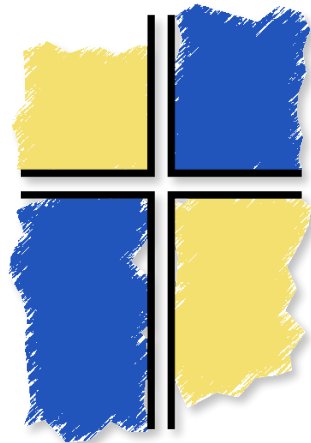

Faith Responders

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theFaithResponders.org



faithresponders

a ministry partner of the Global Methodist Church

*"The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love."
Galatians 5:6*

Welcome

Thank you for participating in the Faith Responders disaster relief ministry!

This guide is designed as an outline for your preparation to serve and experience all that God has to offer on relief efforts. You will have the opportunity to undertake service in mission, strengthen your faith, see God in action and walk where Jesus is walking.

We appreciate each one being a part of this team! Throughout the trip there will be opportunities to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world, doing tasks that many would choose not to do. In the unknowns, rely on God. Be prepared to encounter different and difficult situations and be intentional to seek the Holy Spirit during these moments. There will also be moments of fellowship, worship and sharing of our faith through evangelism and prayer. In all things we need to remember that our role is to serve others in love as Christ does.

“A new command I give to you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

John 13:34-35

Prepare My Heart

We represent more than just ourselves & are ambassadors of Christ.

I Cor. 10: 31-11:1

All have a place on the team & gifts to share.

I Cor. 12:15-19

Be examples of Christ's love

Phil. 2:1-4

Live into your weakness and rely on God's strength

2 Cor. 12: 9-10

Share your faith

1 Peter 3:15

Ministry of Presence

1 John 3:16

Hope in the Lord

Psalms 46:1-3

General Orientation

- Lodging: Men & women have separate sleeping areas. Bathrooms with running water and hot showers will be accessible on each church campus.
- There will be a team meeting on the evening of your arrival where you will discuss “house rules” and serving schedule with your team leader and Faith Responders ministry hosts.
- Always show gratitude for accommodations, food, use of buildings, restrooms, etc... Churches and volunteers will be providing the best that they have to offer.
- Team members will be expected to keep dining room, sleeping areas, bath and shower areas clean.
- Team members will participate in group devotions in the evenings.
- Every member should to be willing & available to assist with any nightly tasks, as well as the loading and unloading of vehicles
- All team members are an integral part of the team and have equal gifts to share.
- All team members should request & receive direction from the team leaders and ministry hosts.
- Bring a refillable water bottle to the work site. Please label your water bottle with your name! Be sure to keep yourself hydrated throughout the workday. Water and rehydration drinks will be available.

- Do not give gifts, money or make promises to children, family members or locals that you encounter. If you are led to give something, speak directly with the Faith Responders ministry hosts.
- Team members are expected to be on time for group events: devotions, meals, departures etc.
- Do not enter homes or local neighborhood areas without leader approval. Stay with the group at all times unless otherwise directed.
- Being helpful is defined as giving or being ready to give; useful. Please keep this in mind when you are asked to help! Look for opportunities to be helpful.
- Bring SPENDING MONEY FOR TRAVEL DAYS ... You will need money for gas and food while traveling, from your home to the host facility.

Trip Preparation

✱ EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

For any emergencies or needs, please share with your team members this number, 850-363-6799 and the site-specific additional contact numbers provided at each host site.

Packing Suggestions

- Medications – enough for trip length plus a few extra days
- Work boots
- Socks
- 3-4 changes of work clothes
- 1-2 changes of casual clothes for mission facility
- 1-pair of pajamas that meet dress code
- Light rain jacket
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Refillable water bottle labeled with your name
- All necessary toiletries
- Sunscreen
- Bug spray with DEET
- Ear Plugs
- Work Gloves
- Safety Goggles
- Flashlight & batteries
- Bible
- Pencil & Paper
- Spending Money for travel days
- Snack food as desired
- No jewelry, unless MODEST and worn at all times.
- Wet wipes
- Backpack for transporting personal items to the work site
- Folding camping chair for breaks and lunch at the work site
- N95 Mask

Dress Code

At all times, respect for the mission team members, the church community and God should guide our actions and how we present ourselves!

