

Disaster Planning for Nonprofits

An action-oriented guide with tools you can use





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If a disaster has just happened...

It's not too late! Go to <u>Chapter 3</u> and use **Continuity of Operations Planning** to figure out what to do. You can also use the checklists in the Tools & Resources chapter to reconstruct data.

Later, you can recall how you felt at this time as an incentive to plan for future events.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

A disaster plan helps keep your basic operations functioning if an unexpected situation occurs. Your plan can reduce the human, facility, and resource damage that might occur in the event of a disaster or disruptive event.

Not having a plan can be devastating to an organization. You could lose your physical space, those key documents that are hard to replace, or, most importantly, your ability to do what your mission calls you to do. You have put so much work into your organization. It can be overwhelming to think about what would happen if all or part of it went away.

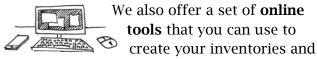
While it can be overwhelming to think about how to rebuild after a disaster, we also know that disaster planning itself can be overwhelming. That is why we have broken it down into its parts, with actionable steps to take along the way.

This guide and its accompanying tools are designed to help you get your organization ready for a disaster so the unexpected doesn't get in the way of your work. We have designed this set of resources to be results-focused, filled with worksheets and online tools that you can customize. We have made the goal crystal clear so you'll know when you are ready. No matter your budget size, you can move your organization forward to make it more secure in case of a disaster.

How to Use This Guide

Be sure to have a pen or pencil in hand as you read through the entire document.

Fill out the checklists and worksheets as you go. We've provided them to help you get organized and assemble your plan.



Continuation of Operations Plan. By storing this information securely online, you'll be able to access the data from anywhere, even if you don't have your own computer available.

Whether you are concerned about future disasters or are just coming out from under one, please give yourself all the grace you need to complete the project. We are cheering you on. Good luck!

Disaster Defined

Let's define what we mean by disaster:

A disaster is a devastating event, especially one occurring suddenly and causing great loss of life, damage, or hardship.

We are focused on disasters not perpetrated by an individual. While you certainly need to be prepared for a scandal, embezzlement, or active shooter crisis, this resource is focused on disasters that are not the result of a person's actions or behavior.

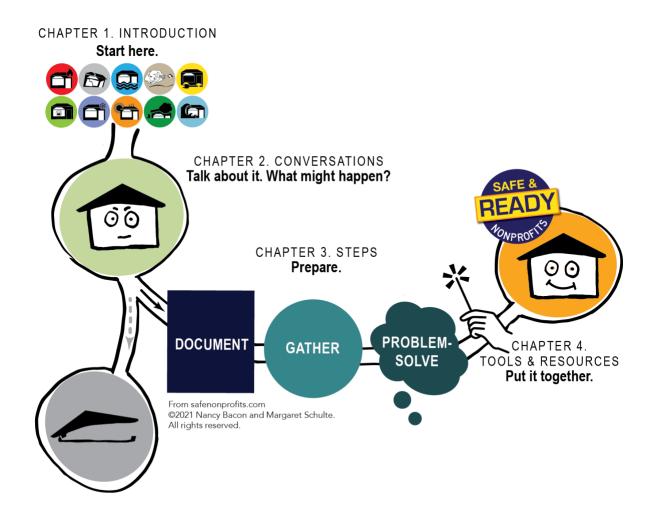
Every community is at risk from natural events, and these vary widely. You need to be prepared for them, as well as for a more generic list of disasters, like a pandemic or building fire.

Tip: Visit <u>https://climatecheck.com/florida</u> to see what your biggest natural threats are.

Your Disaster Planning Roadmap

This toolkit gives you a manageable, action-oriented framework you can use to develop your organization's disaster plan. It comprises four chapters and a set of online resources.

- 1. **Chapter 1** is the introduction. We'll define "disaster" and then step back and look at disasters as possible events.
- 2. **Chapter 2** goes through the conversations you need to have with your board, staff, and community members before writing the plan.
- 3. **Chapter 3** explains the three steps you'll use to create your plan: Document, Gather, and Problem-Solve.
- 4. In **Chapter 4**, we provide tools and resources you can use to put your own plan together.
- 5. In addition to this document, we have a set of easy-to-use **online resources**. Digital documentation is critical for speedy recovery, so you can use these Microsoft Word-based tables to compile the information and save it on a remote drive or in the cloud.

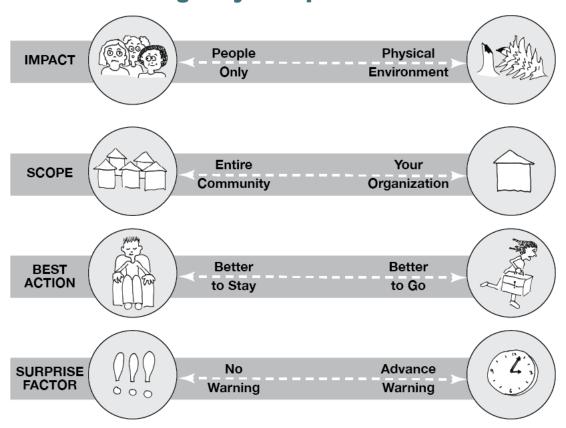


Disasters come in too many forms to list them all, but they can be categorized based on the following criteria:

- Does it impact the physical environment or the people?
- Does it impact the whole community, or just your organization?
- Is the best response to stay or to evacuate?
- Is there advance warning, or does it come as a surprise?

We've created the Emergency Comparison Tool, below, to help you think about possible disasters and what makes them similar or different from each other.

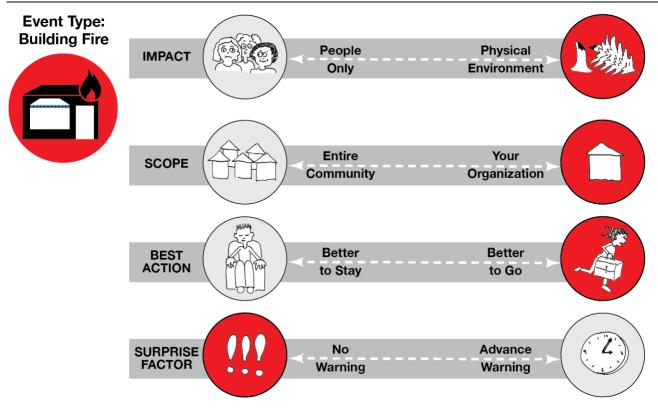
Emergency Comparison Tool



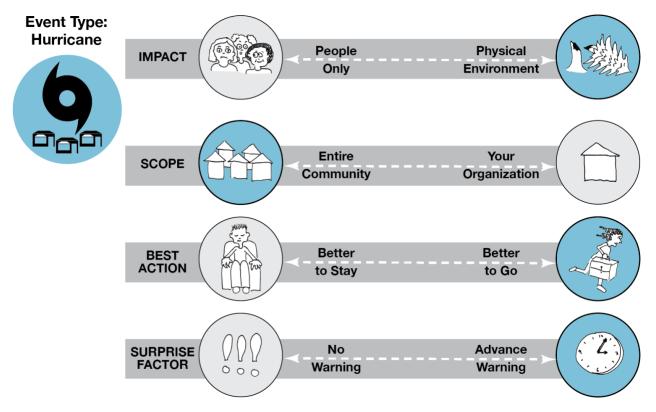
Each of these categories represents a range of responses, and your situation will dictate where you fall between the two extremes.

