://www.weather.gov/)
- [National Weather Service/NOAA Fall Safety Resources](https://www.weather.gov/)
- If ordered to evacuate, take action immediately. Know the route and plan where to go.
- Identify a safe location, in case of tornado.
- Church Resource: [Severe Weather Safety Social Media Toolkit](https://www.ready.gov/get-involved)

Be ready for Flash Flooding

- Church Resource: [Flood Safety Social Media Toolkit](https://www.ready.gov/get-involved)
- Never drive or walk through flooded streets; Turn Around, Don’t Drown.
- Check your insurance policies to ensure you have enough coverage.
- Flash floods happen quickly. Learn how you can prepare in advance.
- According to the [National Weather Service](https://www.weather.gov/), the causes of flash flooding include heavy rain, ice, debris jams, and levee or dam failure. These floods exhibit a rapid rise of water over low-lying areas. In some cases, flooding may even occur away from where heavy rain initially fell.
- Follow these tips from Ready.gov to make sure you, your family, and your home prepare for a flash flood:
  - Visit FEMA’s [Flood Map Service Center](https://www.ready.gov/flood-maps) for information on the flood risk in your area. Flooding is by no means limited to floodplains. Where it rains, it can flood. More than 20 percent of National Flood Insurance Program claims are filed for properties outside the high-risk flood area.
  - Sign up for your community’s warning system. The [Emergency Alert System](https://www.east.gov/) (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [Weather Radio](https://www.weather.gov/) also provide emergency alerts.

For more flood safety information, download the [How to Prepare for a Flood guide](https://www.ready.gov/get-involved).