

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

GILBERT ARIZONA HIGLEY STAKE

21 December 2008

Dear Bishops,

We are truly blessed to live in a part of the world that is relatively free from frequent natural disasters. During the last few years, many people around the world have been faced with destructive forces such as: hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, tsunamis, etc. In those moments, our thoughts and prayers are turned to them in their struggles. Despite our history of relative safety, we understand that we are not immune from disasters in our area. Should a disaster occur, we hope that emergency services will have enough resources and personnel to provide the necessary assistance. If the disaster covers a medium to large area, emergency services may become overwhelmed and unable to respond fast enough to help everyone in a timely manner.

We realize that in such a disaster, we may need to rely on ourselves to provide the assistance we would normally receive from the first responders. The attached Emergency Response Plan is our initial effort to address this need. We recommend you study this plan carefully with your counselors. Regularly, review it with your welfare committee such that they become familiar with it's procedures. In addition to the bishopric, appropriate ward leaders should be issued their own copy of the Emergency Response Plan. With regular training and review, when a disaster occurs, your ward will be prepared and able to respond quickly to those in need.

After careful consideration and with communication with regional emergency preparedness specialists, it is important that priesthood leaders prepare for many possible conditions. Emergencies such as long term utility outages, pandemics, or terrorist attacks are only some examples of the emergency situations we may realistically face. These three potential incidents have been identified as the most likely to occur in our area. The reason they are listed here is not to encourage a sense of panic, but rather to serve as a suggested area of consideration in your future family preparedness measures.

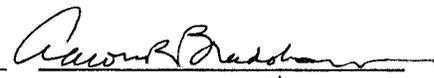
The attached Emergency Response Plan is only the beginning of our developing Stake Plan. As future sections are complete, they will be distributed to the wards. We hope you recognize the importance we place on this information and the need for each family to be prepared for potential emergencies.

May the Lord bless you in your preparedness efforts,

The Stake Presidency


Mark Pugmire (President)


Roy Daniel 1st Counselor


Aaron Bradshaw 2nd Counselor

GILBERT ARIZONA HIGLEY STAKE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

INTRODUCTION

Our local Emergency Services are equipped to handle small isolated incidents. During medium to large scale disasters, they can be overwhelmed very quickly. During this "Lag Time", citizens can be forced to fend for themselves for the early stages of a disaster. This "Lag Time" could last 72-hours or longer.

This packet will outline a plan that can be used by those living in your Ward boundaries to help offer assistance to those in need, or improve their ability to survive until emergency services can respond to your area. A Ward that has an organized response plan will be better prepared to respond to the threats of disasters, crime, public health issues or terrorism.

Emergency Service Personnel are trained and equipped to handle most emergencies. If they can be used, allow them to perform their duties. Emergency Services can often use volunteers. If Emergency Services have arrived in your area and you are in a position to volunteer, ask for the volunteer coordinator and follow their instructions. The remainder of this packet will assume that Emergency Services have not arrived. Many factors can explain why Emergency Services are unable to respond immediately to your area. Some examples include: loss of communication, un-passable roads, and the size of the area affected.

PRE-DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

START WITH YOUR FAMILY

It takes time for Emergency Services to setup and prepare an organized response. If impeded by other factors like, lost communication and road damage, the "Lag Time" could be 3 days or longer. Families should be prepared to provide Food, Water, Shelter and First Aid for themselves for at least 3 days.

FOOD

What kind of food should you include?

- This can be the food you have packed in your Emergency Kits (72-Hour Kits)
- Consider the dietary needs of your family.
- Food they will enjoy.
 - Try taste tests before choosing what you will store.
 - Avoid the: "If they are hungry enough, they'll eat anything!" mentality.
- Nonperishable
- No Refrigeration
- No or Little Heating
- No or Little Water Needed
- No or Little Preparation
- Compact and Lightweight
- Examples:
 - MRE's
 - Freeze Dried Backpacking Meals (Include water and means to boil it)

WATER

- Store at least 1 gallon (preferably 2 gallons) of water per person per day.
- If you have the means, store as much water as possible.
- In an emergency, you will be very active and will increase your daily water requirement.
- This can be part of your 2 week water storage.
- 55 gallon barrels are a good water storage option as long as you are staying at home.
- Store enough water in “portable” containers to supply each person 2 gallons for 3 days (72-hours).
- Some possible “portable” storage containers include: 2-liter soda bottles, 1 gallon juice bottles, and 5 gallon water jugs. (Not Milk Jugs!)
- Consider water purification options:
 - Means to boil water
 - Backpacking water filter
 - Bleach
 - Water Purification Tablets

SHELTER

- Your home will most likely be your shelter.
- If your home collapses, catches fire or is too damaged to use or you are forced to evacuate, consider alternate means.
- Tent in your or a neighbor's backyard
- Staying with friends or family (If their homes are not damaged)

