



NDIN'S 6TH ANNUAL NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH FAITH SECTOR RESILIENCE RESOURCES ISSUE

Hurricane Dorian was the latest natural disaster to hit the U.S. after a year of flooding, record heat, wildfires, and other hazards that have cost the country \$91 billion in 2018. Due to climate change, the U.S. is seeing more frequent and stronger natural disasters every year. Religious leaders are among the first and most trusted sources of risk-communication and crisis leadership not only in houses of worship and faith communities but in the neighborhoods and communities we serve. We have a vital leadership role to play throughout the disaster lifecycle, mitigation, warning, response, relief, and recovery. Our preparedness, as the faith sector, is key to the resilience of the United States.

The best practices resources and training links herein can assist clergy and lay religious leaders, congregations, faith communities, and our partners with the best tools we know of to build and sustain disaster-resilient whole communities. National Preparedness Month serves as an annual reminder that American faith communities have a civic and moral obligation to prepare, plan, practice, and take action throughout the year for the types of crises that will affect us where we live, work, learn, and worship. Here are three key tips:

1. Have a congregation or organizations emergency plan. Review and practice it.
2. Be prepared to survive on your own for a minimum of 3 days without electricity, food, medicine, gas, access to cash, or water for your household and pets. Keep your cell phone charged with a backup battery, solar charger, or car charger.
3. **Donate Cash** to experienced disaster relief and recovery nonprofits (check Charity Navigator) – we recommend members of National or State VOADs (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster).
4. **Do not collect used clothing** or other goods unless a highly experienced organization within the disaster impact zone has requested those items – ask which specific organization on the ground will accept the goods being collected. **AVOID donating to government run and national recovery funds** that re-grant, unless they are local, disaster experienced, and integrated with the VOAD movement. Recovery funds deprive local nonprofits of their own resilience, of building donor relationships, and managing grants all recovery is local.

TRAINING OFFERINGS

[Cultural and Religious Literacy & Competency in Crisis Settings](#)

These 45-minute workshops to 8-hour trainings are framed by NDIN's field-guide set and tip sheets for U.S. religious leaders. They provide an overview of why and how to engage faith communities and people of faith during disasters and public health emergencies. The training focuses on best practices in working with faith communities or religious individuals in crisis settings, religious competency,

and literacy. For more advanced practitioners, we offer a module in how to asset map and/or databank faith communities and their assets.

Please contact info@n-din.org for dates and rates.

[Training Brochure & Overview](#)

Religious Literacy & Competency in Crisis Settings Trainings (Emotional & Spiritual Caregivers): Offers an analysis of and orientation to the religion and religious populations in the United States. The course also instructs participants in disaster lifecycle services, the National Response Framework, and National VOAD best practices. Participants explore the role of faith communities during crises, disasters and public health emergencies – how religious literacy informs mass care/feeding, medical needs, casework and rebuild. The course offers tools (tip sheets & a field guide set) and foundational skills to competently provide spiritual care in the field - to persons of all faiths or none.

Training Formats Available :

1. Workshop: 45 or 90 Minutes
2. Basic Principles Workshop: 4 Hours
3. Training for Field Work: 8 Hours

Please contact info@n-din.org for dates and rates.

Engaging Faith Communities: Religious Literacy & Competency in Crisis Settings Trainings (First Responders & Emergency Managers): Provides an overview of why and how to engage and work with faith communities during crises, disasters, and public health emergencies. The modules demonstrate how diverse religious and cultural practice increases partner capabilities and builds whole community resilience. The course offers tools (tip sheets & a field guide set) and foundational skills to competently engage religious leaders and congregations in the field.

Training Formats Available :

1. Workshop: 45 or 90 Minutes
2. Basic Principles Workshop: 4 Hours
3. Training for Field Work: 8 Hours

Please contact info@n-din.org for dates and rates.

A portion of the material within these courses was developed for the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) through a collaborative training partnership between FEMA's Center for Faith-based & Neighborhood Partnerships, DHS Science & Technology Resilient Systems Division, DHS' National Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events (CREATE) at the University of Southern California (USC), USC CCRC, and NDIN.

Disaster Basics & Resources for Religious Leaders explores disaster resilience in a half or full-day training "Managing in Chaos: Serving in Disaster" based on, up to 26 all-hazards tip sheets for religious leaders. ([Overview](#))

Trauma Awareness & Resilience offers a series of experiential trainings based on STAR NYC (Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience) trainings and seminars. Seminars focus on the impact of trauma and its role in cycles of victimhood and violence in the aftermath of a disaster. ([Overview](#))

Custom Courses

NDIN and its partners regularly customize conference workshops and trainings.