Due to the nature of ministry, there are specific dress code guidelines that need to be upheld and followed (joyfully).

When doing work in the community, modest clothing is **REQUIRED** and includes: work boots, long pants ONLY, and short sleeve or long sleeve shirts.

Around the mission facility, flip flops or sandals, knee-length shorts and t-shirts are acceptable.

Anyone who dresses in a manner outside of the dress code will be required to change. This decision falls under the discretion of the team leaders and host missionaries.

The following clothing items are not acceptable at any time:

Tank tops, midriff-exposing shirts, cut-off shorts or pants with holes, shorts that are **ABOVE** the knee, sexually suggestive or drug or alcohol advertisements on clothing.

Health Policy & Procedures

- While there is always a degree of risk or illness in any situation, team members should make personal decisions with not only self, but the team in mind.
- In the event of a severe illness (COVID, Flu, stomach virus, etc.), there is potential for necessary quarantine. A medical professional may be consulted for specific guidance.

Electronic Policy

Anyone who desires to take a cell phone, computer, or any other electronic device on the trip may do so.

However, once the team arrives at the mission facility, we ask that you minimize your usage.

Please do not be on your cell phones during time of fellowship or group devotion time.

General Safety Guidelines

- Practice situational awareness
 - Always stay alert and aware of your surroundings
 - Keep work areas tidy to avoid accidents and obstructions
- Use personal protective equipment to ensure your eyes, ears, and hands are as protected as possible.
- Designate a safety officer and follow his/her lead at the worksite
- All team members should be aware of their surroundings while operating power tools. Please DO NOT use any power tools that you are not a proficient user of without a knowledgeable team member to instruct you of proper use.
- Please be aware of items placed on ground to ensure trip hazards are avoided.
- Place all sharp/cutting tools in a safe position and area when not in use.
- Use ladders when climbing and be sure to secure ladder on stable ground. Get a spotter.
- Prior to trip, all team members should label any personal tools and equipment with their name with a sharpie marker.
- Plan to wear work boots along with proper socks and long pants.
- Please place all tools, gear, equipment, etc back into their proper place (tool box, storage box, etc...) at the end of each workday.

- Ask for help when lifting awkward and heavy objects. Injured team members slow the whole team down!
- Be safe with electrical extension cords
 - Use OSHA approved extension cords
 - Ensure all extension cords have proper grounding
 - Avoid contact with water to prevent electrical shock and fire hazards
 - Regularly inspect cord for damage or wear and replace if necessary
- Follow recommended safety procedures with generators or gas-powered equipment
 - Do not use gas-powered equipment inside the house
 - If indoor use is unavoidable, ensure proper ventilation to prevent carbon monoxide buildup and other hazards
 - Assign safety person to regularly check and maintain ventilation systems to ensure effectiveness

Assessing Properties

- If possible, call ahead to let resident know you will be stopping by.
- **Once on property, introduce yourself – The assessor is often the first introduction to the ministry.** Explain how you received their info/request for help. Share that we are part of Faith Responders, a Christian non-profit, assisting homeowners in need. We are volunteers.

If Occupant is Homeowner:

- Get permission to assess, be on site and do work
- Ask if they have homeowner's insurance

If Occupant is Renting:

- Call homeowner to get permission to be on site, assess, and do work
- Get permission from tenant as well
- Reminders: on a rental property we can only clear driveway and egress in order to protect property – make dry and safe, but do not rebuild
- Collect cell number or best contact number
- Fill out intake form with homeowner or occupant
- Take photo of address
- Take photos of damage
- If awaiting insurance

- take photos for homeowner and as documentation for assessment
- text the photos to homeowner
- have homeowner send photos to their insurance company
- have homeowner call their insurance company to tell them the non-profit will cut down trees, tarp, etc.
- have homeowner let you know if or when they have insurance company approval

Make sure that homeowner or renter is aware that a follow-up phone call from Faith Responders will most likely come from an out-of-town area number – they should be prepared to answer.