For example, if your building is located on high ground, you will take that into account in a flood or a hurricane. If it's especially sturdy, you'll take the construction into account for a tornado or windstorm.

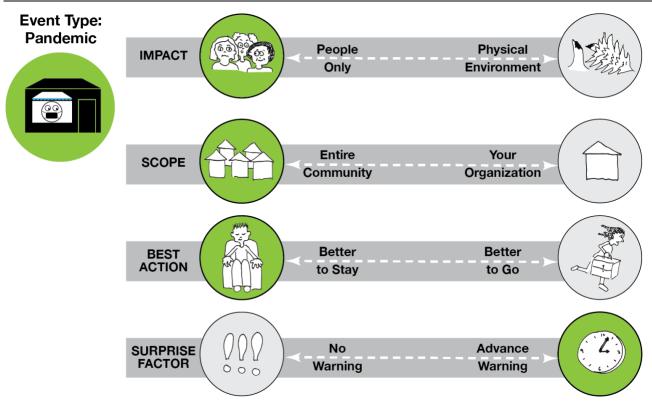
On the next couple of pages, we've put together examples for three different events, showing you how to use the Emergency Comparison Tool.



When you look at these categories, you might notice that a building fire could have similar results as a tree falling on your building. Which one is more likely? How could you prepare for both?



How would you prepare for an event that affects your entire community? In the case of a hurricane, you probably would have advance notice. How would you use that time?



The disruption caused by the pandemic was different from the physical disasters most organizations planned for. What systems needs to be in place for disasters like this, where whole communities need to isolate at home?

YOUR TURN

Use the <u>Emergency Comparison Tool</u> on page 3 to think about typical disasters and how they play out. What was the last disaster to impact your organization? How did it fall within these categories?

TOOLS

To help you come up with a list of disasters that might impact your organization, we've created a **brainstorming tool**. Go to Chapter 4: Tools & Resources (page 21) for a list of all the tools, or jump to one of these:

Disaster Brainstorming List, page 22

Insurance Checklist, page 23

CHAPTER 2: CONVERSATIONS

Engage Your People

You can't disaster plan alone. It takes an organization-wide commitment to managing for risk. It takes leadership that dedicates precious time to something that isn't immediately standing in front of you. It takes a team to spread out the work. Your first step is to build momentum within your organization so you get all of the way through this process.

Here are some ideas:

1. Discuss disasters at a board meeting. Invite people to remember the natural disasters that they have experienced and what happened. If someone in your community saw a nonprofit through a disaster, invite that person to share their story. Bring in data from your local government on what disasters they are preparing for. Discuss what would happen to your organization if that disaster actually happened. Immerse people in the conversation about disasters to instill a sense of why disaster planning is important for your organization.



- A good outcome will be the decision to prioritize disaster planning over the next six months. (You can do a similar activity with staff and volunteers.)
- 2. Discuss your organizational culture as it relates to disasters. It is hard to work against a culture, so now is a good time to articulate how your organization approaches disaster-related topics: risk, planning, documentation, science-based decision-making, and crossorganization collaboration.
- 3. **Build a disaster planning team**. This can include board members, staff, volunteers, and community members with an interest in disaster planning. These are the people who will develop and review your plan.
- 4. **Define clearly what success looks like for you**. You can read through this guide to know what our recommendations are—that you document information, gather key documents, and problem-solve in advance of a disaster. What would success look like for you?

Tip: Florida has a strong statewide culture of disaster awareness. There are resources available at the city, county, and state levels, accompanied by **media campaigns to remind you** of them. Take advantage of these campaigns to start conversations and begin planning with the members of your organization and community.

Know Your Goal

Our Nonprofit Disaster Plan has three steps:

ACTION RESULT



Up-to-date information about your organization

You will have written down in one place your most information, such as contact information and inventories of stuff. Having this "in the cloud" (available anywhere) will help you get up and running after the disaster passes.



"Go Kit" with what you need to run your organization

You've written information down...now add the other key documents that you have in a file folder. We are talking about administrative, organizational, and financial documents, such as your 501(c)3 letter, copies of your insurance policies, and your budget.



Strategies for dealing with different scenarios before trouble strikes

Often called a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)

You can think in advance of a disaster to plan what might happen and how you might therefore respond. There are two types of problem solving:

By disaster: Walk through a disaster scenario, make assumptions about it, and then imagine ways that you could respond.

By task: Write down key organizational tasks and plan for ways to keep your organization running during and after the disaster.

This is a short and doable process. This kit gives you the tools you need to create a plan you can implement any time. Your plan will give you full operational capability for essential functions that you can sustain for 30 days or longer. Let's be clear what success looks like.

Plan Your Plan

A good plan takes a plan.

The Executive Director has the responsibility to ensure a Disaster Plan is created. If your organization has no Executive Director, then someone on the board should assume the management role in order to move the planning forward.

	Document	Gather	Problem-Solve
Who leads			
Team members			
Start date			
Check in date			
Complete date			
Potential partners to connect with			
Notes			

ANNUALLY

month of
m∩ni

QUARTERLY

- Discuss the plan during staff and volunteer meetings. Schedule them now!
- Provide a training opportunity to staff and volunteers.

Date Action		Next Steps	

TIPS

- Integrate disaster planning into your ongoing administrative functions, like meeting agendas and work planning.
- Incentivize progress. Celebrate small wins along the way.

CHAPTER 3: STEPS



Document

You are surrounded by information. Let's capture some of that and put it in a place that you and your colleagues will be able to find later on.

There are two buckets of information we are collecting here: contact information and inventories.

We've provided a set of online tools to help you with the "Document" step, including the following:

- Inventories
- People contacts
- Resources and partners

The filenames are listed in Chapter 4, Tools & Resources (page 20). Each file includes instructions on how to complete it, and you can decide how and where to store it. Be sure to have a plan for keeping them updated, especially the contact records.