For more information, [email us](#).

NDIN & USC CRCC TIP SHEETS FOR U.S. RELIGIOUS LEADERS



Since 2011, NDIN and the USC Center for Religion & Civic Culture (USC CRCC) have partnered on a wide variety of research, resource development, and training projects – all directed at building the disaster preparedness, response, and recovery capacity and resilience of faith communities and their nonprofit or government partners. These resources include:

[Disaster Tips Sheets for U.S. Religious Leaders](#)

Each two-page Tip Sheet offers religious leaders in the U.S. all-hazards best practices and resource links about disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery – specifically of relevance to religious leaders, faith communities and faith-based organizations.

1. Disaster Basics for Faith Communities
2. The Disaster Lifecycle: Where Do Religious Leaders Fit In?
3. National Faith-Based Disaster Service Organizations
4. The Role of Faith Communities in Disasters
5. How to Use Your House of Worship in a Disaster
6. Disaster Backlash: Bias Crimes & Mitigation
7. Active Shooter in a House of Worship
8. Continuity of Operations Planning
9. Self-Care for Religious Leaders
10. Disaster Spiritual Care
11. Faith Communities & Disaster Mental Health
12. Faith Communities & the Disaster Distress Helpline
13. Faith Communities & Trauma Resilience
14. Faith Communities & Risk Communication
15. Faith Communities & Evacuation Planning
16. Faith Communities & Disaster Sheltering
17. Faith Communities & Long-Term Recovery
18. Faith Communities & Debris or Mud Removal
19. Faith Communities & Cold Weather Hazards
20. Faith Communities & Hot Weather Hazards
21. Faith Communities & Disaster Volunteerism
22. Faith Communities & Donations Management
23. Immigrant Eligibility for Disaster Assistance
24. Children & Disasters
25. LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender) Needs & Disaster
26. Vulnerable Populations & Disaster

[Tip Sheets for Religious Competency in Sheltering & Mass Care](#)

The guidelines in this Tip Sheet set inform religious literacy, cultural competency, and reasonable religious accommodation mandates for U.S. Mass Care providers, and assist staff and volunteers in competently meeting the needs of minority faith communities during disaster response or recovery operations - whether at a public shelter, a shelter in a house of worship, or other religious facility.

In 2014, NDIN and USC CRCC signed a "Collaboration Agreement" with the national American Red Cross to co-brand this Tip Sheet Set. The collaboration allowed for the wider distribution of these tools through our nation's leading Mass Care provider and its many chapters, partners, and volunteers.

1. Competency Guidelines: Sheltering & Mass Care for Buddhists
2. Competency Guidelines: Sheltering & Mass Care for Hindus
3. Competency Guidelines: Sheltering & Mass Care for Jews
4. Competency Guidelines: Sheltering & Mass Care for Muslims
5. Competency Guidelines: Sheltering & Mass Care for Sikhs

[Tip Sheet: Creating an Engagement Plan and Strategy](#)

Each disaster may affect a number of different faith communities - each with its own history, challenges, goals, capabilities, and resources. Understanding who you want to reach, their role, and what capabilities and resources they may have will help you design an appropriate plan. Religious hierarchies or interfaith coalitions/networks can serve as force amplifiers for spreading a message much more quickly, effectively, and appropriately than knocking on doors of individual houses of worship. To that end, we have designed the LEADER process.

- LEADER is a six-step process for successfully engaging faith communities.

[Religious Literacy Primer & Field Guide Set](#)

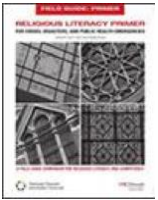
Two companion resource tools, a **Field Guide** and a **Religious Literacy Primer** for Crises, Disasters, and Public Health Emergencies are a must for all emergency managers, disaster mental health and public health providers, and disaster human services personnel or volunteers. The Field Guide is a how-to resource for engagement and partnerships, while its companion Religious Literacy Primer is an at-a-glance quick reference on twenty-four of the largest faith traditions in the United States. NDIN and USC CRCC offer classroom trainings on these resources to government, VOADs (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster), and nonprofit organizations seeking to enhance their religious literacy, competency, and ability to engage faith communities as partners.



