# Disaster Update, How to Help

## Event: Mississippi, Alabama-Georgia Severe Storms, and Tornadoes
## Event Date: January 12, 2023

**What Happened and Where: Source Newsweek-**The deadly tornado outbreak across the southern United States last week resulted in at least 35 destructive tornadoes and 9 deaths across Alabama and Georgia, including four members of the same family. Among the devastated communities was Selma, Alabama, which took a direct hit from one of the tornadoes. The scale of the tornado's destruction in the city, located in Dallas County, Alabama, about 40 miles west of Montgomery was immense. Numerous homes in the path of the storm can be seen destroyed or heavily damaged as piles of debris are scattered across neighborhoods. This deadly storm system wasn't brought on by one factor alone — it was a combination of a La Niña weather pattern, unusually warm temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico and the gradual eastward shift in tornado patterns. Counties impacted in Alabama- were Autauga, Dallas, Bibb, Elmore, Chambers, Coosa, Greene, Hale, Mobile, Morgan, Sumter, Tallapoosa, Mississippi -Monroe and Georgia- Butts, Henry, Jasper, Meriwether, Newton, Spalding, and Troup. For updates on Federal Declaration visit disasterassistance.gov

**Impact to the UCC:** no reports from UCC Churches thus far.

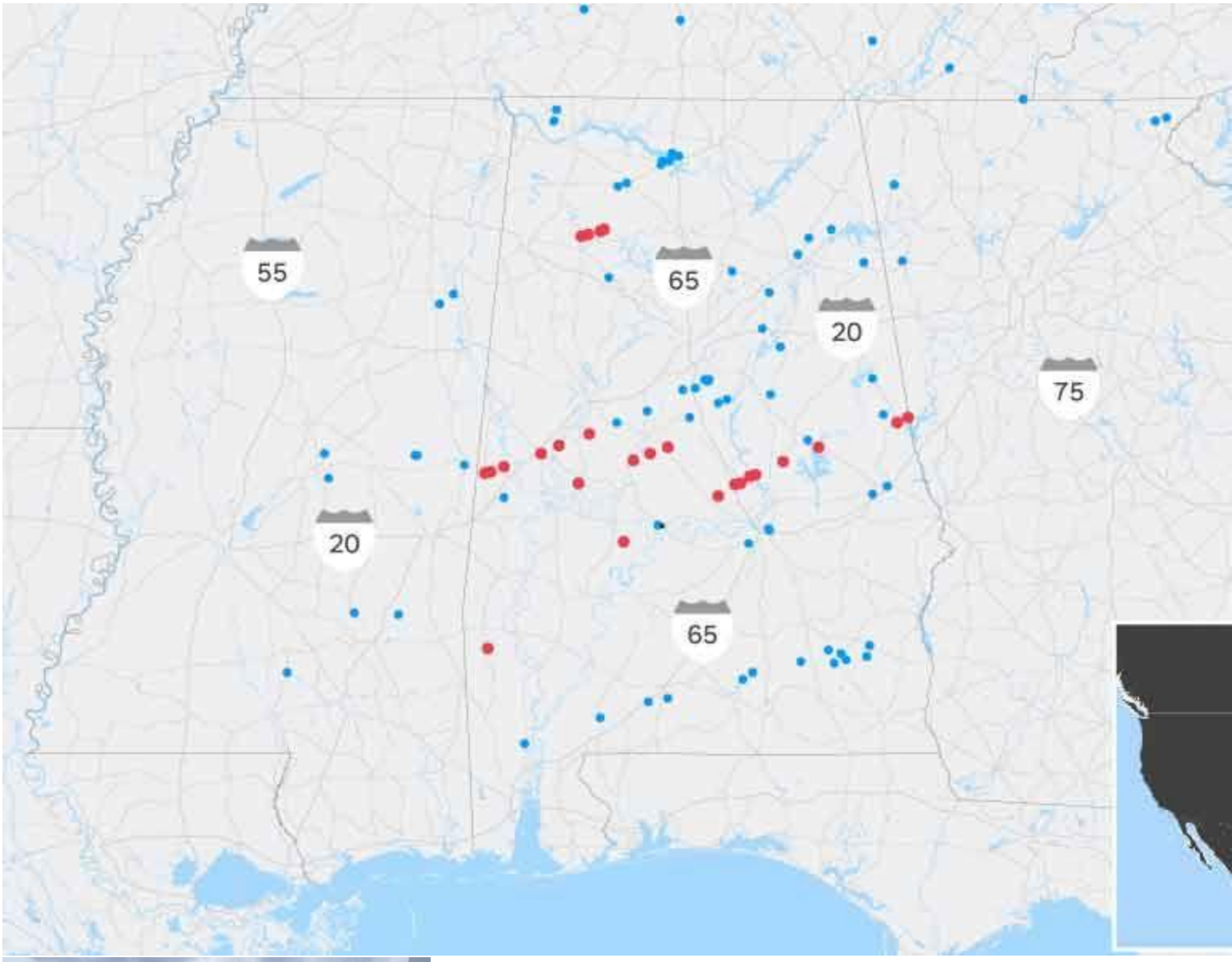
**UCC in Early Response:** Global H.O.P.E. Disaster Ministries will support the Southeast Conference and the Conference Disaster Coordination as they begin raising awareness of the needs, we invite all concerned to support this disaster by donating to the Emergency USA fund. This fund will offer solidarity grant support for the emergency needs to the conference and congregations. Disaster Ministries will also continue to connect emerging needs with resources such as Kits and Clean up Buckets, and we will engage in coordination calls with our partners through their state Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD).

**UCC in Long-Term Recovery:** Recovery from these devastating events will likely take years. Community centered and locally led Long-Term Recovery Groups are forming or reforming across the states, many will need to be reorganized. In addition. We will look to assist these groups and their emotional and spiritual care needs as well as support the longer process of repairing and rebuilding homes. Long-term funding will be necessary as the UCC is a leader in helping communities organize for recovery, repair, and rebuild. Volunteers will also be needed, and churches should consider organizing teams to help in this process when they are needed and for the long haul, bringing hope and healing to devastated communities. Please help us focus on persons and communities in need of support thru volunteering or providing financial support and join us in this Immediate and Long Term Disaster Recovery Ministry.

**How to Help:** How-you-can-help-Disaster-Survivors-2022
Join the Willing to Respond Network of Churches: Willing to Respond Preparedness Network
Assemble Kits and Clean Up Buckets: CWS Buckets and Kits | Help Communities in Need Around the World (cwskits.org)
Donate Emergency Funds-Designate to Emergency USA: Donate Now - United Church of Christ (ucc.org)
Sign up to Volunteer: https://support.ucc.org/volunteer-opportunity-form
Volunteer Opportunities: UCC Ministry Opportunities

**Connect for news and updates:**
News - United Church of Christ (ucc.org),
Disaster Ministries - United Church of Christ (ucc.org)
**Facebook** One Great Hour of Sharing (UCC)
**Twitter** @OGHS_at_UCC

Prayer: Holy One You have called us to respond, to Be the Church. We are here to offer our response to your call. We are committed to share our time, our talents, our financial support for those who are negotiating devastation and losses to lives and property. Through coordinated efforts of our conferences, churches, and disaster leaders across the states we are equipped with kindness, compassion, and love. Please accept our heartfelt prayers as we support communities who are in the midst of this devastation. May we bring this hope, through your grace. Amen.


55
65
20
75
20
65