ONLINE TOOLS

The online tools we've created for this step are in Excel. But if you prefer to use a different tool, we've also listed all the categories and information to collect — look in the PDF with the instructions.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- □ Board and volunteers
- □ Business services
- □ Insurance
- ☐ Business contacts

INVENTORIES

- □ Office
- □ Technology
- □ Software
- ☐ Special equipment
- □ Back-ups
- □ Land and buildings
- ☐ Photos or video inventory
- □ Online programs
- \square Alternate sites

Print out copies when you are finished. You will need them in the next step!

TIP

Tackle this task over time. Commit to one item on the inventory list each week.



Gather

Let's turn our attention to a different kind of task—document collection. The documents below are key to keeping your organization running. Your task is to gather them in one place.

ORGANIZATIONAL DOCUMENTS

- ☐ Articles of Incorporation
- □ Bylaws
- □ Budget
- ☐ IRS Determination Letter
- □ Most Recent Form 990
- □ Most Recent Audit
- ☐ Certification Binder

ADMINISTRATIVE DOCUMENTS

- ☐ Insurance Policies
- ☐ Memoranda of Understanding
- ☐ Grants and Contracts
- ☐ Leases and/or Deeds
- □ Personnel Policies
- ☐ Human Resource paperwork
- \square Any policies and procedures.

In the course of your planning, you may develop new policies that apply to emergency conditions, such as when employees are expected to return to work after a storm.

FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS

☐ Current Financial Statements (Balance Sheet & Profit/Loss)

☐ Chart of	Account
------------	---------

- □ Bank Account Information
- ☐ Investment Information
- ☐ General Ledger
- □ 1099 Vendor Report

ONLINE TOOLS

In the inventories.xlsx spreadsheet, the first worksheet tab lets you track the location of each key document.

TIPS

- Make two copies. We recommend that two people living in two parts of town have the hard copy documents in a safe place.
 Typically, this is the Executive Director and board president.
- Make sure the documents are also available online through a folder shared by a few leaders in the organization. You don't want to share it too broadly given security concerns.

A quick way to capture an office inventory is to walk around your office making a video. Share that video with another colleague so it is safe. You'll have a way to remind yourself what you had should disaster strike.

Sarah Brooks



Problem-Solve

A hurricane has just made a surprise turn and is headed your way. You must act fast to respond. What should you do? If there is ever a time for your brain to freeze up and overload, it is when faced with big decisions under a pressing deadline. Why not do the thinking during calm times so you are ready when problems arise?

During the "Problem-Solve" step, you think through scenarios so you can plan for them in advance. In its simplest form, it is notes about what you will do in different situations. A more formal way to document problem solving comes in the form of a "Continuity of Operations Plan," or COOP.

Don't get hung up on the need to produce a formal document. Focus on the purpose—solving problems—and create whatever is right for your organization.

We offer two ways to problem-solve: by disaster and by task. Choose the way that works best for your organization. (You can also do both!)

Continuity of Operations Plan by Disaster: This plan centers on a specific disaster and what your organization will do if it impacts your organization or community.

Continuity of Operations Plan by Task: This plan centers on the administrative tasks that you must do to keep your organization running.

If you can pause activities during the course of a disaster, focus on the Continuity of Operations by Task (page 16). Problem solving looks different if you are a social service organization—say, a food bank—as compared with organizations that can more easily pause operations through the challenge of a disaster.

CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS PLAN BY DISASTER

This plan centers on a specific disaster. (See page 22 if you would like a list of disasters to consider.) It invites you to drill down into the impacts of that disaster and how your organization can respond in the short and long term.

Here's an example to consider:



Your food bank is located in a region known for flooding. The last big flood happened in 2017, and you know that the next one could happen any time. You serve people out of the annex of

a church in a low-lying region near the water. Your clients are people experiencing poverty; they usually come to you by bus.

I think of scenario planning as storytelling. You are going about your business, and a challenge gets in your way. Tell the story of what happens and how you dealt with the barriers.

Nancy Bacon

- 1. What assumptions can you make about the impact of a flood, given publicly available information? What assumptions could you make about your building?
- 2. How will those impacts affect the delivery of food to your location? The ability of your staff/volunteers to get to your location? How clients get to your location?
- 3. How will other organizations in your community fare? Can you turn to a partner for help?
- 4. What could your short-term response be? How about after the immediate crisis is over?



On the following page, we've created a worksheet to help you gather the information you need to create one or more Continuation of Operations Plan by Disaster. This is a good activity for a board or staff meeting.

- 1. Choose a disaster or disruptive event to focus on for this scenario.
- 2. Document your "regular operations." This means what you would do on an average day during an average week. Consider the six elements listed: inputs, people, clients, partners, location, and outputs. Be very specific.
- 3. Describe two levels of the disaster: moderate or severe.
- 4. Name assumptions that you could make across all six "regular operations" elements.
- 5. Plan what your immediate response will be. The exact timeframe will depend on event, typically 24-48 hours.

Plan what your recovery response will be. This is beyond the first response but before things stabilize.



ONLINE TOOLS

Use your handwritten worksheet to complete the Microsoft Word-based online tool we've provided. It's called COOP-by-disaster.docx.

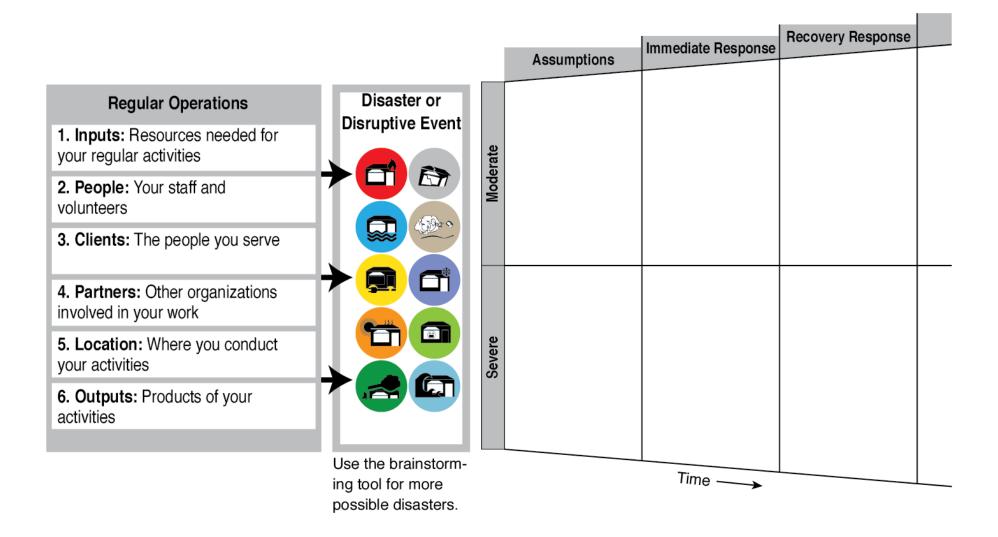
Of the Florida nonprofits affected by Hurricane Ian in 2022:

- 30% had to reduce operations because staff were unavailable.
- 26% had to reduce operations because of limitations to their infrastructure.
- 25% suffered wind-related facility damage.
- 21% were unable to provide their programs and services due to lost resources and supplies.