FIRST AID

- First Aid supplies may be few if you have little training and larger if you know what to do.
- Consider getting First Aid and CPR/AED trained. Call the local Red Cross for class times.
- Buy a larger sized retail first aid kit and familiarize yourself with the contents.
- Buy extras of commonly used items such as various sized gauze, tape, Band-Aids, Roller Bandages, etc.
- Purchase a good First Aid Manual, and read it.
- Know doctors, Nurses, and First Aid trained individuals in your neighborhood.
- Make a list of their Names, Phone Numbers, and Addresses.
- If anyone in your family requires prescription medication, have an extra month supply on-hand.
- Keep a stock of commonly used medications:
 - Tylenol
 - Ibuprofen
 - Anti-Histamines
 - Anti-Diarrhea
 - Children/Infant medications

THE DISASTER – THE COORDINATED RESPONSE

STEP 1

The first priority of each family is to ensure the safety of every family member. Many possible incidents could occur, some that could cause damage to your person or property. To name a few, Earthquake, Flood, Tornado, Micro-Burst, Terrorism, Plane Crash in your neighborhood, etc...) Other incidents may cause more harm if you leave your home. For example: (Severe Storm, Pandemic [Avian Flu, Small Pox, Etc...], Hazardous Materials Spill, Radiation Fallout, Etc...) It is your responsibility as parents to make sure you do not place yourselves or your family members in greater harm's way.

STEP 2

Now that your family is secure, your thoughts should be turned to lending a helping hand to your neighbors that might be in need. As soon as you feel it is safe to leave your home, it is time for the Father of the home, and/or any able bodied person willing to volunteer, to report to the staging area.

_____ **Ward**

(Write Name of Ward or Branch)

The Staging Area will be located at:

_____ **Primary Staging Area**

(Ex. Bishop's Home, Park, Church Building, Etc...)

_____ **Secondary Staging Area**

(In Case Primary Staging Area is Unreachable, Unusable, Destroyed, Etc...)

Address, Directions or important Information about the Staging Area:

The Staging Area (Regroup Location, Headquarters, Command Post, Operations Center, Etc...) should be a location within your ward boundaries. It should be a location that is well known, easy to find, and preferably centrally located. If your ward building is outside of your ward boundaries, selecting it as a staging area may unnecessarily increase your response time. Close proximity is key to this operation. This is especially true if your volunteers are on foot. A location such as the Bishop's home, may add additional benefits. For example, a telephone if communication lines are working, shelter from sun, rain or other weather, Access to tools, water, tables, chairs, light, Etc...

PRIESTHOOD AUTHORITY

The presiding priesthood leader on-scene will be in charge. It is up to the presiding priesthood leader to determine who will be assigned to the key roles outlined below. He may decide to take on any of these roles for himself or assign them to others leaving him time to preside over other matters.

THE RESPONSE OPERATIONS COORDINATOR (ROC)

The Response Operations Coordinator or (ROC) is the most important role in the operation of this plan. The ROC will preferably be someone who is familiar with the response plan and can perform its duties with confidence. There should be several people selected that can take on this role. The strongest benefit to this plan is its flexibility. If only one person is trained how to perform the duties of the ROC and he doesn't report to the staging area at all, the entire operation could fail. The entire Response Packet should be given to each Bishopric Member, the High-Priest Group Leader and his counselors, The Elders Quorum President and his counselors, and the Ward Emergency Preparedness Specialist. All of these individuals should be familiar with the response plan, understand the role of the ROC and be willing to take on this responsibility if the need arises. A well prepared ward will perform a practice drill each year to work out any kinks and give an opportunity for the potential ROCs to practice what they may be required to do when lives may depend on it.

VOLUNTEER TEAMS

The first volunteer to arrive at the Staging Area will assume the responsibility of the ROC until a more qualified individual arrives. As soon as volunteers arrive, the ROC will deploy teams (always in groups of 3) to an assigned role. 3 person teams are important so one person can be sent to relay information to the ROC while the team can still use the buddy system to help each other in emergencies. All volunteers must sign in and out with the ROC so we can make sure that all volunteers are accounted for. If the ROC knows who the volunteers are and where and when they are deployed, he can send help to them if they don't return. The ROC may also assign volunteers to help him with the administration of the operation. He may need assistants to help him directly. He might designate a Captain in charge of Communications between the teams and the Staging Area. Someone placed in charge of Medical may manage medical supplies, perform First Aid related activities or even setup and manage a Triage. Leaders of specialized field teams may be needed such as Search and Rescue or Fire Suppression. Logistics, Transportation, Equipment Resources, or Morgue might be other areas a ROC might assign a Captain.

