

Disaster Basics: NEVOAD & COADs

Nebraska Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
Lisa Ashby, NEVOAD chair



Can you hear me now?

Nature of Disaster

Disasters overwhelm the normal response capacity and capabilities of individuals, organizations, and communities

Need to look beyond oneself for assistance

Resiliency and response also comes from within

Recovery is a combination of inner and outer resources

"All disasters are local"

Events take place at a local level

First responders often are local

Those who know the community and its resources are local

Those who are there for the long term are locals

"All disasters start and end locally"

Nearly all of the cities and counties in the eastern half of Nebraska issued disaster declarations due to the flooding.

The State of Nebraska also declared a disaster and we received a federal major disaster declaration in March of 2019 for the flooding and in April 2020 for the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

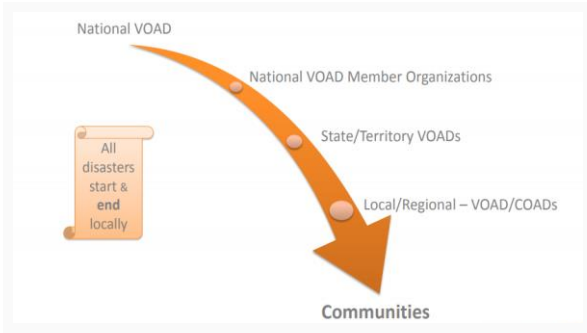
Fortunately, there are resources in the voluntary sector such as COADs and VOADs that individuals and communities can turn to in recovery.

VOAD services

VOAD members offer direct services to individuals: feeding, clothing, financial support, MARCs

VOAD members & VOAD as a group work with communities to meet needs: cleanup, standing up long term recovery groups, financial support, volunteer & donation management, and working with COADs and emergency managers

Long-term: If a community does not yet have a COAD, the VOAD can assist in COAD formation



VOAD movement

- National VOAD started 50 years ago
- Hurricane Camille, category 5, hit the Gulf Coast in August 1969
- Independent operations by gov't, non-profits & private entities
- Help came to survivors haphazardly
- Duplication of efforts in some cases; other needs not met
- VOAD aim: to work better together

National VOAD today

- National members: 70+ large-scale disaster organizations
- State and Territory members: 56 member organizations
- Partnerships with FEMA, state EM, and other gov't entities
- And: other non-profits, foundations, research & educational institutions and for-profit corporations
- Examples: AirBNB, Lowes, UPS, Airlink

What is Nebraska VOAD?

State chapter of the National VOAD

Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster response throughout the state of Nebraska

Coalition of nonprofit organizations that respond to disasters & our partners

Nearly 40 organizations in our membership*

Adventist Community Services	Catholic Social Services
All Hands Volunteers	Food Bank for the Heartland/FB of Lincoln
Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)	Convoy of Hope
American Red Cross Nebraska Kansas SW Iowa Region	Corporation for National and Community Service
Better Business Bureau	County Emergency Management Agencies
Catholic Charities	*representative list, not full list & subject to change

Nearly 40 organizations in our membership

Great Plains United Methodist Conference Disaster Response	Long Term Recovery Groups & COADs (various)
Heartland Church Network/Southern Baptist Disaster Relief	Mennonite Disaster Service Nebraska
Habitat for Humanity	Nebraska 2-1-1/United Way
Legal Aid of Nebraska	Nebraska Citizen Corps Program
Team Rubicon	Nebraska Extension
	Nebraska National Guard

Nearly 40 organizations in our membership

Nebraska REACT	The Salvation Army
Noah's Canine Crisis Response Team	Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
Reach Out Worldwide	UNL/UNO
Region V Systems	Society of St. Vincent dePaul
Santee Sioux Nation Society of Care*	Save the Children
ServeNebraska	Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska
Southeast Nebraska Medical Reserve Corp	World Renew Disaster Response Services

How does it work?

Bring organizations **together** and
 Enable them to **understand** each other and
Work together during times of disaster
 preparedness, response, relief and recovery.

The Four Cs

- Cooperation
- Communication
- Coordination
- Collaboration

Member organizations

- Operate autonomously (we don't legislate)
- Agree to collaborate, communicate, cooperate, and coordination with partners
- Receive/provide information & guidance in best practices & trainings
- Receive/share information about needs and responses
- Respond to individuals & communities within our organized framework

Examples: Monthly (or Daily) Meetings

- Conference calls or face to face
- Gather information about recovery efforts, preparation plans, trainings, etc.
- A chance to meet with leaders of other organizations
- Opportunity to interact with VALs from NEMA & FEMA
- Agency updates

Committees of NEVOAD

- Emotional and Spiritual Care
- Long Term Recovery
- Volunteer Management
- Donation Management
- Mass Care
- Bring together agencies for planning, resource awareness, and coordination

Communication: regular, rapid, collaborative

Text messaging system

Email distribution list

Slack app (encrypted; messaging & file sharing)

Conference calls

On the ground meetings/briefings

As needs arise, we want to be able to convene our membership quickly and effectively so that we can work together with local, regional & national partners