Florida Nonprofit Alliance 2022 Florida Nonprofits Survey

Continuity of Operations Plan by Disaster Worksheet

Use this worksheet as a discussion and investigation tool. We've provided an online version to document your final plan.



Health and Human Services Organizations

Most health and human services nonprofits jump into action during or after a disaster, when the community needs them most. This can require a completely different approach from an arts or educational organization, as evidenced by the food bank plan below.

Continuity of Operations Plan by Disaster: Food Bank Example

Current Volunteers

Typically, 20 volunteers work each site day as follows:

- 4 volunteers prepare meal bags for 200 families in 3 hours
- 7 volunteers assist during distribution of meal bags
- 5 volunteers assist with food bank setup and stocking
- 2 volunteers assist with food sorting
- 3 volunteers assist with office duties and client intake

Note: typical shift is a four-hour shift

Assumptions

The following planning assumptions are based on a single day of operation.

In case of disaster impacting the normal workspace:

- Would need 4 volunteers to prepare meal bags for 400 families
- Would need 2 volunteers to assist with food sorting and then client intake
- Would need 1 staff to supervise

Note: typical shift would be a six-hour shift

Management staff

- 50% of management staff lives in remote parts of county
- 50% of management staff lives within walking distance of food bank
- Expect 40% of all staff to be sick/out during pandemic

Food bank inventory issues

- Shelf-stable foods would need to be purchased
- Inventory of key items (peanut butter, fruit) is always low
- Bags would need to be modified as inventory changes
- Increased demand for no-cook food bags
- Size and scope of disaster will influence demand

Thank you to Robert Coit and the Thurston Food Bank for sharing this information.

On the challenges of disaster planning:

"Human nature works against you. We forget the pain and the tough moments as a defense mechanism. What I do is watch the news. And search out other parts of the world experiencing a disaster in order to keep motivated."

Robert Coit Food Bank Director

Health and Human Services Discussion Questions

Following are some of the questions health and human services organizations should consider when creating a Continuation of Operations Plan by Disaster.

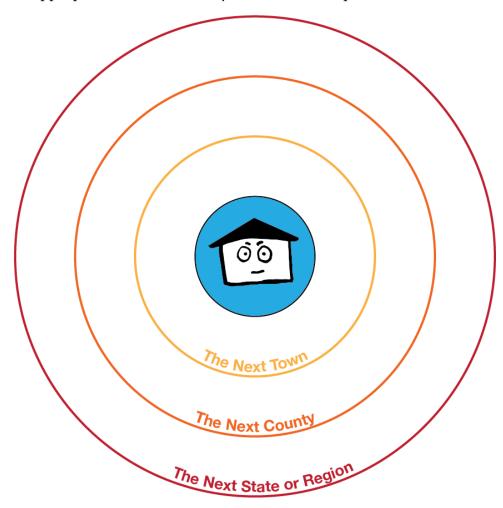
What is your current rate of delivery? (# units delivered to # people in X time)
What staffing resources do you need to achieve this?
What additional resources do you need? (supplies, PPE, etc.)
What is the condition of your workplace in the case of a disaster?
What programs would you CONTINUE in a disaster?
What programs would you PAUSE in a disaster?
If transportation is interrupted, how many clients could get to your facility?
How many people would be forced to stay at your facility with no way home?
Can you offer alternate transportation service or a drop off service for clients?

Geographical Impact Exercise

An emergency can impact you, even if it happens outside your community. As you create your Continuation of Operations Plan by Disaster, look at the surrounding geographical areas and think about what might happen in the next town, the next county, or even the next state. Here are some examples to consider:

- A bridge fails in your community, and traffic is rerouted for six months. Your volunteers and your clients use the bus or walk to your location, but now they can't get there. How will you get volunteers and serve your clients?
- Your food pantry is located inland, so you don't need to plan for storm surge. However, you are the closest pantry to a barrier island where hurricanes are a concern. How would you handle a surge in demand if everyone in the next county had to evacuate, and you were along the route?
- A terrible storm has paralyzed the north half of the state. You are fine, but your suppliers have been impacted, and none of your shipments are getting through. How long can you last without additional supplies?

For this exercise, you'll need some maps, either online maps or paper ones of various scales. Start by looking at your local map, then zoom out to your county, and then your state or region. Make notes in the appropriate circle below as you consider the questions.



What disasters might impact nearby areas?

What are the alternative routes to or from your location?

Are you on an evacuation route?

Where are your critical suppliers located?

Do you have relationships with organizations in nearby areas?

What is your capacity to assist outside your area?

ONLINE TOOLS

The resources-partners.xlsx spreadsheet helps you document relationships with other organizations in your area.

CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS PLAN BY TASK

Every organization—no matter your mission—can benefit from advance thinking on how you will keep things running in the case of a disaster. This type of planning centers on your organization's operational tasks, their urgency, and how you will accomplish them.

Here's an example to consider:

"During the last hurricane season, we hadn't planned for an evacuation, and all of a sudden we had to leave our offices. We had online access to documents, but it was hard to stay on top of the on-going business of the organization. We messed up payroll because we were stuck on the road on the 15th of the month, when we should have processed payments. We also missed a few bills because each of us thought the other person was tracking it. We want to make sure that we talk and plan now so we don't have that added stress next time."



- 1. Can you relate to this story?
- 2. If you were in charge of this organization's finances, what would you put in place now to avoid problems with payroll and bills the next time?



On the following page, we've created a worksheet to help you gather the information you need to create a Continuation of Operations Plan by Task. This is a good activity for a board or staff meeting.

- 1. Make a list of all your key organizational tasks. (The chart on the next page will help.) Think in terms of your weekly and monthly schedule. Review by department: finance, HR, technology, fundraising, direct service to client, etc. This is a good activity for a team effort.
- 2. Determine what the Maximum Acceptable Downtime (MAD) for each task is. MAD is the greatest length of time that you can go without performing that task.
- 3. Sort the list of tasks by MAD to get a sense of how they rank organizationally.
- 4. Start with your critical tasks. Determine a recovery strategy for tasks that must be completed within 24 hours of notice (like payroll).
- 5. Continue through your medium and lower priority tasks.
- 6. Share your *Continuity of Operations Plan by Task* chart across your organization so everyone knows what the plan is.



