

Mount Vernon Virginia Stake Emergency Response Plan

October 2011

The Emergency Response Plan for the Mount Vernon Virginia Stake is based on principles set forth in *Providing in the Lord's Way* and its supplement, *Church Welfare Resources*, pp. 14-17.

The purpose of the Mount Vernon VA Stake Emergency Response Plan is to outline emergency planning and response priorities at the stake, ward and individual levels. It is recommended that this plan be used as a guide by stake and ward leaders and individual members to assess risks and plan for response.

This outline assigns the roles and responsibilities for the implementation of the Plan during an emergency and is designed to maximize human safety and preservation of property, minimize danger, and assure responsive communication to all appropriate parties.

Stake response to emergencies will be carried out through the existing stake and ward organizations. The stake council, under the direction of the Stake President, and the ward councils under the direction of each bishop should be used to coordinate these efforts.

In times of emergency, it is recommended that members of wards with multi-ward or stake-wide boundaries know how to contact representatives from the family-based ward in which they reside. Likewise, Bishops should be aware of such members within their boundaries.

The primary responsibility to prepare for and respond to emergencies rests with individual members and families. However, civil authorities have priority in directing efforts to respond to emergencies. When they respond, the Mount Vernon VA Stake will play a subordinate and supporting role to city, county, state, or federal emergency response officials, and will provide technical and facility support as needed.

Stake Response to Emergencies

All members of the Stake are encouraged to take direction from civil authorities during emergencies. After ensuring that family members are able to care for themselves, the Stake President and stake council members should convene to:

- Review any counsel or instructions from civil authorities and the Stake Presidency.
- Determine an initial course of action.

- Confirm overall responsibilities, making sure that the bishops and others he may direct are available to minister to members.
- Make an initial assessment of the condition of families and individuals.
- Set the time and method for follow-up communications, using the internet, text messaging, amateur radio, or personal contact via foot, bicycle, etc. if normal communications methods are down. (*See Stake Emergency Communications Plan.*)

Stake leaders will convene at the Mount Vernon Virginia Stake Center to establish a Stake Command Center. If the Stake Center is unavailable then the home of the Stake President will be used.

The Stake direction of emergency response will follow this order:

Stake President
 1st Counselor in Stake Presidency
 2nd Counselor in Stake Presidency
 Senior member of the High Council

Stake Priority of Response

- Assist those who are injured or in danger.
- Inform the Church regional authorities of conditions in the Stake and request assistance as necessary.
- Account for all families, individuals and missionaries within the Stake, assisting in reuniting as needed.
- Arrange for shelter and other selected services – keeping people as close to their property as possible – in the homes of relatives, friends, and neighbors before sending them to public shelters or establishing a shelter in a Church meetinghouse.
- Assess damage to Church property and take steps to protect it as necessary.
- Review damage to homes and determine ways members can assist one another.
- If necessary, establish a shelter at the Stake Center

Refer to *Church Welfare Resources*, pp. 16-17, for more information on first-aid assistance, food preparation, housing, recreation, sanitation, child supervision and communication.

Ward Response to Emergencies

After ensuring that family members and individuals in the ward are able to care for themselves, the Bishop and the ward council should convene to:

- Review any counsel and instruction from civil authorities and the Stake Presidency.
- Determine an initial course of action.
- Confirm overall responsibilities, making sure that the Bishop and others he may direct are available to minister to members.
- Make an initial assessment of the condition of ward members.
- Set the time and method for follow-up communications.

All response to emergencies will be carried out through the existing ward organizations, with the Bishop and Bishopric as the presiding officers. Wards should determine and identify in advance who will direct response efforts when a member of the Bishopric is not available. In general, the ward direction for emergency response should follow this order:

Bishop

1st Counselor in Bishopric

2nd Counselor in Bishopric

High Priests Group Leader

Elders Quorum President

Ward Executive Secretary

Ward Priority of Response

The following checklist will help the leadership to assess damage, secure life and health, and reduce side-effect risk:

- Assist those who are injured or in danger.
- Report the situation, casualties and dangers to the Stake Presidency.
- Account for all families, assisting them to reunite as soon as possible.
- Arrange for shelter and other selected services as necessary.
- Assess damage to Church property and take steps to protect it as necessary.

- Review and assess damage to homes & determine ways members can help each other.
- If necessary, establish a shelter using the Church meetinghouse under the direction of the Stake President (*see Selected Services under Stake Priority of Response*).

Family and Individual Emergency Preparation

Church members are encouraged to prepare a simple emergency plan. Items to consider may include:

- Three-month supply of food that is part of a family's normal daily diet.
- Drinking water.
- Financial reserves.
- Longer-term supply of basic food items.
- Medication and first aid supplies.
- Clothing and bedding.
- Important documents.
- Ways to communicate with family/priesthood leaders following a disaster.

Likely Emergencies—Preparation and Response

The most likely emergencies to strike the Mount Vernon VA Stake are: fire, flood, heat wave, hurricane, terrorism, thunderstorm, tornado, and winter storm.

Additional information on how families and individuals can prepare for and respond to these emergencies can be found at www.redcrossnca.org, (703) 584-8400; www.fema.gov, (800) 621-FEMA (3362); www.ready.gov; www.vaemergency.com, (804) 674-2400; and www.blessfamily.com/.

Buildings Contact List

Mount Vernon VA Stake Center, (703) 313-7837, 6219 Villa Street, Alexandria, VA 22310
 Alexandria Chapel, (703) 683-7577, 2810 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302
 23rd Street Chapel, 703-360-4050, 745 23rd Street South, Arlington, VA 22200
 Mount Vernon Chapel, (703) 780-4789, 2000 George Washington Pkwy, Alexandria, VA 22308
 Bishops' Storehouse, (202) 463-8493, 7979 Penn-Randall Place, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Civil Authorities and Relief Organizations Contact List

VA Dept of Emer. Management (VDEM), (804) 897-6500, 10501 Trade Ct, Richmond, VA 23236

<http://www.vaemergency.com/aboutus/locationscontact-us>

Region 7: Northern Virginia, Office of Emergency Management, Local Emergency Managers:

1. Alexandria City, VA (703) 746-5256, (703) 746-5200, 900 Second St., Alexandria, VA 22314

<http://alexandriava.gov/fire/info/default.aspx?id=5176>

2. Arlington County, VA (703) 228-7935, 1400 N. Uhle St., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22201

<http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EmergencyManagement/EmergencyManagementAbout.aspx>

3. Fairfax County, VA (571) 350-1000.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/contact/AgencyDetail.aspx?agId=1019>

Am. Red Cross, (703) 584-8400, 8550 Arl., Blvd, Fairfax, VA, 22031, <http://www.redcrossnca.org/>