Building A More Robust Community Through Emergency/Disaster Preparedness

Deb Tucker, Disaster Program Manager – American Red Cross – Central & Western Kansas September 11, 2019

There are many reasons why we need communities to be prepared for Emergencies & Disasters

- Expedite resources for recovery
- Alleviate fears and concerns about recovery
- Assist with recovery costs
- Engage community in recovery efforts
- O XX
- O XX
- O XX











Disasters come in many sizes, shapes and forms.....and no one organization or community can take it on alone.....so what can we do?

Stories of Success

Canteening for First Responders for a Missing Person



Flood Relief in a Kansas Town



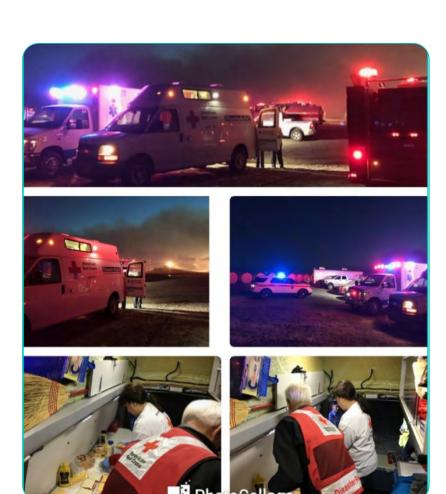
Tornado Relief in a Kansas Town



Hurricane Relief in 2018



Wildfire Relief in Kansas



Home Fire Relief in Kansas



Partnerships in Emergency/Disaster Preparedness!

We've already listed many partners.....

- O How do we get those partners involved prior to disasters so we are prepared?
- So Glad You Asked!!

#1 - ASK

It's really that simple - to find like minded partners - you - yes YOU - have to ask!

#2 Offer to train – Youth/Schools



#3 Offer to Train – Community Advocates





#4 Host a Community Event and Invite!



#5 Attend other Community Events



#6 Exhibit often in your community

College Volunteer Fair



Senior Volunteer Fair



ASK - ASK - ASK - ASK - ASK - ASK

You can't do everything – right?

Prepare

Respond

Well – You Can't – But with the help of Partners – You can do much more than you think!

However – Preparing is only the start!

Recovery

Engage

Appreciate

PREPARE

RESPOND

Response

- First Responders Fire, Police & EMS
- Emergency Management and City/County Departments
- O Disaster Action Team Volunteers
- Other Resources Neighbors/Clergy/Other Organizations
- O State and Federal Partners

RECOVER

Recovery comes in many forms

- O Casework
- MARC Multi Agency Resource Center
- Health Service
- Mental Health Service
- Spiritual Care

ENGAGE

Engaging to serve

- High School Age and Above to install alarms and to host blood drives
- Senior Citizens who man exhibits & installed alarms & deploy to disasters
- Business and Employees to host blood drives, to host & attend trainings, to volunteer & support preparedness events
- Anyone with education experience or a desire to train others to become Instructors!
- Even those who love to work on computers and the phone to be trained to be caseworkers – information & planning during disasters – and can do it remotely!
- If you have an empty chair at the table there is someone who will fill it most just don't know that the chair is open and waiting for them!

APPRECIATE

Appreciating just this year.....

- Shelter Locations Schools/Churches/Community Centers/Businesses
- Pet Response Team
- Fire and Police Departments
- Military Installations
- RSVP Retired Senior Volunteer Program
- Rotary Response Team
- Salvation Army
- Catholic Charities
- Southern Baptist
- O United Methodist Disaster Response
- Fraternities & Sororities
- Other Civic Organizations
- The Public at Large

Resources

- O Shelter Fundamental Training 3 ½ hours and we bring it to you and your community or organization for free!
- MARC Multi Agency Resource Center Training 3 ½ hours and we bring it to you and your community
- MOU Memorandum of Understanding template
- Thank You & Appreciation Emails template

In Conclusion -

- Gather Information
- Identify Needs & Gaps that may be filled through partnerships
- O Develop a Plan
- Partner Effectively

Fostering formal and informal partnerships in a community is an ongoing responsibility for each of us in our lines of service!

Thank you for your time and efforts! Please reach out if I can be of any service to you in those efforts.

Deb Tucker, American Red Cross 785-230-2333 debra.tucker@redcross.org