ONLINE TOOLS

Use your handwritten worksheet to complete the Microsoft Word-based online tool we've provided. It's called COOP-by-task.docx.

Continuity of Operations Plan by Task Worksheet

Here's a worksheet to use with your staff or board to stimulate discussion.

Regular Operations						
Task	Daily	Weekly	Monthly			
Finance						
HR						
Technology						
Communications						
Fundraising						
Other						

Nonprofit Disaster Plan Progress Checklist

Congratulations! You have accomplished important disaster planning for your organization. Let's track your progress.

		Good You have begun the work to gather this information.	Great! You have completed gathering this information.	Does not apply
	Contact information Employees Board members Volunteers Business services Insurance	_ _ _ _	_ _ _ _	
DOCUMENT	Inventory Office Technology Software Special equipment Backups Land and buildings Online programs Alternate service sites			
	Final step	Contact and inventory information is printed out and placed in a safe place.	Contact and inventory information is printed out and placed in two safe places.	
	Organizational documents Administrative documents Financial documents		_ _ _	
GATHER	Final step	These are printed out and placed in a safe place. □	These are printed out and placed in two safe places.	
PROBLEM- SOLVE	Continuity of Operations Plan by Disaster	We have talked through scenarios for a typical disaster.	We have documented plans for at least one typical disaster.	
	Continuity of Operations Plan by Task	We have talked through key tasks and what we intend to do. □	We have documented plans for how we will manage key tasks in the case of a disaster.	

CHAPTER 4: TOOLS & RESOURCES

In the following section, we've assembled a set of useful tools and checklists to help you prepare. It's important to recognize that these checklists are not the plan; they are tools that you will use to create a plan that is specific to your situation.

Online Templates: disaster-planning-tools.zip



We've developed the following tools in Microsoft Word and Excel, making it easy to enter your information and save your plan.

Filename	What Is Included		
@instructions for using the	1. Overview and instructions for the online tools		
online tools.pdf	2. Comprehensive list of all the fields from the Excel		
	spreadsheets		
inventories.xlsx	Inventory Templates		
	1. Key Documents		
	2. Office Inventory		
	3. Technology Inventory		
	4. Software Inventory		
	5. Online Software & Subscriptions		
	6. Backups		
	7. Media Inventory		
	8. Equipment & Vehicles		
	9. Land & Buildings		
people-contacts.xlsx	Contact Information Templates		
	1. Employees		
	2. Volunteers		
	3. Board Members		
	4. Insurance Policies		
	5. Key Donors		
resources-partners.xlsx	Template for Lists of Resources and Partners		
	1. Partners		
	2. Neighborhood Resources		
	3. Alternate Work Sites		
coop-by-disaster.docx	Continuation of Operations Plan by Disaster Template		
coop-by-task.docx	Continuation of Operations Plan by Task Template		
FNA-CBO-toolkit.pdf	Bonus: FNA Community Based Organization Disaster Response Preparedness Toolkit (see p. 33)		

Tools

You'll find these tools and checklists on the pages that follow. Use them to gather the information and materials you need for your plan.

- A. Disaster Brainstorming List
- B. Insurance Checklist
- C. Client Planning Questions
- D. Team Action Checklist
- E. Communications Checklist
- F. Building Checklist
- G. Volunteer Planning Questions
- H. Evacuation Checklist and Kit
- I. Technology Checklist
- J. Post-Warning Checklist

"Having a plan lowers my stress immensely. In the past month, I've dealt with a tropical storm, a website attack, and a power outage that lasted all morning. None of these were big disasters, but having a plan makes even the small, unexpected events easier to handle."

Meps Schulte

DISASTER BRAINSTORMING LIST

Туре с	of Disaster	Could this impact you?	Does your insurance cover it?	Type of Disaster		Could this impact you?	Does your insurance cover it?	
	Building Fire	□Yes □No	□Yes □No		600	Hurricane	□Yes □No	□Yes □No
	Earthquake	□Yes □No	□Yes □No			Winter Storm	□Yes □No	□Yes □No
(D) 9	High Winds	□Yes □No	□Yes □No			Power Failure	□Yes □No	□Yes □No
	Flooding	□Yes □No	□Yes □No			Pandemic	□Yes □No	□Yes □No
	Wildfire	□Yes □No	□Yes □No			Heat Wave	□Yes □No	□Yes □No

Extended Disaster List

Use this extended list to brainstorm about other disasters or variants that might impact you. Circle the ones to discuss.

Air quality hazard	Elevator incident	Internet outage	Sinkhole
Blizzard	Epidemic	Levee breach	Sinking boat or
Break-in	Equipment failure	Landslide	dock
Bridge failure	Explosion	Lightning strike	Terrorism
Building/ceiling	Fallen tree	Medical emergency	Tornado
collapse	Food contamination	Medicine	Tsunami
Chemical leak	Gas explosion	contamination	Train derailment
Civil unrest	Gas leak	Mudslide	Tropical cyclone
Dam failure	Grounded vessel	Oil spill	Vehicle accident
Derecho	Ice storm	Outbreak	Volcanic eruption
Drinking water	Infestation	Plane crash	Water main break
contamination	Information system	Product recall	Wild animal
Drought	failure	Riot	Wildfire
Dust storm		Roof leak	Workplace violence

INSURANCE CHECKLIST

We buy insurance to help us when things go wrong. In advance of a disaster, make sure you have the right insurance for your organization, the work you do, and where you do it. In the case of a disaster, these lists will remind you of what coverage you have. Use our online tool to document your policy numbers and contact information for your insurance company, agents, or brokers.

Note: Flood insurance in Florida is not usually covered in standard policies.

Date:

		Does your insurance	
Coverage	Description	cover this?	Action step
Auto	Covers vehicles used by the organization and staff.		
Business Interruption	Covers loss of income resulting from a disruption of operations. Can include the expense of operating a temporary location.		
Business Owners Policy	Combines property/renters, business interruption and liability policies.		
Directors and Officers	Protects board of directors and staff from personal liability for actions while working for the organization.		
Disability	Insures the beneficiary's earned income against the risk that a disability creates a barrier to work.		
Event	Special insurance that covers specific dates and/or activities.		
General liability	Covers legal responsibility for harm caused to others resulting from things that you or your employees do/ fail to do.		
Health insurance	Covers medical costs of individuals.		
Life insurance	Pays a beneficiary in the case of a death.		
Property	Covers buildings and contents owned by a company or organization.		
Renter	Covers the contents of a building being rented.		
Retirement plan	Plan that allocates savings or revenue for retirement.		
Volunteer	Covers spontaneous and recruited unpaid workers.		
Other:			

CLIENT PLANNING QUESTIONS

You work with people outside of your organization. The Continuity of Operations planning process gives you space to document your regular operations and to make assumptions about how the people you serve will or will not be able to access services in the case of a disaster.

