



AFTER A DISASTER

Many people know what to do before and during a disaster but many do not know what to do after one. Knowing what to do after a disaster can make a bad time in your life a little easier.

- Television...radio and newspapers keep you informed of recovery progress.
- Your local Red Cross and public officials are key players too. Emergency management will aid law and fire personnel in safety, security, and recovery efforts. Emergency management also helps direct victims in obtaining federal disaster assistance. The Red Cross and its volunteers provide food, shelter, and other necessities to victims.
- The National Weather Service, working with local officials, inspect damage sites and determine tornado intensity or whether damage may have been from thunderstorm downburst winds.
- You have a role after the event also. Keep these in mind:
 - Give first aid when appropriate.
 - Do not move the seriously injured unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Call for help.
- Turn on radio or television for the latest emergency information. If you have lost electricity, your battery powered radio or television will still be of help.
- Stay out of damaged buildings. Stay away from any downed power lines and treat them as if they were live. Follow directions of local authorities and return home only when they say it is safe.
- Use the telephone only for emergency calls. Too often phone lines and cell phone connections can be overwhelmed by the volume of calls which prevents authorities from making emergency contacts.
- Clean up spilled medicines, bleaches, gasoline, or other flammable liquids. Leave the building if you smell gas or chemical fumes.
- Take pictures of the damage to both your home and its contents. This will help you for insurance purposes.
- Remember to help your neighbors who may require special assistance, especially those with infants or who are elderly or disabled.