

SAFETY BRIEFING FOR DISASTER VOLUNTEERS

Carefully follow ALL instructions for your assignment.

1. PROPER ATTIRE:

- Boots or hard bottom shoes
 - ❖ FLIP FLOPS AND HIGH-HEELED SHOES ARE NOT PERMITTED ON DISASTER SITE.
- Wear long pants tucked inside socks/boots (Ant, spider protection)
Wear work gloves and avoid reaching into debris piles. (Debris piles may also contain potentially hazardous materials, including chemicals and particulates such as lead and asbestos)
- Apply sunscreen at least 30 minutes before going on site and use bug repellent liberally.

2. HYDRATION & SANITATION:

- DRINK A MINIMUM 8oz of water each hour you work. (Ex. 4 hours of work = 32oz water.)
Use bottled water or hand sanitizer to rinse your arms and hands frequently. (Caution: Rubbing your eyes or mouth can spread bacterial contamination.) Due to this disaster you may encounter higher than normal exposure to bacteria.

3. **DEBRIS REMOVAL:** Debris removal is the clearance, removal, and/or disposal of items such as trees, sand, gravel, building components, wreckage, vehicles, and personal property.



- Use proper lifting techniques.
- Wear work gloves.
- Do not climb on debris piles: Debris piles and overhanging debris create the risk of slips, trips, and falls; injuries from sharp and jagged material; and being struck by falling items.
- Leave immediately if shifting or unusual noises signal a possible collapse.

4. ELECTRICAL HAZARDS:

Look for overhead power lines and buried power line indicators. Stay at least 10 feet away from power lines and assume they are hot. Don't touch downed power lines or any object or water that is in contact with the lines. Don't drive over downed power lines or through standing water if power lines are in the water

5. STRUCTURAL HAZARDS:

Watch for loose hanging debris, trees and objects. Do not enter homes, apartments or buildings damaged by the disaster unless directed by an official emergency site manager.

6. **VOLUNTEERING DURING A DISASTER** may cause high anxiety, stress and other strong emotions. The recovery process will last for an extended time. It is **NORMAL** to want to resolve the crisis in **ONE** visit. You are only **ONE** person and with your help today, **YOU ARE MAKING A HUGE IMPACT**. If you find one child's lost favorite toy, or hold the hand of one wheelchair-bound senior in a shelter, you will have eased the pain. Do not feel guilty because you are not able to fix everything. Work your shift, then go home to rest and eat well. Both will help to relieve the stress.

7. If you have children under the age of 18, be aware of their location at ALL times.

8. Please take advantage of any debriefing offered for this disaster.

9. If you injure yourself, **STOP WORKING AND DIAL 911 IMMEDIATELY**.

10. Use the buddy system.

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING!