

Consider your congregation's preparedness...

Are Emergency, Disaster and Contingency Plans in place?

- Are these procedures written down, easily accessible, communicated and reviewed?
- Does your congregation have a disaster committee or safety team? How are they activated and do they know their roles?
- Do you have an evacuation plan in case of fire, earthquake or other threat that would necessitate the immediate removal from the building?
- Are you prepared to handle other emergencies that may be specific to your location?
- Do you have a plan for medical emergencies? Do you have emergency kits first aid kits available and easily accessible to those who would need it?
- Are fire extinguishers clearly marked and accessible?
- Is there a general communication system for your congregation?
-for external communications and internal communications

According to the **Congregational Disaster Preparedness Guidebook** created by Lutheran Disaster Response, the tasks of the preparedness team are to:

1. Develop purpose, vision and goals
2. Designate members for a response team
3. Conduct a disaster risk assessment
4. Inventory assets
5. Assess vulnerabilities
6. Identify partners, agreements and resources
7. Decision making process
8. Create a communication plan
9. Emergency operations
10. Continuity of ministries
11. Obtain congregational approval
12. Educate, practice and review
13. Go deeper and refine

This Guidebook can be found at:

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Congregational_Disaster_Preparedness_Guide_Lutheran_Disaster_Response.pdf?_ga=2.195694569.416146335.1565685054-1632780320.1565685054

Quick Tips:

<https://www.ictg.org/blog/-top-5-tips-to-prepare-your-faith-community-for-a-disaster>