If your organization does not provide direct service and you can shut down operations during a disaster, you can probably skip this exercise.

Here a	re some questions to consider:
	How many people do you serve? How many staff members are needed to serve that number? How many volunteers? How much time is required to serve your clients? What space is required to serve your clients?
What	else is important to consider related to your clients?
In the	case of a disaster:
	How will you find out about the condition of the people you serve?
	How will you contact the people you serve? (partners, family members, media) Do you have a system for collecting and storing that information in a way that protects
	privacy?
	Can you notify or work with local emergency services/government/first responders to address your clients' special needs?
Additi	onal preparations:
	What additional supplies might you need in the case of an emergency? (food, bedding,
	medicine, special equipment, special clothing, signage, etc.)
	What are the special needs of the people you serve? (language, physical abilities, diet, mental abilities, mobility, etc.)

TEAM ACTION CHECKLIST

Your people matter. Preparing for a disaster is a team effort. Here are some steps for your team to get ready. Make sure you share this information with your team.

1. Document your team

Disasters force us to need specific information about the people on our team. We may need to know an emergency contact to get them help, or maybe their exact home address to know how a weather event has impacted them.

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Update your database with staff information on a regular basis. Make sure you will have offsite
access to your database (or a back-up) in case of evacuation.
Record information for other key members of your team: board, volunteers, partners, etc.
Use the Continuity of Operations process (described later in this Guide) to track information
about your staff related to disasters.

2. Prepare your team

A team doesn't naturally know what to do in the case of a disaster. With luck, disasters happen rarely enough that we haven't had regular real-life practice in what to do. Often the make or break of disaster preparedness is how well plans have been developed, discussed, and practiced.

Actions:

Decide on a chain of command should your leader not be available
Set clear roles for each staff member in the case of a disaster
Provide training in disaster-response topics (CPR, first aid, gas shut-off, etc.)
Include disaster planning in meeting agendas, at least annually. Share this tool with staff!
Introduce disaster planning in new staff orientations

3. Align your team

Cross-training can help get us all on the same page. It means there are fewer opportunities for important actions and/or things to fall between the cracks. Conduct cross-training in advance of a disaster so you have a common practice from which to work.

Actions:

ion	IS:
	Provide a tour of your office/workplace to cross-train people on where things are.
	Create plan for shared resources, such us client files/records, critical documents.
	Agree on methods for transferring work offsite, such us back-ups, cloud access, and flash
	drives.
	Make a financial plan. Disasters can cost extra funds, so you may be ready with cash, a credit
	card, and a general plan on the limits of what you can spend.
	Consider if any cross-training of board members is needed, such as between elected officers.

COMMUNICATIONS CHECKLIST

There are four response disaster response phases to plan communication around. Each disaster is unique and must be handled in its own way.

1. Detection	2. Declaration	3. Mobilization	4. Management
Be alert for potential	Declare a disaster, which	Implement the plan.	Manage the plan.
disasters	invokes the plan.		

Internal communication

Clear communication to staff and volunteer is critical to your plan. You want to make sure your people know what is going on, how it impacts your ability to carry out your mission, and what they should do in the immediate and short term.

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JUHE	actions	10	าส	ĸt.

Decision-making: Determine who makes decision for each phase of a disaster.
Communication system (phone tree or equivalent). Have an alternate method ready should the
phones not be working.
Staff check-in/notification system. Have a system to stay in touch past the original message.
Client notification system. Have a system to reach clients collectively or individually, depending
on the work of your organization.
Safety signage. Print key signs in advance, such as evacuation routes, meeting sites, or supply
locations.

External communication

People outside your organization also need to know what is going on. You may have clients who rely on you or community partners wanting to help. Having a communication system for people outside your organization will help you respond when time is short.

Some actions to take:

Incident Command System chain of command (see below). Document your chain of command.
This is a tool to share with key partners.
Short email message. Be ready to drop an email, which means access to your email system, an
email list, and maybe a templated email to which you can add specifics.
Website and/or social media accounts. Be ready to post a message on your website or social
media page, which means access to your website and social media pages and a templated
message ready to drop in.
Phone tree to key partners or community resources. Create a communication system so you
can align services and manage community assets.
Public relations (media). Have a PR plan to engage the media. Draft key talking points.
Consider whether you need specific communications tools or supplies:
Bulletin board/white board
• Cell phones (for the organization)

Ham radios

• Megaphones/bullhorns

Drums or something to bang

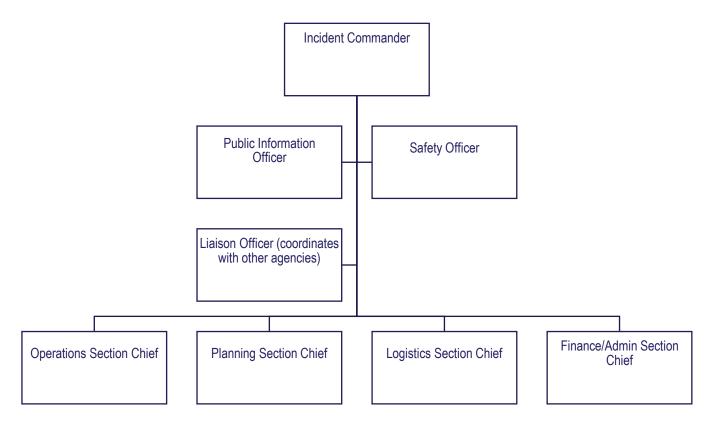
- Walkie-talkies
- Whistles

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM

The National Incident Management System is the Federal standard for responding to disasters. Its Incident Command System (ICS) gives you a way to organize communication and coordinate with partners. This graphic outlines the key ICS roles in the case of a disaster.

For our purposes, the graphic shows **the chain of communication and command in a disaster**. You can learn more about ICS on the FEMA website; there's a list of downloadable PDF resources available from https://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/icsresource/jobaids.

There are two reasons to familiarize yourself with this diagram. One is to understand the roles you may encounter at FEMA and other agencies when a disaster occurs. The other is to use this structure to create your own Incident Command System. When you document these roles in your Disaster Plan, you can avoid working at cross-purposes to each other in an emergency.