Coordinated clean up

CRISIS CLEANUP 1-800-443-7994 (COVID) 1-844-965-1388 (Tornadoes)

Visualize the Disaster in Real Time

Choose an incident from the drop down to see cases

Michigan Floods, May 2020

Home About Us Blog Map Contact

Help Organizations

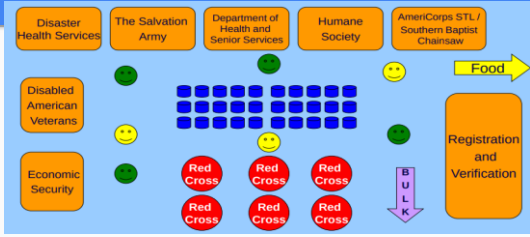
Legend

- Incident location
- Debris
- Case Status
- Completed
- Priority completed
- Not started
- Partially completed
- Completed

Tickets: Closed, open and total cases 5/29/19

Nebraska	705	425	1130
Debris	68	90	158
Deferred Maintenance	1	1	2
Landslide	2	1	3
Mold Remediation	69	42	111
Muck Out	437	151	588
Other	104	48	152
Rebuild	23	89	112
Trees	1	3	4
Grand Total	1028	620	1648

Multi-Agency Resource Center: 2000+ families served at six MARCs

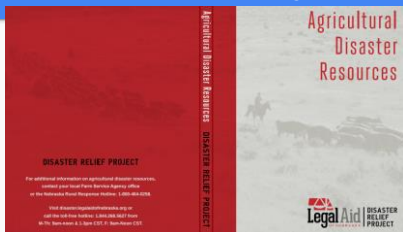


Resources Provided

Better Business Bureau and VOADS of Nebraska, South Dakota, Kansas & Iowa



Resources Provided: Legal Aid of Nebraska



Partnering Across the State

- How to set up and staff EVCs
- The role and operations of a Multi-Agency Response Center
- Long-Term Recovery Committees: establishing them, ongoing operations
- Supporting our COADs and partnering with them in development & best practices

During COVID-19 Response

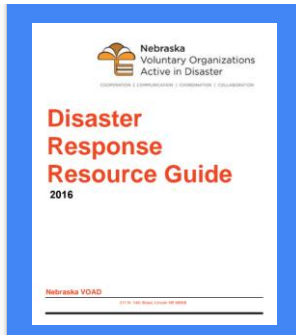
- Food service and supply has been primary focus
- Donated materials: food, PPE, refrigerators (in partnership with Dept of Ag)
- Transportation: food delivery, transportation for people in need
- Volunteer partnerships between food banks/pantries & other member agencies
- Food Security Task Force creation and connecting National Guard to Food Banks
- PSAs to donate to Food Banks aired on radio and Spotify

During COVID 19 response

- Virtual Family Assistance Centers --Red Cross partnered with faith-based and disaster emotional spiritual care for staffing
- Continued preparation for disaster response in the COVID environment
- Exploring how to offer virtual Multi-Agency Resource Centers
- Monitoring issues of evictions and homelessness
- Continued collaboration with VOAD members and long-term recovery groups

Responding with Partners in Disaster

Information for ourselves & our partners



Resources

- Food/Feeding
 - Behavioral Health
- Sheltering
 - Equipment
- Financial/Insurance/Legal Services Donations Management
- IT/Communications Family Services
- Disaster Preparedness Other

Agency Info (this is from UMCOR)

Resources Available

Food/Feeding Services

- Mobile feeding
- Food/food supplies
- Our Hot Food Ministry needs 24-48 hours to deploy. We can feed approx. 700 per meal, 3 times a day. We provide our own food and have staff to prepare.

Agency Info (Mennonite Disaster)

Deployment Details

Response Jurisdiction: Statewide
Notice needed for response: 4-12 hrs
Will reimbursement for expenses be sought: No
Is the organization self-sufficient:

Resources Available

Volunteer (Human) Resources

- Skilled volunteers
- Unskilled volunteers
- As we are a volunteer organization our base of workers can be limited. Skills would be chainsaw operators, debris clean-up, and construction.

Agency Info (St. Vincent de Paul)

Food/Feeding Services

- Mobile feeding
- We can deploy the Hope Kitchen which a mobile kitchen, but it has to come from St Louis and may not be able to traverse unpaved roads.

Shelter Services

- Shelter supplies

Financial, Insurance, Legal Support

- Financial support

Volunteer (Human) Resources

- Case management
- We do Disaster Case Management across the country.

NEVOAD and COADs

We are a coalition of volunteer agencies working together throughout the disaster cycle.

We partner with each other and with emergency management and local officials in order to better serve our state and communities.

To serve our neighbors effectively

- A broader group is able to identify needs
- Needs are shared to a wider network
- Agencies have varied services or strengths to meet those needs
- We don't duplicate efforts or have gaps in service
- We can all offer longer term and more in-depth service to those in need.



How to become involved

- Talk with your area emergency managers
- Find out if there is a COAD or long term recovery group in your area
- Get in touch with the state VOAD
- If you're an individual, consider volunteering with a VOAD agency; if you're with an organization, consider affiliating with a COAD or the State VOAD.
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