



# DISASTER NEWS



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**“IT SEEMED LIKE THE APOCALYPSE!”**  
**“IT WAS LIKE HELL ON EARTH!”** These are just two of the comments made by folks who were involved in the explosion and fire in San Bruno, CA. If you saw the fire on the news, you can easily understand how those within a block or so of the natural gas explosion might think the world was coming to an end. For at least four, their end did come.

What about the families in Colorado? Many more there lost their homes to a fire that may have been started by someone accidentally driving into a propane tank. Thousands of acres have been burned, and dozens of homes destroyed.

Between those two events, hundreds of families are now homeless. Some were fortunate enough to find shelter with family members, friends, or compassionate neighbors. Others are temporarily housed in shelters run by the American Red Cross or other organizations or agencies.

While fires like those described above are totally unpredictable, the floods and tornados in Texas and Oklahoma were more predictable. Albeit, the amount of rain easily overwhelmed many communities, and again, hundreds of families were put out of their homes. Many of them have lost most, or all, of their home's contents. Most likely, some homes were basically destroyed.

Where will the next such event occur? **COULD IT BE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?**

**Are you prepared to suddenly leave home? You should be.**

One thing for which you can be sure—**your fellow Adventist Community Services Disaster**

**Response (ACS DR) volunteers** are ready, and already responding, to these events.

Reports from Colorado indicate that the Rocky Mountain Conference ACS DR leaders and other volunteers are already busy managing collection and distribution operations. They have also been called upon to open a warehouse.

Regarding the flooding in Texas and Oklahoma, our national ACS DR Director, Pastor Joe Watts, reports that they are ready if either state indicates a need for Donations Management services provided by ACS DR. The new Texas Conference Disaster Response trailer is ready to go where



needed. It is based in Keene, TX at the conference ACS Depot.

Since we can't predict where or when such disasters may/will hit, we each need to be ready to provide for our self and our family. Your local conference ACS DR Director/Coordinator can assist you in learning where and when the next ACS DR "Introduction to Disaster Preparedness" class will be held. **Better yet, offer to host a class at your church.** During this class, you will learn how you, and your fellow church members, can be better prepared to deal with a disaster in your community.

We know that disasters will be on the increase as we get nearer to the end of time. We see the number and variety of disasters are increasing worldwide, we know we are closer to God's return. Naturally, "we know not the hour", so we must be ready at all times. **Being ready includes more than just the spiritual aspect.** We must be ready physically, by having a plan, having basic supplies ready to go, and a communication plan to stay in touch with personal and church families.

**ACS DR offers several additional classes** for those who are willing to be trained to help even more following a disaster.

There is work to be done at home, as well as in distant places, so you are not obligated to being away from home for long periods of time while serving disaster survivors.

However, **volunteers who can travel and be away for one week or more are really needed.** It is recommended that each conference have a cadre of trained ACS DR volunteers who can travel. These volunteers would be formed into teams, and train together so they could quickly respond to a disaster—whether it is near or far.

Volunteers with special skills in information technology, communications, forklift operators, and others are always needed. Amateur radio operators have been very useful in several recent events.

Specific areas of training include how to manage Community Collection Centers, Emergency Distribution Centers, and Multi-Agency Warehouses.

For those who become trained and experienced in the ACS DR operational aspects of Community Collection Centers, Emergency Distribution Centers, and warehousing, may be interested in taking advanced courses to join the management team.

This training is usually available during our national ACS conventions. Plans are also being considered that would bring this level of training to a local conference nearer to where you live.

**Pray** for those who have just experienced the horrific disasters of the past week or so. **Pray** for your ACS DR volunteers who are on the front lines serving the disaster survivors.

Every ACS DR response has expenses involved.

**You can help** by making a financial donation to your local conference, union conference, or national ACS DR ministry. To make a donation to our national ministry, mark your offering envelope for "NAD ACS DR" or mail your donation to Adventist Community Services, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904.

**REMEMBER:** Adventist Community Services serves in the United States and Bermuda. ADRA International serves in most of the rest of the world. ACS and ADRA are separate organizations, each with their special areas of service and slightly different missions. Just be sure to mark your offering envelope correctly for the organization you intend to receive your financial donation.



**Disasters happen in all seasons of the year.**