

# 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	<b>CONNECT</b> with your local Disaster Assistance Program through state or local AIA chapters. If a local program doesn't already exist, consider spearheading one; see <a href="#">page 168</a> .	<b>COORDINATE</b> with your state or local chapter to institute the five components of a State Disaster Assistance Program. Learn the disaster assistance essentials on <a href="#">page 74</a> .	<b>DEVELOP</b> relationships with state officials and the community—well in advance of a disaster. Find out who your best allies are on <a href="#">page 72</a> .	<b>BUILD</b> 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 <a href="#">page 83</a> .
	<b>DISASTER EVENT</b>			
Response	<b>STAGING</b> <b>CONFIRM</b> that a request for disaster assistance has been made by the authority. Follow the disaster protocol on <a href="#">page 108</a> .	<b>LEARN</b> what certification and training is needed to serve your community in an emergency on <a href="#">pages 76 &amp; 177</a> .	<b>UNDERSTAND</b> the commitment typically required of volunteers. Learn more on <a href="#">page 109</a> .	<b>CONFIRM</b> your state's Good Samaritan legislation on <a href="#">page 81</a> .
	<b>DEPLOYMENT</b> <b>PROTECT</b> your personal safety and professional liability if you're volunteering in a disaster response effort. Learn how on <a href="#">page 106</a> .	<b>STAY</b> safe and healthy when deployed. Learn how on <a href="#">page 93</a> .	<b>UNDERSTAND</b> the types of assessments performed post-disaster. Learn more on <a href="#">page 103</a> .	
Recovery	<b>UNDERSTAND</b> local recovery challenges and community needs. Review the common hurdles and unexpected opportunities featured on <a href="#">page 125</a> .	<b>PREVENT</b> the next hazard from becoming a disaster. Employ hazard mitigation tactics described on <a href="#">page 63</a> .	<b>RENEW</b> your community by choosing wisely to repair, rebuild, retrofit or relocate. Learn about recovery options on <a href="#">page 132</a> .	
	<b>NORMAL</b> a better status quo			
Mitigation	<b>UNDERSTAND</b> the toll disasters can take on a community. See the stats on <a href="#">page 8</a> .	<b>SHARE</b> the Handbook with others to build relationships and capacity before disaster strikes. Learn more on <a href="#">page 7</a> .	<b>LEARN</b> the many ways architects support their communities pre- and post-disaster. Explore the diagram on <a href="#">page 10</a> .	<b>EXEMPLIFY</b> AIA's Code of Ethics by providing community service through disaster assistance. Learn more on <a href="#">page 12</a> .
	<b>REDUCE</b> risk of disaster by evaluating how vulnerable you and your clients are. Find data you need to prioritize hazard mitigation design decisions on <a href="#">page 61</a> .	<b>PARTICIPATE</b> in community hazard, disaster recovery, and resilience planning and policy efforts to create a more sustainable community. See government efforts outlined on <a href="#">page 45</a> .	<b>GET INVOLVED</b> in your community's adoption, application, and enforcement of building codes and standards on <a href="#">page 54</a> .	



FOR FULL ACCESS, VISIT [AIA.ORG/DISASTERASSISTANCEHANDBOOK](https://www.aia.org/disasterassistancehandbook)