Working with U.S. Faith Communities During Crises, Disasters, and Public Health Emergencies: A Field Guide for Engagement, Partnerships, and Religious Competency is a guide for engaging and building sustainable and competent partnerships with faith communities throughout the entire disaster lifecycle.

To Download PDF:

[High Resolution](#) - [Low Resolution](#) - [Web Resolution](#)



The Religious Literacy Primer for Crises, Disasters, and Public Health Emergencies is a quick-reference tool providing at-a-glance information on basic religious literacy for 24 of the largest religious communities in the United States.

To Download PDF:

[High Resolution](#) - [Low Resolution](#) - [Web Resolution](#)

HOUSE OF WORSHIP SAFETY

Active Shooter

- [Department of Homeland Security: Active Shooter Preparedness Webpage](#)
- [Active Shooter Emergency Action Plan Template](#)
- [FBI Office of Partnerships: Active Shooter Incidents Resource Page](#)
- [NDIN Tip Sheet: Active Shooter in A House of Worship](#)

Arson Prevention

- [Disaster Resistant Communities Webinar: Fire Safety for Rural Churches](#)
- [Disaster Resistant Communities Webinar: Fire Safety at Your Worship Center](#)
- [USFA/FEMA Brochure: Protecting Houses of Worship Against Arson](#)

Crisis and Emergency Risk Communications

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: CERC Manual and Tools](#)
- [Islamic Society of North America Webinar: Masjid Crisis Communication & Response](#)

Disaster Response and Management

- [Institute for Social Policy and Understanding Case Study: How a Mosque Managed a Crisis: The ISBCC Response to the Boston Marathon Bombing](#)

Safety Preparedness Webinars, Toolkits and Resources

- [Disaster Resistant Communities: Just In Time Disaster Training - Church Security](#)
- [Muslim Advocates Webinar: Improving the Safety & Security of Islamic Centers](#)
- [FEMA Guide: High-Quality Emergency Operations Plans for Houses of Worship](#)
- [FEMA Webinar: Federal Resources and Partnerships to Help Houses of Worship Develop High-Quality Emergency Operations Plans](#)
- [FEMA Webinar: State and County Government Partnerships with the Faith Community to Preparing Houses of Worship for Emergencies](#)
- [FEMA Webinar: Faith-based & Neighborhood Partnership Models That Increase Preparedness for Disasters and Emergencies](#)

- [FEMA Webinar: Guidance on Creating an Emergency Operations Plan for Houses of Worship with Schools and Getting Youth Involved in Emergency Preparedness](#)

OTHER BEST PRACTICES, RESEARCH & TRAINING RESOURCES

- [Christian Emergency Network](#)
- [Disaster Resistant Communities Group](#)
- [Jewish Community Relations Council](#)
- [National VOAD \(Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster\)](#)
- [University of Southern California Center for Religion & Civic Culture](#)
- [Wheaton College-Humanitarian Disaster Institute](#)

CDC, HHS & SAMHSA RESOURCES FOR FAITH COMMUNITIES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [EPIC \(Emergency Partners Information Connection\)](#)

EPIC partners with a broad array of organizations to exchange information that helps people stay safer and healthier during a public health emergency. Through EPIC's partnerships, CDC can more effectively reach some of the people most vulnerable to public health threats .

Vibrant Emotional Health (In Partnership With SAMHSA)

Formerly the Mental Health Association of New York City (MHA-NYC), Vibrant Emotional Health's groundbreaking solutions have delivered high quality services and support, when, where and how people need it for over 50 years. Vibrant offers state-of-the-art technology-enabled crisis care tools, local community service programs, and our advocacy and education work, we're advancing access, dignity and respect for all. These services are provided in partnership with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

- [Disaster Distress Helpline](#): In cooperation with SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) Vibrant's Disaster Distress Helpline provides 24/7, 365-days-a-year crisis counseling and support to people experiencing emotional distress related to natural or human-caused disasters.
- [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#): The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a national network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call **1-800-273-8255** or [chat](#) with them through their website.
- [NYC Well](#): NYC Well is New York City's free, confidential support, crisis intervention, and information and referral service for anyone seeking help for mental health and/or substance misuse concerns. Call 1-888-692-9355 or text WELL to 65173 to connect with a trained crisis counselor.

FEMA RESOURCES FOR FAITH COMMUNITIES

FEMA CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS COMPETENCY TRAINING & RESOURCES

People of faith, congregations, and faith-based organizations provide essential relief and recovery functions after disasters. Therefore, it is critical for secular entities, as well as government personnel and institutions, to understand the potential contributions and unique needs of America's faith communities. The course and tip sheets below were written for FEMA by NDIN and USC CRCC.

