



Missions

ARKANSAS BAPTISTS

STRATEGY FOR MOBILIZING TEAMS/VOLUNTEERS ***Arkansas River Flooding Event***

The Need for a Strategy:

- ***Confusion***
 - where teams/volunteers should report
 - when teams/volunteers should report
 - what teams/volunteers should supply
 - how long teams/volunteers should plan to stay
 - what training do teams/volunteers need
- Too many teams/volunteers arriving at one location
- Too many teams/volunteers arriving at beginning of event = fewer teams for event further down river



Addressing Confusion:

- ***WHERE:*** Initially we have chosen 5 sites where teams/volunteers will report, receive training & supplies, and be deployed to work sites. These are locations where flooding will affect the most homes.
 - Ft. Smith – Grand Avenue Baptist Church
 - Russellville – FBC
 - Conway – Second Baptist Church, Conway
 - LR/NLR – Park Hill BC
 - Pine Bluff – FBC White Hall
- ***WHEN:*** Teams/volunteers will not be deployed until flood waters recede. Due to the changing nature of this event, exact dates are not known with any accuracy. Therefore, we must rely heavily upon social media posts to continually keep Arkansas Baptists informed. Current projections are:
 - Ft. Smith – June 5
 - Russellville – TBA
 - Conway – TBA
 - LR/NLR – TBA
 - Pine Bluff – TBA

- **WHAT:** Teams/volunteers should be advised of supplies they should provide prior to traveling to a site. Although ABSC DR will have supplies available at each site, any necessary supplies teams/volunteers can bring would be welcomed. Again, social media posts will be used to continually inform/remind teams/volunteers of necessary supplies they can bring, supplies they do not need to bring (clothing, food, etc), and how they can give to support the efforts of ABSC DR. This information is available on the Arkansas Baptist Disaster Relief website: <http://abscdisasterrelief.org>
- **HOW LONG:** Due to the large number of people/families expected to be displaced during this event, team accommodations at local hotels may not be possible, nor should be encouraged. Teams/volunteers will be encouraged to plan on working a full-day, travel home at night, and then return as often as possible. Teams/volunteers desiring to work multiple days at a time should arrange for accommodations with neighboring churches or at hotels/camp sites in neighboring communities outside the affected area.
- **TRAINING:** Currently, we have approximately 2,500 trained/certified DR workers in Arkansas. However, less than 10% of these have been trained/certified in Flood Recovery. Wanting all ABSC teams/volunteers to be prepared for this type of work, we will provide training for this event at two levels:
 - Large-scale DR Emergency Flood Recovery Training where individuals will be trained/certified in Flood Recovery. Although the primary target for this training will be those who are currently trained/certified in other areas of DR work, this training will be open to all who attend. Training opportunities will be posted on social media and the DR website as they are scheduled.
 - 150 trained June 1 at Central Baptist, Conway
 - 500-700 trained June 2 at Grand Avenue Baptist, Ft. Smith
 - Next training scheduled for Saturday, June 8 at FBC White Hall (9-11am)
 - On-site team/volunteer training. As teams/volunteers arrive at a designated site, they will be provided basic flood recovery training through a 15-minute DR video and printed flood recovery instructions prior to being deployed to a work site. Protective gear and supplies will also be assigned to teams/volunteers prior to deployment. A waiver/release form will also be supplied to each volunteer for signature and collected prior to deployment.

This event is unlike any DR event we have experienced in Arkansas in recent history. Unlike a tornado, the area affected by this event will be more widespread, the duration of need more long-term, and the number of volunteers needed greater. As Dr. Tucker has said, our response must be equally unique.

MOBILIZING ARKANSAS BAPTISTS FOR A LONG-TERM RESPONSE AND TO ENSURE THAT THE ENTIRE AFFECTED AREA IS SERVED

Associational Mission Strategists (AMs) and the local Association are key to promoting both a long-term response to this event and ensuring that the entire affected area is served. Our strategy involves assigning each local Association one of the affected sites in hopes that the AM will convey to churches the need to mobilize and serve the site area assigned. This strategy will ensure that each affected area will be served with as many teams/volunteers as possible as the waters recede.

Of course, we will not discourage teams/volunteers who wish to serve in multiple areas. However, we want to ensure that all affected areas are served with a high degree of intentionality, preparedness, and compassion.

STRATEGY FOR UTILIZING THE LOCAL ASSOCIATION

- Each Association will be assigned one of the designated sites (zones) as their primary area of service.
- Each AM will relay this information to the Association churches and begin mobilizing teams.
- Each AM will be informed when his Association teams/volunteers are expected to be deployed and the duration of deployment.
- If additional teams/volunteers are needed outside those of the assigned Associations, a call for assistance will be posted on social media and through direct contact with other AMs. For calls to be made of additional support, daily contact is necessary between the DR Site Coordinator and the AM/AMs where the site is located.
- Chain of Communication: Randy Garrett and DR Site Coordinator -AMS of Affected Areas – Bob Johnson – AMs – churches