Get involved with disaster assistance

The phases of emergency management shown here reflect the phases of a typical disaster event, as described on page 38. Each disaster scenario is unique. The more successful a community is in advancing hazard mitigation, the lower the hazard risk. Likewise, preparedness efforts will lead to a more efficient and effective disaster response and recovery.

**Preparedness**

- **CONNECT** with your local Disaster Assistance Program through state or local AIA chapters. If a local program doesn’t already exist, consider spearheading one; see page 168.
- **COORDINATE** with your state or local chapter to institute the five components of a State Disaster Assistance Program. Learn the disaster assistance essentials on page 74.
- **DEVELOP** relationships with state officials and the community—well in advance of a disaster. Find out who your best allies are on page 72.
- **BUILD** a broad geographic network of volunteers. When disaster strikes, architects within the affected area will be focused on their own families, homes, and businesses. Learn about volunteer activation on page 83.

**Disaster Event**

**STAGING**

- **CONFIRM** that a request for disaster assistance has been made by the authority. Follow the disaster protocol on page 108.

**DEPLOYMENT**

- **PROTECT** your personal safety and professional liability if you’re volunteering in a disaster response effort. Learn how on page 106.
- **STAY** safe and healthy when deployed. Learn how on page 93.
- **UNDERSTAND** the commitment typically required of volunteers. Learn more on page 109.
- **CONFIRM** your state’s Good Samaritan legislation on page 81.

**Recovery**

- **UNDERSTAND** local recovery challenges and community needs. Review the common hurdles and unexpected opportunities featured on page 125.
- **PREVENT** the next hazard from becoming a disaster. Employ hazard mitigation tactics described on page 63.
- **RENEW** your community by choosing wisely to repair, rebuild, retrofit or relocate. Learn about recovery options on page 132.
- **SHARE** the Handbook with others to build relationships and capacity before disaster strikes. Learn more on page 7.
- **LEARN** the many ways architects support their communities pre- and post-disaster. Explore the diagram on page 10.
- **EXEMPLIFY** AIA’s Code of Ethics by providing community service through disaster assistance. Learn more on page 12.

**Mitigation**

- **UNDERSTAND** the toll disasters can take on a community. See the stats on page 8.
- **SHARE** the Handbook with others to build relationships and capacity before disaster strikes. Learn more on page 7.
- **RENEW** your community by choosing wisely to repair, rebuild, retrofit or relocate. Learn about recovery options on page 132.
- **EXEMPLIFY** AIA’s Code of Ethics by providing community service through disaster assistance. Learn more on page 12.

**For Full Access, Visit** aia.org/disasterassistancehandbook