

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION



DISASTER RELIEF



Information in the handout
and these slides
comes from CA,
TBM, NW and UT/ID



“FIRE CLEANUP/ASH OUT”

The ministry of the “Fire Cleanup/Ash Out” is to assist individuals and churches in a disaster relief response in a manner that brings glory to God, relief to the distressed and draws those encountered to faith in Jesus.



Introduction

Responding to disaster area for fire cleanup, is much more complicated than it would appear on the surface. Every Incident is unique and every County Emergency Management Agency has its own set of requirements. This document will help you be prepared when entering a the disaster area.





Purpose

The purpose of a cleanup and recovery ministry is to assist individuals and churches in an initial disaster relief effort in such a way that it brings glory to God, relief to the distressed and draws those encountered to faith in Jesus.

Property Owner Request for Volunteer Assistance

In any disaster response, we must concern ourselves with litigation liability. Before any work is started on site, we must have a job order signed by the owner with specific details of the job spelled out on the form. (See Appendix V).



Qualifications For Our Assistance

Anybody that needs our help.

Fire cleanup jobs will be assigned by the operations section chief, taking into account team capabilities, established priorities and by location. More chances to minister to people may happen in the field and requests for help shall be referred to the team leader for proper paper work and job coordination. *Remember - We Have Been Sent To Minister To All. Your Actions May Lead Someone To Christ.*



Types Of Units For Fire Cleanup

Clean-up and Recovery/Chainsaw and Mud out – Units equipped with emergency equipment such as chainsaws, wheel barrows, shovels, etc. equipped to provide emergency cleanup or repairs to homes, churches, and other disaster sites.

Special equipment for fire cleanup may include acetylene cutting torch, Portable Abrasive Gas Powered Cut-Off Saw, Portable Variable Speed Band Saw and screen boxes for sifting through ash.

Heavy equipment such as skid-steer or tractors, wood chippers etc. make the job easier.





TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

Insure that each tool is distinctively marked identifying which unit or individual the tool belongs to

Check out and in tools to each volunteer daily (if required)

Even though they may be used by others you are responsible for them

Insure that each unit equipment trailer and heavy equipment (on its trailer) is returned to the equipment staging area or to an on-site secure area

Insure that equipment is checked at day's end for needed fueling, service, repair, parts and cleaning



Training Requirement

Current Disaster Relief Operation Manual (DROP) (Introduction to Disaster Relief)

Training in fire cleanup is preferred.

Training in mud-out or chainsaw or recovery will also allow volunteers to participate in fire cleanup teams.

Chainsaw operators need to be trained through SBDR.

Heavy Equipment such as a skid-steer or backhoe should only be operated by trained personnel. Your local DR

Convention determines what training/experience meets operator requirements.



During Wildfire

1. You may be working in an area that could be subject to wildfire therefore:

If advised to evacuate , do so immediately. Choose a route away from the fire hazard. Watch for changes in the speed and direction of the fire and smoke. Tell someone when you left and where you are going. If you see a wildfire and haven't received evacuation orders yet, call 9-1-1. Don't assume that someone else has already called. Describe the location of the fire, speak slowly and clearly, and answer any questions asked by the dispatcher.



If Caught in a Wildfire

Don't try to outrun the blaze. Instead, look for a body of water (pond or river) to crouch in. If there is no water nearby, find a depressed, cleared area with little vegetation, or a road and lie face down along the road cut or in the ditch on the uphill side. Cover yourself with anything that will shield you from the fire's heat. Stay low and covered until the fire passes.

Protect your lungs by breathing air closest to the ground, through a moist cloth if possible, to avoid inhaling smoke.



Survival in a Vehicle

in an emergency, you can survive the firestorm if you stay in your car. It is much less dangerous than trying to run from a fire on foot.

Roll up windows and close air vents.

Drive slowly with headlights on. Watch for other vehicles and pedestrians. Do not drive through heavy smoke.

If you have to stop, park away from the heaviest trees and brush. Turn headlights on and ignition off. Roll up windows and close air vents.