Using this diagram as a guide, enter names for your organization in each box or draw your own Incident Command System.

Here are some building-related tasks to pay attention to:

BUILDING CHECKLIST

Nonprofit work mostly happens within offices and facilities. It is important to make sure our workspaces are ready for a disaster.

Maintain the building. Your physical space needs regular maintenance. Preparing for a disaster adds extra urgency to some of those projects that may be put on the back burner. Preparing for a disaster may require you to address these items in your annual budget or with funders.

	Check vents, chimneys and roof that they don't need repairs. Clear drains.
	Check that signs and rooftop mechanical equipment are attached with rust-free anchors.
	Check that windows are in good condition.
	Check that exterior doors have deadbolts and strong hinges.
	Mark gas and water shut-off valves and instructions on how to turn them off. If you need a screwdriver or wrench to do it, make sure a screwdriver or wrench are stored nearby.
	Make sure smoke detectors are working and fire extinguishers are readily available.
	Clear exits, pathways, and evacuation safe spaces (in case of tornados, earthquakes, or other disasters where you "duck and cover.")
	Make sure there is no accumulation of debris that could cause damage or harm.
	d to your interior space, including furniture: How you prepare your interior spaces will depend at disaster you are preparing for. Here is a general list of tasks to consider:
	Bolt heavy cabinets, bookshelves, or other furniture to wall studs.
	Strap computers to desks.
	Make sure office, cabinet and closet doors can close securely Move heavy items to lower shelves.
	Remove or isolate flammable materials and toxic chemicals (like cleaning supplies).
	Check that you are using surge protectors (not power strips) on important electronic
Ш	equipment. It should have an Underwriter's Library (UL) rating.
	Label fire exits and safety supplies.
Prepa	re to leave quickly: Your people may not have a lot of time to think about how to leave. Help
them:	
	Display office/building evacuation plans in every room and corridor.
	Display maps that show all key emergency supplies (kits, supply cache, water/gas shutoff, generator, document safe, etc.)
	Post disaster checklist of key tasks so people can determine their assignment and address issues quickly.
	Post key phone numbers (fire, police, health clinic, hospital, government offices) near facility's telephone or within easy access of employees with cell phones.

VOLUNTEER PLANNING QUESTIONS

If you are lucky enough to have volunteers, you know how important they are to the successful operation of your organization. Because they are a valuable asset, it is important that you carefully plan the integration of your volunteers into your disaster plan.

There are two types of volunteers to consider:

- Regular volunteers: People who have regularly scheduled tasks.
- **Spontaneous volunteers (walk-in volunteers):** Individuals who step forward in a disaster to help. They may not have the skills appropriate to your regular work, but they may have other skills or assets that would be helpful.

Question	Answer	
REGULAR VOLUNTEERS		
Do your current volunteers have skills appropriate for disaster-related work?		
Do you have a system for recruiting volunteers in case of a disaster?		
Have you documented or discussed their disaster-related skills?		
Have you provided training to help them prepare for disasters? Will you?		
Do you have someone in charge of volunteers? Who might fill that role in a disaster? Do you have access to local disaster trainers outside your organization?		
What safety or legal considerations do you need to think about?		
SPONTANEOUS VOLUNTEERS		
What activities could be assigned to spontaneous volunteers?		
What activities should NOT be assigned to spontaneous volunteers?		
What safety or legal considerations do you need to think about with spontaneous volunteers?		
Does your insurance cover spontaneous volunteers?		

Keep records of your staff and volunteers—and their key disaster-related information—in a database. This would include emergency contacts and disaster-related certifications, such as CPR or EMT credentials. We have also provided an **online tool** (the second tab in people-contacts.xlsx) to help you collect this information.

EVACUATION CHECKLIST

Maintaining your own physical and psychological well-being during a disaster is your first responsibility. These lists will help you ready yourself to take care of your own needs. That will allow you to better help others.

Perso	nal kit							
	Alcohol Hand Cleaner		Food (no	n-perish	able)		Personal Hygiene	
	Batteries		Garbage	Bags			Supplies	
	Blankets		Gloves, e		thing,		Ponchos or other rain gear	
	Can opener		Lights/Fla				Prescriptions	
	Crescent wrench (for utility shut-off)		Matches	asinigino	•		Radio(s)	
	Deck of cards		Necessary medicines				Rope	
	Duct Tape		Other tools				Thermometer	
	Extra Cash					Utility knife		
	First Aid Supplies		Paper, pens and markers (in water-proof containers)			Water		
	First Aid Supplies						Whistles	
If evac	cuating, you should take:	L						
	Addresses		Driver's license			Title/mortgage for your		
	Bank statement		Extra cash			home, including payment addresses		
	Birth certificates		Flashlight				Work laptop	
	Cell phone		Health insurance				Additional zip drive for	
	Chargers		Insurance policies				your laptop	
	Check book		Last tax return				Your landlord's phone	
	Clothes for a week		Office keys				numbers	
	Credit cards		Passport					
Car kit to be prepared for a disaster								
	Blankets				Canned f	ood, car	n opener	
	Booster cables and tool kit	oster cables and tool kit			☐ Emergency flare/distress signs			
	Bottled water				First aid I	kit and re	eference guide	
	First aid kit							
Before	you leave the office, take	:						
	Client data or work product that you backed up on a zip drive and on paper				☐ Business cards☐ Any directories or contact lists you may			
	Your case list, to do list, an calendar	d persor	nal		have	AUTIGS U	Toomaot lists you may	

Here is a list of technology-related tools to consider:

TECHNOLOGY CHECKLIST

As much as nonprofit work is about people, it also relies on technology to keep us humming. A weather event, sudden need to work from home, or information technology disruption could really delay our ability to achieve our mission if we haven't planned for it.

0,
☐ System to capture passwords, available across the organization
□ Directions on how to access email remotely
□ Directions on how to access voicemail remotely
☐ Directions on how to use intranet system (if you have one)
☐ Directions on how to use any organization-specific system needed to work
□ Directions on how to use remote conferencing system
☐ List of important partner websites to provide information and monitor
What else?
We've all been in a place where we had the device but not the charger, so here's a reminder to locate label, and remember supporting tools:
□ Laptop power cords
□ Cell phone chargers
□ Cords needed to connect devices
□ Power strip or extension cord
□ Other:

POST-WARNING CHECKLIST

In the event of hurricanes and tropical storms, we get advance warning that the disaster might happen. That gives you time to prepare for an evacuation. Here are some actions to consider if you have time.