IS-505: Religious & Cultural Literacy & Competency in Disaster

Religious and cultural communities are part of the whole community, and the DHS Center for Faith-based & Neighborhood Partnerships works to form partnerships between the Federal Government and faith-based and neighborhood organizations to more effectively serve Americans in need.

In partnership with the University of Southern California Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorist Events (CREATE), this course and its companion tip sheet resources were developed by University of Southern California Center for Religion and Civic Culture (CRCC) and the National Disaster Interfaiths Network.

FEMA IS505 Tip Sheet: Faith Community Engagement Resources & Tools

Building religious literacy and competency is an ongoing process, with a wealth of both self-directed study resources and classroom trainings available. A good starting point is taking a religious literacy self-assessment. From there proceed with self-directed study with a focus on the religious traditions you may work with or care for in crisis settings. These educational resources and field tools are a great starting point. There is also a list of smartphone apps available for use in the field when scheduling meetings and for locating culturally-appropriate food vendors.

FEMA Resources to Protect Your House of Worship

Across the United States, Americans congregate in faith-based venues to worship, learn, play, and bond as a community. However, public gatherings are vulnerable, and adversaries may perceive houses of worship as attractive targets where they can inflict mass casualties, cause substantial psychological impacts, and draw extensive media coverage.

FEMA Tip Sheets: Faith Community Engagement Guidelines

The following tip sheets cover foundational information to help emergency management professionals interact with a variety of religious groups. Much of the information also can help students, researchers, government agencies, nonprofits, and businesses learn about and develop relationships with communities.

- Engagement Guidelines: Index
- Engagement Guidelines: Buddhist Leaders
- Engagement Guidelines: Christian Leaders
 - Black Church Protestant Christian Leaders
 - Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon) Leaders
 - Evangelical Megachurch Leaders
 - Latino Protestant Christian Leaders
 - Orthodox Christian Leaders
 - Protestant Christian Leaders
 - Roman Catholic Leaders
- Engagement Guidelines: Hindu Leaders
- Engagement Guidelines: Jewish Leaders
- Engagement Guidelines: Muslim Leaders
- Engagement Guidelines: Sikh Leaders

FEMA Tip Sheet: Engaging Culturally Diverse Communities

Cultural competence is the appropriate level of knowledge-based skills of individuals or organizations required to provide effective engagement and disaster human services to impacted individuals from a particular cultural group (e.g., racial or ethnic).

FEMA Online Training: You Are the Help Until Help Arrives

Encourage your faith community to take the [You Are the Help Until Help Arrives](#) training. There are new tools to help you host an Until Help Arrives training in your area including a new customizable poster, an updated instructor guide, and a fact sheet. You can find these new and updated resources in the same place that you can [download instructor materials](#). Since the launch, more than 100,000 people have completed the training. FEMA reports that 98% of those trained said they are more likely to help because of what they learned. Providing help requires no special skills but it can mean the difference between life and death. Visit [Ready.gov/untilhelparrives](#) to download the materials.

Federal Agencies Providing Resources & Support

- [DHS Center for Faith-based & Neighborhood Partnerships](#)
- [DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Community Engagement Section](#)
- [Federal Bureau of Investigation, Information on Hate Crimes](#)

- [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#)

Resources

- [<a href="http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001OOZxKjvWQylnxAKzHHyxQn0tdMueYi_iSICxD4FYWADmauZbPfNwVtSUUAzJrZ1_HB BmSwyhcsAuAZM310_EpiROfZlcGB8w8NON-1azRahVEcDviGDhl6_VLiK3kT327lb7flI6PySI0kJ_ggaGuvTpMSrarnIIVBZOxzdoietyJz46PtWHEfRkreG4oZmjYR14vs5TKc6xOrKNLDDf](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001OOZxKjvWQylnxAKzHHyxQn0tdMueYi_iSICxD4FYWADmauZbPfNwVtSUUAzJrZ1_HB BmSwyhcsAuAZM310_EpiROfZlcGB8w8NON-1azRahVEcDviGDhl6_VLiK3kT327lb7flI6PySI0kJ_ggaGuvTpMSrarnIIVBZOxzdoietyJz46PtWHEfRkreG4oZmjYR14vs5TKc6xOrKNLDDf)