



UNITED STATES - Disaster Program

The United States regularly experiences a wide range of disasters. Hurricanes, tornadoes, blizzards, ice storms, floods, wildfires, earthquakes, infrastructure failures and epidemics threaten areas of the US each year.

In recent years, the US has seen an uptick in record-breaking natural disasters. For example, in 2017, the US and Caribbean experienced 3 major hurricanes—Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Maria and Hurricane Irma—only weeks apart. During the hurricane season of 2020, the Gulf Coast experienced six hurricanes of varying degrees back-to-back, including Hurricane Sally and Hurricane Laura, both of which caused catastrophic damage.

Wildfires in the west between 2018 and 2020 have burned over 20 million acres of land, destroying farms, businesses and homes. Especially today, as the changing climate exacerbates the frequency and intensity of these events, support for impacted communities must be immediate, and recovery must be strategic and sustainable.

Episcopal Relief & Development's US Disaster Program connects, equips and inspires leaders in The Episcopal Church to prepare for and respond to disasters, both natural and human-made, in their communities, particularly focusing on helping vulnerable groups of people to withstand the impact of a disaster and to return to a state of normalcy after an event. During a disaster, Episcopal Relief & Development assists diocesan leaders with response by providing access to technical, educational and financial resources. Year-round, Episcopal Relief & Development offers preparedness training and resources to diocesan leaders in order to increase their resilience and to be well-positioned to respond.

Diocesan Disaster Coordinators are a key part of the US Disaster Program strategy. Appointed by bishops, they serve as liaisons for Episcopal Relief & Development staff, work with congregations to develop preparedness plans and assess the damage and needs following a disaster. Through the program, coordinators can also receive assistance from Partners in Response and Resilience, a group of experienced clergy and lay people who support church leaders as they discern their role in the disaster recovery process.

To see this announcement in its entirety, please visit their website: [EpiscopalRelief.org](https://www.episcopalrelief.org)