3	days	
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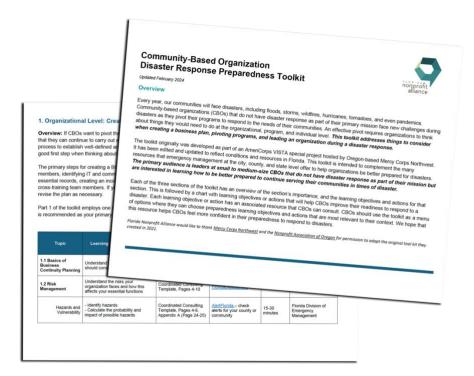
	Review checklists in this workbook as they relate to the disaster you are anticipating.						
	Remind your staff, volunteers, and board members of your communication plan and check-in						
	systems. Communicate your policy regarding coming to work or working during a storm.						
	Communicate with your landlord or property manager so you share an understanding of what						
	is happening. Get copies of keys and security codes if you need them.						
	Communicate with response partners to confirm gather points, times, and response functions.						
	Check that your documentation is accessible in the cloud and that your "Go Kit" is complete,						
	accessible, and offsite. Gather last-minute additions.						
	If you will be serving people through the disaster, check your supplies and the accessibility and						
	safety of your inventory/supplies during the disaster:						
	\square Water and food for all essential employees, volunteers, and clients for at least three						
	days. (In the case of a food pantry/bank, the inventory probably needs to be for a longer						
	period of time, such as much as 30 to 45 days of basic menu items.)						
	☐ Fuel for vehicles and generators.						
	□ Spare batteries for flashlights, radios, cell phones, and other electronics.						
	\square Other supplies identified as necessary for your response activities.						
	□ Cash						
1 day							
	Remind staff to gather work materials so they can work remotely.						
	Protect equipment and key materials as appropriate.						
	Attend to necessary administrative functions, such as bill paying and payroll.						
Ш	Attend to necessary administrative runctions, such as bin paying and payron.						
Same	day						
	Lock all windows and doors.						
	Change your phone message.						
	Post contact information on your door.						
	Take key documents with you as you leave.						

Community-Based Organization (CBO) Disaster Response Preparedness Toolkit

Community-based organizations (CBOs) that do not have disaster response as part of their primary mission face new challenges during disasters as they pivot their programs to respond to the needs of their communities. This requires organizations to think about things they would need to do at the organizational, program, and individual level.

Florida Nonprofit Alliance has prepared a CBO toolkit that addresses things to consider when creating a business plan, pivoting programs, and leading an organization during a disaster response. The **primary audience is leaders at small to medium-size CBOs that do not have disaster response as part of their mission** but are interested in learning how to be better prepared to continue serving their communities in times of disaster.

This Florida-based toolkit is intended to complement Disaster Planning for Nonprofits and the many resources that emergency management at the city, county, and state level offer to help organizations be better prepared for disasters. A PDF with hyperlinks is included with the Online Tools.



Florida Nonprofit Alliance would like to thank <u>Mercy Corps Northwest</u> and the <u>Nonprofit Association of Oregon</u> for permission to adapt the original tool kit they created in 2021.

Resources and Links

FEDERAL WEBSITES

• A national public service campaign with information and tips to prepare for just about any disaster: ready.gov

En español: ready.gov/es

- The Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA. Information about current disasters and disaster declarations, as well as where to apply for assistance: **fema.gov**
- The Small Business Administration, SBA. A guide to emergency preparedness for organizations and small businesses: sba.gov/business-guide/manage-your-business/prepare-emergencies
- The Internal Revenue Service, IRS. Preparing for a disaster from a tax perspective: <u>irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/preparing-for-a-disaster-taxpayers-and-businesses</u>

FLORIDA RESOURCES

There are many emergency preparedness resources available from government agencies and organizations at the state and local level:

- Florida Nonprofit Alliance: Your state nonprofit association offers resources to help you both prepare for and respond to disasters: **flnonprofits.org**
- Alert Florida: https://apps.floridadisaster.org/alertflorida/
- The Florida Division of Emergency Management: floridadisaster.org
- Florida Department of Commerce and Florida Division of Emergency Management: https://floridadisaster.biz/
- Volunteer Florida: https://www.volunteerflorida.org/emergency-management/.
- Florida Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters: https://voadflorida.wpengine.com/
- Florida Philanthropic Network: www.fpnetwork.org

LOCAL RESOURCES

- County: Visit your county's website and social media pages, or start at <u>floridadisaster.org/counties</u>
- City: Visit your city's website and follow them on social media for updates on what they offer.
- Local entities, like hospitals, school systems, and even grocery stores have checklists and tips to help you plan for regional disasters.
- Make a list of other local entities, such as fire or water management districts, and find out what resources are available.

OTHER RESOURCES

- American Red Cross Ready Rating: readyrating.org
- Preparing homes for wildfire (National Fire Protection Association): www.nfpa.org

- Nonprofit Disaster Planning and Recovery (Techsoup): An extensive set of disaster planning tools for nonprofits with a technical perspective.
 www.techsoup.org/disaster-planning-and-recovery
- BoardSource: www.boardsource.org
- CARE: www.careemergencytoolkit.org
- Coordinated Consulting: www.coordinatedconsulting.com
- DisasterReady: <u>www.disasterready.org</u>
- Do1Thing: www.do1thing.com
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies: www.ifrc.org
- National Council of Nonprofits: www.councilofnonprofits.org
- Nonprofit Risk Management Center: www.nonprofitrisk.org
- NTEN: www.nten.org
- SBP: SBP's mission is to shrink the time between disaster and recovery. SBP's Disaster Assistance Program advocates for disaster survivors and provides the resources they need to successfully increase FEMA awards. ALL awarded FEMA monies go directly to the survivor. https://sbpusa.org/our-mission/advocate/fema-appeals-program

ABOUT THE SPONSORS



Florida Nonprofit Alliance is the state's collective voice, respected advocate, effective connector, and powerful mobilizer for the nonprofit sector.

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Florida Philanthropic Network is a statewide association of grantmakers working to strengthen philanthropy through research, education and public policy.

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Disaster Planning for Nonprofits was created by Nancy Bacon and Margaret "Meps" Schulte to make nonprofit planning for catastrophic events as easy and efficient as possible.

Through the Nonprofit Learning Center, Nancy and Meps deliver action-focused, "how-to-do-it" learning and tools for members of small to medium-sized nonprofits. Learn more at www.nonprofitlearning.center.



GRATITUDE

The wisdom of these nonprofit leaders enriched this resource:
Sarah Brooks, Methow Conservancy
Leon Brauner, Ocean Shores Food Bank
Trish Twomey, Washington Food Coalition