

FEMA Region V: Partnerships in Recovery

We Can't Do It Alone!

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Voluntary Agency Liaison



FEMA

FEMA Voluntary Agency Liaisons

The **Voluntary Agency Liaison** mission is to establish, foster, and maintain relationships among government, voluntary, faith-based, and community partners to strengthen capabilities and support the delivery of inclusive, equitable services by empowering communities to address disaster-related unmet needs.

- Voluntary, faith-based, and community organizations
- National, State, and local VOADs
- Emergency Managers
- State and local government human services agencies
- Relief and household recovery efforts
- Long-term recovery groups
- Local organizations: spontaneous service in response to disasters
- FEMA and federal partners

FEMA Voluntary Agency Liaisons

The function of Voluntary Agency Liaisons

- VALs are part of FEMA's recognitions that we are not alone are not the answer to all disaster-related problems
 - "Whole of Community" response and recovery
- FEMA liaisons to voluntary agencies
 - JFO: cadre under Individual Assistance
- Information flow
 - Sequence of delivery, FEMA programs, LTRG, data, mitigation
- Advise
 - Emergency assistance issues, LTRG formation, case management/appeals
- Connect
 - Partners: local/national, voluntary/government, applicants/referrals

FEMA Voluntary Agency Liaisons

How many voluntary agencies can you name?

- 1-5: Don't quit your day job!
 - 6-10: Not bad, not great.
 - 11-15: Pretty good!
 - 16-20: Come work with us!
 - 21+: Master of VALdom!
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- Connecting resources with need
 - Non-traditional partners in disaster
 - Memorandum of Understanding program

NDRF: Recovery Support Functions (RSFs)

RSFs are led by designated Federal coordinating agencies at the national level

- Economic (Commerce/EDA) 
- Health and Social Services (HHS) 
- Housing (HUD) 
- Infrastructure Systems (USACE) 
- Natural and Cultural Resources (DOI) 
- Community Planning and Capacity Building (DHS/FEMA)  FEMA

Community Planning & Capacity Building

Intro to the RSF and its capabilities

- **CPCB RSF Coordinating Agency: DHS/FEMA**
 - Core Capability: effectively plan and implement disaster recovery activities, engaging the whole community to achieve their objectives and increase resilience
- **Supporting Agencies:**
 - Corporation for National and Community Service, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Small Business Administration, Department of Treasury, Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, Department of Justice, Department of Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency, General Services Administration, Department of Interior



Community Planning & Capacity Building

Partnerships in Recovery

- Key quasi-private partners
 - Professional organizations such as the American Planning Association and the International City/County Management Association
 - Governance organizations such as Councils of Government
- Working with partners
 - Communication – partners can provide a channel through which we can reach those individuals who may be critical to recovery, both prior to and after an incident
 - Coordination – joining forces with partners maximizes the impact of our efforts

Community Planning & Capacity Building

Current and Past Examples

- Coordinating program assistance
 - After flooding in Colorado in 2013, a team of 5 planners from around the country came together through the APA's CPAT program to assist the town of Lyons, CO.
 - Coordination with the CPCB team, the University of Colorado-Denver, and local long-term recovery groups
- Current events
 - By coordinating with the APA's Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Recovery Division, the CPCB RSF connected with South Carolina's APA chapter. CPCB staff in South Carolina are working with the chapter to develop a state level Community Planning Assistance Team.

Contacts

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