

## WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF A COAD?

No two disasters are alike. The impact on each victim is different. The needs of each individual are unique and often unmet. However, a community and its citizens are unquestionably better served if a COAD is in place for planning and education before a disaster strikes.

We have little control in what challenges we will encounter but we have every control over how we respond.

Communities that bring resources together in a COAD can increase the effectiveness of their response to the needs of disaster survivors in a timely way, thereby reducing the social and economic impact of the disaster.

## IN WHAT PHASE OF A DISASTER WILL A COAD BE ACTIVE?

COAD's will be active in all phases of emergency management, from prevention and preparedness to recovery and mitigation.

**Prevention** – Any activity taken to avoid hazards and minimize the negative consequences of a disaster.

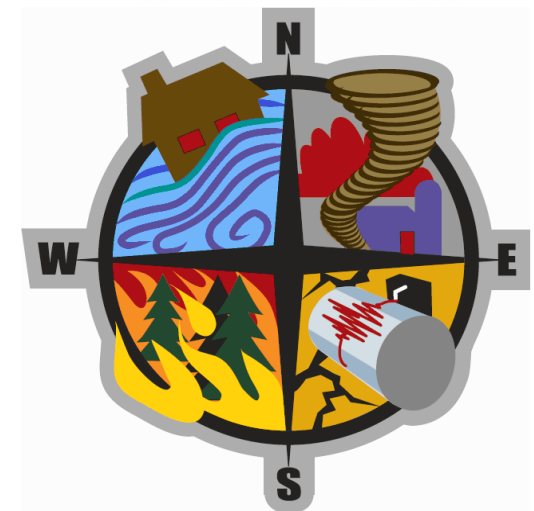
**Preparedness** – Any activity taken in advance of an emergency that improves emergency readiness posture and develops or expands operational capabilities.

**Response** – Any action taken immediately before, during or directly after an emergency occurs to save lives, minimize injuries, lessen property and environmental damage, and enhance the effectiveness of recovery.

**Recovery** – A short-term activity to return vital life support systems to minimum operating standards and/or a long-term activity designed to return the affected people and areas to their pre disaster conditions.

**Mitigation** – Any activity taken to eliminate or reduce the degree of long-term risk to human life, property and the environment from the effects of all hazards.

# MORGAN COUNTY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTER



**Morgan County COAD  
c/o Morgan County EMA  
1050 Lincoln Hill Rd  
Martinsville, IN 46151**

## MISSION STATEMENT

Morgan County Community Organizations Active in Disaster (Morgan County COAD) is a forum where local community organizations come together to collaborate, coordinate, cooperate and communicate with each other as they make plans to respond to human needs before, during and after a disaster.

*For the purpose of this document, "community organization" refers to any non-profit, governmental, volunteer, faith-based, public service organization and business that have a pre-identified role in disaster preparedness, response and/or recovery.*

## GOALS

- Educate member organizations about what each one does day-to-day, and how they would adjust during a small-scale disaster that does not require aid outside Morgan County and for larger events that do require state and/or federal assistance.
- Share knowledge and experience with COAD members.
- Develop and execute plans to improve coordination of collective resources to avoid duplication where possible.
- Work together to identify disaster-caused, unmet needs of Morgan County residents.
- Support coordinated training and disaster exercise opportunities.
- Develop a better understanding of special populations during and after disasters and work cooperatively to meet those needs.
- Maintain an understanding of and coordination with the Morgan County emergency management program.
- Coordinate with Indiana Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (IN VOAD).
- Network, network and network some more.

## MEMBERSHIP

The requirements for Morgan County COAD membership are minimal. In addition to meeting the criteria of a "community organization" as described above, member organizations will:

- Have a pre-defined role in disaster preparedness, response and/or recovery.
- Serve residents of Morgan County.
- Notify the COAD President that our organization/agency would like to join and request sign-up information for membership.
- Provide verification from your agency head that the organization supports the COAD mission and goals and identify approved representative(s) to attend COAD meetings and provide support as appropriate.
- Attend COAD meetings as often as possible for continuity of disaster response planning and work on special projects as appropriate and as resources allow.
- Update a COAD Organization Resource Form annually which is designed to collect and communicate contact names/numbers, service area, population served and services provided.

*Community organizations that don't have the time and/or interest in registering as a COAD member organization but may have resources to offer are encouraged to register as a COAD Partner Organization. To do this, complete the Membership Form and check "partner organization." Membership is purely voluntary. No dues are required and organizations are under no obligation to provide any services because of COAD membership. Organizations retain their autonomy and will maintain control over their resources unless otherwise stated in specific agreements. To withdraw from COAD membership, simply send an email or letter to the COAD President.*

## COAD FUNCTIONAL AREAS

COAD members are focused on planning for a specific activity or manage of specific resources. Potential functional areas include:

- Clothing/Food
- Sheltering and Feeding
- Donated Goods Logistics
- Volunteers
- Emotional Support
- Information and Referral
- Communication
- Special Needs
- Transportation
- Spiritual Support

## KEYS TO A SUCCESSFUL COAD

### Collaboration

- Develop a structure that works for your community
- Develop a relationship with Emergency Management and first responders
- Be inclusive with membership
- Maintain relationships
- Create Memorandums of Understanding where needed
- Collaborate with the Indiana VOAD

### Development

- Help to establish disaster/emergency training programs in your area
- Identify potential hazards to your community
- Identify gaps in services
- Develop a written recovery plan
- Learn and become trained in the Incident Command Structure (ICS)