

# Hurricane Matthew Disaster Assistance Update



**AIA**  
North Carolina



**Structural Engineers Association  
of North Carolina**



We've had a number of our members across the state inquiring about the status of Hurricane Matthew relief and disaster recovery efforts so here's a brief update on our planning efforts and what we know so far.

This is still a developing event. With rivers continuing to crest and flood waters receding slowly, much of the damage is yet to be revealed. We will send our members updates as information becomes available.

## MOU with State

Last year the AIA, SEA and ASCE all signed a joint memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the North Carolina Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to assist the state with building damage assessment following a declared disaster event.

The MOU details the process by which volunteers from the three Design Professional Organizations (DPO) will be called upon for assistance.

**At this time we want to urge all our trained and certified DPO volunteers to be on standby for call up and mobilization.**



## A/E Disaster Assistance

Under the MOU, DPO volunteers will be called upon when OEM officials assess the need for additional building inspection services. Typically these services would be considered second responder activities. Once an area is cleared by first responders, the need for damage assessment personnel is determined and a call will be directed through OEM to the DPO leadership team.

## Volunteer Training

Between fall of last year and spring of 2016 three damage assessment trainings were held around the state. A total of 160 design professionals were trained and certified under the CAL OES program. This program has been recognized around the country as the standard for training design professionals in structural and flood damage assessment to building structures. All participants received a CAL OES certification card, which is recognized by North Carolina emergency management personnel for access to a secured disaster site.

## Volunteer Deployment

Last week there were three teams of two design professionals on the ground in Edgecombe County assessing flood damage to residential structures. Those teams demobilized on Monday afternoon.

The goal for this activity is to allow home owners to either reoccupy their homes or gather their belongings to make plans for other living arrangements.

In addition, one team of civil engineers have been called up to asses dam stability on the Tar River.



Edgecombe County DPO Volunteer from left to right: Team 1 - Chris Bathgate, Paul Sprouse; Team 2 - Cameron Bryant, Janus Gergely.

By our estimation the three teams inspected more than 400 homes over a four day period last week.

## Future Deployment

As crews finish up work on the first deployment in Edgecombe County, state emergency managers are closely watching the flooded areas of Robeson, Lenoir and Pitt Counties for further possible DPO volunteer deployments. The waters in these areas will need to recede before the full scope of volunteer damage assessment services is clear.

In the event a disaster response requires more than our available DPO volunteer pool, the State is part of an interstate compact that allows more CAL OES trained design professionals to be called up from neighboring states. Should that extended pool be exhausted, there are procedures that we can employ to do a general membership call up with on-site training if necessary.

Again, it'll be later this week that any assessment can be made about the scope of the total volunteer deployment we will need down east.

## A Note to Our Trained DPO Volunteers

Please remember that participation in the volunteer program requires you do these four things following your CAL OES training:

- Register for a FEMA SID number.
- Sign up for and take the two FEMA classes.
- Register with TERMS through the state.
- Send an email to the SEER email address ([ncseercommittee@gmail.com](mailto:ncseercommittee@gmail.com)) confirming your contact information, providing the FEMA SID, and confirming you've completed the training, registered in TERMS, and are ready for future deployment.

The FEMA courses are IS-100.b "Introduction to the Incident Command System" and IS-200.b "Single Resource and Initial Action Incidents." You can access the courses through <https://training.fema.gov/> and search for the course number. Even if you haven't taken the courses yet please create an account with FEMA to get your ID number that is required for the TERMS database.

Also, all volunteers need to register under the TERMS database system at <https://terms.ncem.org/TRS>. A tutorial is available for help in navigating the system. In the discipline drop-down section, please select DPO Volunteers. If you have trouble during the registration process, please contact Persia Payne-Hurley at [919.825.2285](tel:919.825.2285) or [phurley@ncem.org](mailto:phurley@ncem.org).

If you haven't completed these steps, please do so now.



## How You Can Help

In the meantime, the people of eastern North Carolina are facing shortages of some basic living necessities. We've gathered a list of organizations that have moved into the impacted area and are helping residents. Donations to any of these groups would be helpful.



### Red Cross

The Red Cross of Eastern North Carolina is looking for volunteers to help manage shelters, deliver food and answer phone calls.



The Red Cross opened a volunteer center last Monday at the Kiwanis Recreation Center and Honeycutt Park in Fayetteville. Volunteers are encouraged to fill out a [volunteer application online](http://redcross.org/volunteer) at [redcross.org/volunteer](http://redcross.org/volunteer) before arriving at the center.

To make a financial donation, call 1-800-RED CROSS or to make a \$10 donation text the word MATTHEW to 90999.

### Baptists on Mission

Volunteers from Baptists on Mission are providing hot meals for victims of Hurricane Matthew at various churches in eastern North Carolina. Volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve meals and assist with clean-up. The organization is also asking for donations of canned food items, cleaning supplies and





diapers, and also monetary donations.

For more information on how to volunteer or donate, go to <http://baptistsonmission.org>.

### **Salvation Army**

The Salvation Army is asking for donations to help with disaster relief.

Throughout the Southeast, volunteers have served more than 54,000 meals and provided shelter for more than 600 people in the wake of Hurricane Matthew.

The group's Fayetteville branch, which is housing evacuees in its community center gymnasium, is asking for donations of travel-size toiletries, including soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, and also pillows, blankets and trash bags. Items can be dropped off at the community center at 220 E. Russell St.

To donate money, go online to <http://bit.ly/2dKhhuD>, call 1-800-SAL-ARMY or text STORM to 51555. Donations can also be sent via mail to P.O. Box 1959, Atlanta, GA 30301.

### **Feed the Hunger**

Feed the Hunger, an organization based in Graham, is packing meals to send to hurricane victims in Haiti, Jamaica and cities across the southeastern United States.

The organization will host packing events in Burlington and Greensboro on Oct. 22 and in Charlotte on Oct. 28-29.

To learn more about how to volunteer or donate money, go to [www.feedthehunger.org](http://www.feedthehunger.org).

### **North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund**

Gov. Pat McCrory has activated the state's disaster relief fund to support long-term recovery efforts.

The governor's office is partnering with United Way of North Carolina, which will act as the administrative organization for the fund. Only financial donations are accepted.

To donate, go to <http://bit.ly/2dTx0Hf> or mail checks payable to "North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund" to the governor's office at 20312 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699. A text-only phone number for donations is being set up.

  


14 E. Peace St.  
Raleigh, NC 27604

[919-833-6656](tel:919-833-6656) / [dcrawford@aianc.org](mailto:dcrawford@aianc.org)