Safety Guidelines for Chainsaws

- Do not use a chainsaw if you have had no training and if the chainsaw does not belong to you!
 - Guilty of Treason-World's Best Chainsaw Tutorial is a great online resource (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dn7tJ2Mj4XY>)
- Experienced user could provide training on site
 - Explain safe operation of chainsaw
 - Show the trainee how to operate the chainsaw, from starting the saw to cutting
 - Supervise trainee with chainsaw at first to ensure they understand and are well capable of using the chainsaw
- Wear appropriate PPE
 - Gloves
 - Ear protection
 - Face shield and protective eyewear (over glasses)
 - Protective pants or chaps
- Have a spotter paired with each chainsaw user
- Make sure chainsaw is in good working order
 - Chain is sharp and clean
 - Have a spare chain
 - Check for needed maintenance
 - Keep maintenance tools/cleaning equipment handy

Safety Guidelines for Heavy Equipment

Team leader has designated a competent person as the team “safety officer”. Please follow their instructions without complaint!

Before operating Earth Moving equipment you need to have:

- Familiarity with equipment
- Know the capacity of equipment
- Know the limitations of equipment

Be aware of potential dangers:

Medical # for Equipment Injuries – 1-800-822-8262

- Use a spotter (discuss spotting language prior to using equipment).
- Always stay at least 20 ft from overhead powerlines as general best practice. **Consider all power lines to be hot.**
- To avoid underground damages – call 811 **before** you dig and then dig slowly and carefully.
- If any painted markings on ground or flags in ground, pay attention to color coding:

Red: Danger! (will kill you)

Orange: Warning! (may kill you)

Yellow: Caution! (concerning)

Blue: Notice! (be aware)

- Never touch the hydraulic line on any vehicle!

- Honk horn to acknowledge each new direction of movement for those working in the area
- If lightning is within 6 miles - STOP working
- Know storm shelter locations
- Know septic tank and drain field locations
- Clear a 10ft zone beyond the boom reach
- Be sure to have a fire extinguisher with team, charged, tagged and labelled

EQUIPMENT INSPECTIONS: Pre-Start Inspection should be done at start of day, before new shift or when new person begins working

*** Take out key when doing inspection ***

*** Consult Operator Manual as all equipment is different ***

(Pre-check inspection is in operation manual)

During Inspection Check:

- Fitness for duty
- Safety devices: PPE - Hard hat, *Seat belt*, Boots, Vest, Glasses
- Use 3 point contact when getting on/off the machine
- Operating & emergency controls
- Hydraulic systems & fuel system for signs of leak (caked on dirt may indicate leak)
- That wheels & tires are in good shape, no cracks and tread is visible
- The operation area (seat, pedals, controls etc.) Cab should be free of clutter and all items secure.

- Placards, warnings and labels – should all be easy to read and securely posted on vehicle.
- That manual is located in protective sleeve inside cab area (Return to sleeve once inspection is complete.)
- ROPS (Roll Over Protection Structure) – new, not banged up or rolled over before
- Know fuel type
- Check brakes

Prayer

As you pack your suitcase, be committed daily to prayer.

Pray for:

- Those effected by the natural disaster
- Those encountered through the mission
- The development of deeper relationships with the Lord
- Team members as they prepare to serve
- Health of team
- Team unity
- God's provision of mission projects
- Travel and work site safety

Remember that God goes before us, has knit the team together and has a plan for individual team members and our group as a whole. Prayer is necessary for the success of the mission, for sanctifying change within our hearts and for the healing of the community we will be serving.