

DISTRICT 7 DISASTER PREPAREDNESS NEWSLETTER

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Hurricane Season Starts With Preparation

As hurricane season approaches, now is the time for every Post in our District to make sure it is ready—not only to protect its facility, but also to care for its members and respond effectively if a storm impacts the community.

Preparedness cannot begin when a storm is already in the forecast. The Posts that respond best are the ones that have already taken the time to review their procedures, train volunteers, update contact information, and think through how they will operate before, during, and after an emergency.

One of the most important things a Post can do before hurricane season is conduct basic disaster readiness training. This does not need to be complicated or time-consuming. A short review during a regular meeting or officer session can go a long way toward making sure the right people know what to do when conditions become urgent.

Training should focus on practical responsibilities such as member wellness calls, communication procedures, volunteer coordination, safety expectations, and basic response operations. Posts should know who will contact members, who will track needs, and who will help coordinate assistance if it becomes necessary.

At the heart of every disaster plan should be one priority: our members. Each Post should have an updated membership roster, a reliable call tree or contact process, and a plan to identify members who may be especially vulnerable during a storm—particularly older veterans, those living alone, or those who may need transportation or additional assistance.

Preparedness should also include reviewing the Post's physical readiness, volunteer capacity, available supplies, and community partnerships. Even if a Post is not able to serve as a shelter or feeding site, it can still play an important role as a communication point, welfare check hub, or support resource for veterans and their families.

Just as important, every Post should have a written disaster plan in place before hurricane season begins. If your Post does not currently have one, I have developed a Post Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan that can be used as a starting point and adapted to meet the needs of your Post.

Preparedness is one of the most important forms of leadership we can provide. The time invested now can make a meaningful difference for our members, our Posts, and our communities when it matters most.

Pre-Hurricane Season Checklist

- Verify member contact information
- Update or establish a call tree
- Identify vulnerable members (elderly, living alone, medical needs)
- Confirm volunteer roles and responsibilities
- Review Post facility readiness
- Check available supplies (food, water, first aid)
- Review communication procedures
- Coordinate with local emergency management if applicable



District Resource of the Month

Post Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan Template

If your Post does not currently have a disaster plan, a template is available that can be adapted to meet your needs. This resource includes member accountability procedures, volunteer roles, and response guidance.

To request a copy, please email:

rmcgregor.wk@gmail.com

Training Reminder

Disaster preparedness training does not need to be complicated. A short review during a Post meeting can ensure volunteers understand their roles, communication procedures, and safety expectations.

Preparedness begins before the storm is on the radar.