

Community Organizations Active in Disaster COAD

In order to improve volunteer coordination during emergency situations, VolunteerLEON has partnered with the Leon County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management, the City of Tallahassee's Emergency Management Division and the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross to form the Big Bend Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) coalition.

A COAD is an association of humanitarian organizations that participate in all phases of a disaster situation: preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. The goal is to streamline service delivery by bringing together all of the agencies that provide disaster relief services. A leadership team comprised of local response and recovery agencies, including faith based partners work to ensure that our community has the best possible response to help survivors of disaster.

When people hear of a disaster that has struck a community, many feel the need to reach out to those affected. It will be the mission of the Big Bend COAD to bring together organizations that provide human services and volunteer services to create a coordinated response to urgent human needs caused by disaster. Membership consists of any organization (community, faith-based, non-profit, private and public) active in any phase of emergency management.

The Roles of Big Bend COAD during disasters

- Donations management
- Managing unaffiliated volunteers
- Receiving and distributing goods
- Sharing Resources
- Coordination of human services
- Multi-agency resource center
- Sharing information on disaster survivors
- Release of confidentiality forms
- Reducing duplication of effort
- Regular meetings and communication

Sustaining Big Bend COAD

- Recognize volunteers
- Support community morale
- Document processes for future reference
- Developing relationships
- Encourage community preparedness
- Continue to provide County PIO media with recovery updates and volunteer opportunities