Get on the floor and cover up with a blanket or coat.

Stay in the vehicle until the main fire passes.

Engine may stall and not restart. Air currents may rock the car. Some smoke and sparks may enter the vehicle.

Temperature inside will increase. Metal gas tanks rarely explode.





A “Hazardous Material Inspection” **probably will be** required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or local authorities

This is the homeowners responsibility

Ash, charred debris, and other contaminated materials from burned structures may be hazardous wastes. Household hazardous wastes will be found in conditions ranging from fully burned to untouched.

Property owner should have permission from their insurance carrier to start cleanup



The separation of hazardous wastes will be done per local EMA and EPA direction which team leader will have knowledge of. The following materials should be separated to ensure safe handling and disposal of ash and debris:

Compressed gas cylinders and propane cylinders

Gasoline cans (and other fuel containers)

Bulk chemicals & chemical containers

Automotive fluids: Used and unused oil, unburned fuels, anti-freeze

Lead acid batteries

Transformers

Cathode ray tubes “CRTs” (picture tubes) from televisions and computer monitors

Electronic devices



The following materials should be separated to ensure safe handling and disposal of ash and debris:

Paints and thinners

Bulk pesticides

Bulk fertilizers

Munitions

Laboratory equipment, i.e. Mercury-containing thermometers, gauges, and switches

Air conditioners

Large metal appliances, lawn mowers, tractors, automobile bodies, chainsaws, ATVs, and other recyclable materials to the extent that is practical

Concrete and other inorganic wastes may be segregated and recycled as aggregate for new concrete



Hazardous waste piles may be on site and separated from other debris
- follow local regulations

Debris piles may be allowed on the property
until debris bins are available

Property owner is responsible for
loading piles into bins as they
become available
(if SBDR Volunteers are not
available)





SBDR Volunteers **do not**

Remove stem walls or cement slabs

Tear down rebar reinforced chimneys

Tear out basement foundations





HEALTH AND SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

Your Team **Health and Safety Officer** will know how to notify first responders, where the nearest medical facilities are and will monitor Volunteers:

Following all health and safety practices

Being hydrated appropriately

Eating snacks as needed

Taking regular breaks

Wearing appropriate N-95
or equivalent masks
(Must be worn at all times)





Wear ear plugs when needed

Use ladders safely - Dry ash can be slick and wet ash is worse

Wearing safety glasses when needed

Using the buddy system (working in pairs or groups)

Keep First aid kit updated

An "Incident Report" must be completed on any injuries

You need to know your limits and monitor your condition to help you and your team



SAFE WORKING PRACTICES

Always be aware of where you are in relation to other workers, tools, equipment, and especially skid-steers, chain saws, cut off saws and propane torches. 15' safety zone is recommended around such equipment (6' safety zone when using pry bar).

Be careful where you step, avoid nails, broken glass, protruding sharp metal corners, exposed wire and other sharp objects and objects on which you might trip.

Care for all injuries even a small cut, scrape or puncture

Be careful where you put tools when you are not physically using them. Shovels, rakes, etc. should always be set upright against a wall, tree or other object out of the path of other volunteers.



Practice safe lifting. Bend the knees and squat, keep the load close to your body, your back straight, and in a scissor position (one foot ahead of the other) push up with your legs. Do not try to lift or carry loads that might cause strains or ruptures.

When shoveling, fill scoop using legs, rather than back. Do not twist body to empty shovel, but step around and empty.

Only DR trained persons are to operate heavy equipment and power machinery.

Clean and sanitize hands before eating or drinking

Do not open freezers, refrigerators or puncture any sealed cans.

Secure doors of appliances with duct tape.



Do not touch any electrical lines or cables until it has been verified that they are safe.

Do not transport heavy loads over the location of a septic tank, well head, or active water or gas pipes.

Do not feed, pet or play with wild or domestic animals. Do not traumatize them by yelling or chasing them away.

Be alert for dangerous pests including snakes and spiders

Be alert for poison oak or ivy. (Toxic residue may be in ash)



Lend a hand if someone needs assistance. Constantly look out for the safety of one another. If you see a health or safety hazard, bring it to the attention of your **Unit Leader** or the **Health and Safety Officer**.

Shade for the volunteers should be utilized as needed. At 70 degrees that shade may be nearby trees or bushes. At 90 degrees a tent awning should be set up.

Always make health and safety a primary consideration!

Seek to maintain a positive, non-critical, mental and emotional attitude throughout your service. You are encouraged to maintain a positive connection with the Lord through the Spirit of Christ living in you.



Clothing

Clothing should be layered for maximum warmth and comfort, enabling the Volunteer to remove layers as the day warms up

Fire Clean-up Volunteers should wear
Long pants (no shorts or cut-offs)
Long sleeve shirts are recommended
Appropriate work gloves

Shoes

Must be solid sole work shoes,
Preferably with a steel or puncture resistant shank and steel
toe. (No tennis shoes.)



Socks, wool blend recommended



Optional light weight coveralls (i.e. [polyethylene](#)) provide added protection from dust and ash and keep the clothes and more of the body clean

Disaster Relief hats and shirts are valuable for ministry identification. However, a wide brim hat will provide better protection when working in the hot sun, and a hard hat should be worn when the Volunteer is working around heavy equipment , power equipment or where lengths of debris are being transported to bins or piles.





Personal decontamination

Take boots and gloves to decontamination area to be cleaned. Also, clean equipment (tool, shovels, etc.). Do not track ash or allow ash from clothing to contaminate host structures/sleeping areas.

Keep clean clothes in a plastic bag on the work site or decontamination area.

Take regular showers and dress in clean clothes.

Place contaminated clothes in a plastic bag and return clothes to designated location to be laundered.





General Information

Governed by State and local regulations

Property owner and volunteers are responsible to follow regulations

Volunteers should be familiar with local regulations and requirements concerning asbestos, paint cans, batteries, and other potential hazardous waste

Work cannot begin until all regulations are met

This is the homeowners responsibility



Fire Cleanup Procedures

Proper address??

If home owner is present
explain what we plan on doing
and if another team will have
to finish the work

Ask if him or her
to pray with your team





Important note:

Loss of personal possessions is an important issue. These are “love objects.” They may be gifts or something that has been in family for years. They may remind the family of a deceased love one. As you work in the debris, be sensitive to the feelings of attachments to love objects. What you may think of as trash, someone else thinks of as treasure. Set aside any object that might be treasured or of value in the designated location for such.

Volunteers should never remove anything from the site





Special Instructions such as sifting and salvaging items of the burn site should be agreed in advance by the property owner and Assessor

Noted on “Property Owner Request for Cleanup Assistance” form





Sift designated area as requested by homeowner

Place a frame with a wire mesh bottom over a wheelbarrow
Shovel in several shovels full of ashes and shake frame until small
ashes have sifted through
Search remaining debris for salvageable items





Wet down ash and debris with
Garden hose spray or
sprinkler on stand



It is normally the homeowners responsibility to provide a source of
water at a reasonable distance from the burn site

A trailer mounted water tank (Water Buffalo) may be needed
Use care to wet ash enough to
keep dust down but not enough to
run off into drainage channels

**May be monitored closely by local
Environmental Health Departments**





Debris Bins (Dumpsters)

Homeowners responsibility if not supplied by local authorities

May be required before cleanup may begin

Separate bins may be required for metal, ash, glass, rock, etc.

Appliance and electronic waste may have to be handled separately

May require a liner

May require a cover for transport

May require a dump fee

See appendix 4 for loading info





Be alert for possible salvageable items throughout the cleanup process

Place such items in designated location

When in doubt ask the homeowner to decide

Remove scrap metal

Practice safety in handling and lifting

Large items may require heavy equipment

Place in bins or piles as directed

Different piles may be required for different types of metal
(steel. Copper, aluminum, etc.)





Move appliances and electronic waste to designated bins or piles
Many jurisdictions will permit appliances to be treated as scrap metal

Remove weaken concrete blocks, bricks and foundation piers to designated bins or piles
Move by Hands, Wheelbarrows or Heavy equipment (skid-steers)





Chainsaw operators must wear safety gear including hand, head, ear, and eye protection and proper clothing with chaps.





Report unsafe actions





Remove (cut) any trees (with property owners approval) that are in danger of :

- Falling on a building
- Falling where new construction will be
- Endanger volunteer safety
- Preventing access to property



Other work may begin or continue providing it is in a safe area





Mobile homes or trailers

Need to be
cut down to a
manageable size





Mobile homes or trailers

- May require a chop saw or cutting torch (preferred) to cut frame to manageable size
 - Only trained and experienced operators are to be used
- Jacks or long pry bars (recommend 6' safety zone) may be needed to support frame while cutting



A spotter should **always** be used to assist operator to insure that volunteers and others stay a safe distance (15' safety zone) from the cutting and to assist the operator as needed



Heavy Equipment (skid-steer)

To facilitate loading of heavy scrap metal and ash from building site

Only trained and experienced operators are allowed to use the equipment





A spotter will always be used to assist operator to insure that volunteers and others stay at least 15' from equipment and to assist the operator as needed

The spotter should carry a air horn or shrill whistle and sound it if there is danger

Everyone should stop in place at the warning!





When the equipment is at a complete stop, volunteers may help shovel or move debris into the equipment bucket. Never move the bucket until the spotter has indicated that all volunteers are clear

Ash should be sprayed down as it is scooped and dumped into the bucket

Volunteers may cleanup cartable debris around the immediate site, taking care to keep 15' from the heavy equipment

If no heavy equipment is available the debris will have to be moved using shovels, wheelbarrows and dollies





After the slab or site has been scraped by the heavy equipment, the Volunteers will finish up the project by shoveling up any remaining debris and sweeping the pad.

When complete, all team members will be asked to sign the SBDR Property Owners Request for Volunteer Assistance





REMEMBER

Be sensitive to volunteers on the site

Unit Leaders and Chaplains should address issues with other volunteers

The Unit Leader is the person to deal with any matters relating to the cleanup

Volunteers should be sensitive for opportunities to visit with, listen to and encourage those affected by the disaster. If needed invite a Chaplain to join the conversation. Be sensitive to the leadership of the HOLY SPIRIT.

Volunteers do not take donations (money or insurance checks) from anyone affected by a disaster. If they want to donate refer them to the Unit Leader who can tell them how to donate.



It is important to maintain a Christ-like relationship with your fellows Volunteers. Not all Volunteers are able to work at the same pace, have the same level of experience, or are equally gifted in the same skills. Most Volunteers are highly motivated and desire to represent their Lord in a way that gives Him glory. Treat one another with mutual respect, patience and Christian love. Encourage one another and strive to maintain a positive attitude. If you have a problem, talk to the Unit Leader or to the Chaplain



OUR Ministry FOCUS is not the work, it is to:
Bring Glory to God
Relief to those Distressed
To Draw those we encounter to Faith in Jesus

Unit Witnessing Packet:
New Testament or Bible
Have Team members sign it

Hope in Crisis tract

Why We're Here tract



Colossians 3

¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.



Daily Debrief

At the end of each work day, at a time agreed to by the Unit Leader(s), each Cleanup Team shall conduct its own debriefing. This may be in addition to any operational debriefing





Appendix I

Ash Out EQUIPMENT LIST (Suggested Model)

Appendix II

WHAT TO TAKE CHECKLIST

Check with your Unit Leader prior to departure to determine what the deployed unit will be supplying (i.e. Hard Hats, gloves, masks, safety glasses, ear plugs, etc)

Appendix III

CLEAN UP AND RECOVERY CREW MODEL

Ideal Crew Structure

Total Crew 10-15 Persons



Appendix IV

HOW TO LOAD A DUMPSTER

Appendix V

PROPERTY OWNERS REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE

Appendix VI

FIRE CLEANUP ASSESSMENT SUPPLEMENT

Not used by all assessment teams yet

Appendix VII

HOUSE LOCATED ON LOT