

# Preparing to volunteer for disaster relief

On behalf of everyone in the affected areas, we thank you for your service! This will be a life-altering event to those that serve and will help draw you closer to Christ.

The information in this document has proven useful to those volunteering in areas damaged by hurricanes. It may not be representative of the exact area or work you will be assigned to, but the general lessons should be useful.

Your stake and ward priesthood leaders have been given detailed instructions about where to go, when to arrive, what vehicles to bring, how to structure your work crews, etc. **Please direct any questions to your stake or ward priesthood leaders.**

## Suggested personal supplies

Medical:

- First Aid Kit (with Alcohol and/or Betadine)
- A Tetanus booster shot should be done every 10 years

Personal Supply Gear:

- A positive attitude and a willingness to love and serve
- Cell Phones with Car Charger: provider performance will vary, so the more cell phones, available the better
- Bug Repellent
- Waterless hand sanitizer (Purell) which you should apply liberally, especially after working in flood damaged homes
- Wet/Baby Wipes, Towel
- Flashlight and/or Lantern
- Alarm clock, Bedding (Pillow, Bag/Blanket, Air Mattress/Pad)
- Tent (most locations do not have shelter)
- Sunscreen, Sunglasses and a Hat for sun protection
- Consecrated Oil
- Trash Bags, Paper Towels
- Adequate Foot Protection (rubber boots if available)
- All Personal Toiletries deodorant, medicines, etc.
- Swimsuit (to use outdoor showers, if available)
- Driver's License and Medical Insurance Card
- Reading Material (Scriptures) and anything else of comfort
- If possible a Chemical toilet and Toilet Paper
- Portable chairs
- All Personal Food and Cooking Gear. Many work areas have businesses open, so prepared food will probably be available and, by buying it, you could help the local economy. Bring a back-up supply of personal food with the hope that you may not need it. Canned goods, MREs, etc., travel well.
- All Personal Drinking Water and Sports Drinks, plus ice in a cooler.
- You will need the ability to carry enough food and water for an entire day's work.
- Cash is a necessity because credit cards may not be accepted at stores and gas stations.

## **Suggested work supplies for those assigned to flood-damaged areas**

In flood zones, homes need to be gutted (drywall/insulation/carpet removal), in addition to closing up the house by putting tarps over holes and broken windows. Drywall is usually in four-foot sections. Crews often use only hammers to pull out the baseboards, break into the drywall, and then peel it off. However, the following tools are useful.

1. Claw hammers for all workers.
2. Utility knives for most workers to cut drywall/carpet w/ extra blades.
3. A couple of crowbars to pull off baseboards.
4. Key hole saw
5. Squeegees
6. Premium latex gloves up to near the elbow for all workers - medical latex gloves will rip easily.
7. Medical or construction masks. (The odor is terrible, and the dust and mold can irritate your lungs.)
8. Extra clothes and/or shoes you are willing to discard after using each day.
9. Wheelbarrows to haul debris to the curb.
10. Shovels and rakes to scoop up the debris.
11. Strong trash bags. (Typical bags rip too easily.)
12. Clipboard and a few pens
13. Duct tape
14. Optional - power saws to ease the burden of cutting drywall by hand. Portable generators, fuel, and extension cords would be needed to power electrical tools.
15. Optional – trailers to haul debris to the curb.

Most of the flooded locations are far beyond the usefulness of a shop-vac, so leave them home.

## **Suggested work supplies for those assigned to wind-damaged areas**

1. Chain saws, chain bar oil, extra chains, and pre-mixed fuel
2. Sturdy work gloves, safety eyewear, earplugs for all
3. Rope
4. Ladder
5. Tree Pole Saw
6. Hand Truck
7. Wheelbarrow
8. Rakes
9. Roofing hammers
10. Duct tape

Blue tarps, wood strips and nails will be provided by the Church.