ZONE ASSESSMENTS

The Ward will be divided into zones. Each zone will be clearly marked on a map of the ward boundaries. All homes in the ward boundaries (Members and Non-Members) will be included. The ROC will send the first group of 3 volunteers to Zone 1. The volunteer team will perform a sweep of this area checking on the condition of each family and home in the zone. It is important that the volunteers know that they should not perform any duties that put themselves in harm's way. The purpose of this plan is to do the greatest good for the greatest number of people, while not endangering the lives of the volunteers. The volunteer team will systematically check each home in the zone to make sure that all people and property are safe. They will keep a log of their findings on the Condition Assessment Form they will receive from the ROC. As the volunteer team is performing their rounds, they should be recruiting additional volunteers to help with the effort. The newly recruited volunteers should report to the Staging Area to receive an assignment. As the team completes their sweep of the zone, they will report back to the ROC at the Staging Area. They will provide the ROC with their completed Condition Assessment Form and inform the ROC of any urgent needs. After the first team has completed the sweep of their assigned zone, they will be assigned to sweep the next available zone, until sweeps have been completed for all zones.

PROVIDING ASSISTANCE

Once the sweeps have been completed for all zones, or at the discretion of the ROC, teams will be assigned to provide assistance for those in need. This will be done by assigning a team or multiple teams to those areas the ROC has determined to be of the greatest urgency. As the assignments with the greatest urgency are completed, the ROC will assign available volunteers to the less urgent tasks until all tasks are completed. Some of the tasks the teams may be faced with may include, rescuing a trapped individual, providing medical assistance, putting out fires, etc... The ROC will be prioritizing tasks based on doing the greatest good for the greatest number of people, while not endangering the lives of the volunteers. The ROC will be in communication with neighboring wards and the Stake Presidency. If urgent needs arise outside of the ward boundaries, the ROC may assign teams to help in other areas.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – MAKING THE PLAN SUCCESSFUL

EMERGENCY RESPONSE BAG

Each family should consider preparing and keeping a bag packed with the following recommended items. A pre-packed and maintained bag will enable each volunteer the ability to respond more quickly and to be confident he will have the supplies he may need.

- Personal Water Bottles (Full)
- Work Gloves
- Hard Hat
- Goggles
- Dust Masks
- FRS or GMRS Radio (Walkie-Talkie)
- Flashlight (Head mount style keeps hands free)
- Batteries and Extra Bulbs (For Flashlight)
- Secondary Flashlight or Light Sticks
- Sturdy Knife and/or Leatherman Tool
- Note Pad(s)
- Pens
- Markers
- Duct Tape
- Scissors
- Crescent Wrench (Gas Shutoff)
- Basic First Aid Kit:
 - Consecrated Oil
 - 4" x 4" Gauze Dressings (6)
 - Large Gauze (Abdominal Pads) (4)
 - Triangular Bandages (4)
 - Band-Aids
 - Roller Bandage
 - First Aid Tape

COMMUNICATIONS

Volunteers can more quickly communicate with The ROC, Staging Area or other teams if they have an FRS or GMRS radio. These walkie-talkies or two-way radios are inexpensive and available in many of the stores you already frequent. The lesser watt (1/2 Watt) models can broadcast about 2 miles without obstructions. The more powerful models (5 Watts) can broadcast anywhere from 10-20 Miles. Since the Wards will be interfering with each other's communication if we are all on the same channel, each Ward will be assigned a different channel. The channels are listed below. For example, the Ashley Heights Ward will broadcast on Channel 1 and Privacy Code of 6. If traffic is too much on the selected channel, they can use the alternate Privacy Code of 4. Other side communications can be setup for the Ashley Heights Ward using any other Privacy Codes other than 6 or 4 on Channel 1. The Stake Presidency will be given Channel 4 with Privacy Code of 6. You know 4/6....April 6th???

Ward	Channel	Privacy Code
Ashley Heights Ward	1	6, Alt. 4
Bella Vista Ward	2	6, Alt. 4
Chaparral Ward	3	6, Alt. 4
Fairview Ward	5	6, Alt. 4
Gateway Ward	6	6, Alt. 4
Gateway Gardens Ward	7	6, Alt. 4

Ward	Channel	Privacy Code
Higley Ward	8	6, Alt. 4
Pecos Park Ward	9	6, Alt. 4
Summerfield Ward	10	6, Alt. 4
Williams Ward	11	6, Alt. 4
Stake Presidency	4	6, Alt. 4

The ROC should also have a list of all Ham radio operators they have in the Ward. The Ham radio operators should report to the Staging Area (with their radios if they are portable). They may be able to gather critical data from the "outside" when other means of communications are down. The Ham radio operator may also be able to call for help if it is needed.

Ham Radio Operators:
