

**MNA DISASTER RESPONSE
GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET
2016 FLOOD EVENT
LOUISIANA**



REQUIRED BEFORE COMING TO SERVE:

- **Register** as a [Disaster Response Volunteer](#); after you have registered you will be contacted to confirm your available dates to serve and the site where you will serve
- **Tetanus shot** (RECOMMENDED: within the past five years)
- **Volunteer Release Waiver:** Provided by MNA once team is officially scheduled. This form must be completed and turned in to the site manager upon arrival at the volunteer site
- **Age Requirement:** Volunteers must be at least 15 years of age to volunteer at this site
- **Mold Caution:** Individuals with respiratory issues should be aware mold is present at flood sites
- **Insurance:** All team members must be covered by individual health insurance, and team leaders and sending church leadership must verify that policies are in place. A signed Volunteer Release Waiver (sent in advance via email and hard copy to turn in at site) must be completed by each participant and supplied to the Site Manager upon arrival and before work is assigned

WHERE TO REPORT:

HOST CHURCH:
Grace Presbyterian Church
225.261.0890
9526 Joor Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70818

SITE MANAGER:
Keith Perry
321.431.7260
kperry@pcanet.org

(NOTE: Please call Site Manager to notify him of your anticipated time of arrival.)

WHAT YOU WILL BE DOING

A major portion of LA has been affected by a catastrophic flood event. It has been said this is the worst flood event in 1,000 years. The impact is severe with a number of lives lost, hundreds of roads that are impassable, bridges unsafe to cross, and homes catastrophically affected. Many counties are included in the high damage area.

This storm has opened doors for us to share God's love to those who are in need. While the physical work is important and provides an opportunity for us to get to minister to those who have lost so much, it is most important that we remember that our real work is spiritual in nature and will last much longer than the debris that we clear to the houses we muck out.

There is a great deal of work to be done. People at all skill levels are needed. In flood response work you will be doing what is called 'mucking out' work, which includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Tearing out sheetrock and insulation
- Ripping up flooring
- Removing debris
- Moving furniture and appliances
- General cleaning
- Yard work
- Light construction

The work will be assigned by the local Site Manager. Please remember that you are serving at the pleasure of the local church and its leadership.

VOLUNTEER STAGING SITE

A Volunteer Staging Site has been set up in Baton Rouge in a location that is central to the area impacted by the flood. All volunteers must register with MNA Disaster Response and will be mobilized by the MNA Disaster Response Facilitator; once scheduled, volunteer teams will report in to the Volunteer Staging Site to receive work orders. This site also provides lodging for volunteers who need overnight accommodations.

The Volunteer Staging Site provides 30 bedding spaces per day. These bedding spaces are available on a ‘first come first-served’ basis. These slots are assigned by the Disaster Response Facilitator when the Team is scheduled. All teams arriving the night before serving are asked to arrive by 8:00 p.m. All volunteers will meet with the site manager at 7:30 a.m. for work assignments for the day in the Fellowship Hall of Grace PCA.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR OVERNIGHT TEAMS

- Overnight lodging is available at our Volunteer Staging Site
- A shower trailer unit is positioned on the church property
- A kitchen is available onsite for your use in meal preparation for your team
(NOTE: In the initial stage of response you and your team are asked to come in a self-contained state – meaning you are responsible for your meals and water.)
- Volunteers should provide either their own air mattresses (with bedding) or sleeping bags; cots are suggested but not provided.
- No internet service is available at the church.

COST TO STAY

There is no charge to stay at the church. The church is trusting God will provide for these costs through donations from individuals and churches.

WHAT YOU SHOULD BRING (these are suggested; bring what you can)

- Several changes of work clothes (*which you will probably want to throw away when you return home; loose fitting long pants/slack preferred as you will be working in muddy conditions*) **Shorts will not be permitted on worksites.**
- Sleeping bags, pillows (*overnighters only*)
- Foam/inflatable mattress for your sleeping bags (*overnighters only*)
- Towels, washcloths, and all necessary toiletries (*overnighters only*)
- Bottled water-LOTS!
- Rubber Gloves -several pairs
- Hats
- Rubber boots (*shin or knee high, can be purchased at Tractor-Supply/farm supply type store; anything other than rubber shoes will be unusable and will need to be discarded after the first day of use*)
- Flat shovels and corn scoops, carpet removal type long handled scrappers, wonder bars or nail pullers
- Utility knives and lots of extra blades
- Buckets, brooms, heavy duty trash bags
- Wheel barrows or Rubbermaid type of garden carts
- Heavy-duty Rubbermaid trash cans
- Hand tools, hammers, Sawzalls, etc. (*any tools you feel comfortable using that would be helpful to gut a home*)
- Masks (*We recommend the 3M brand, Model N95. These can be purchased in a box of 10; each volunteer will need several masks per day.*)
- Pickup trucks, trailers, vans
- Power washers and hoses
- Generators and air circulation fans
- Extension cords
- Bug spray
- Drywall installation tools (putty knives, tape knives)