

Disaster Response Fact Sheet

The West Virginia Commission for National and Community Service (aka Volunteer West Virginia) has long been involved in coordinating volunteers during disasters and at times has assumed additional responsibilities in coordination with the Governor's Office, the WV Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, and in partnership with WV Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster.

Since 1994, Volunteer West Virginia has served in disaster response in a variety of ways, which include unaffiliated disaster volunteer coordination, donations management, public information messaging, managing a disaster hotline, connecting impacted citizens to resources, and the resettling/hosting of evacuees during Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Volunteer West Virginia is a state agency that creates a bridge between community nonprofits and service providers and the government sector. **During a disaster we have four primary roles:**

<p>1. Mobilize National Service Resources to assist with response and recovery operations, including AmeriCorps, NCCC, AmeriCorps VISTA and Senior Corps members.</p> 	<p>2. *Mobilize unaffiliated disaster response volunteers to fill gaps in service delivery.</p> 
<p>3. Conduct disaster volunteer and information messaging via our website, social media, e-newsletter, and press releases.</p> 	<p>4. Facilitate and Support the operation of local Volunteer Reception Centers for the management and coordination of spontaneous/unaffiliated volunteers, when needed or requested.</p> 

**This is distinct from the separate WV VOAD mission of working through Nonprofit and Faith Based Organizations focused on disaster response and recovery. WV VOAD works with agencies. We work with individuals and are active members of WV VOAD.*

Volunteer WV's Mission

Volunteer West Virginia, the state's Commission for National and Community Service challenges West Virginians to strengthen their communities through service and volunteerism. We identify and mobilize resources, promote an ethic of service, and empower communities to solve problems and improve the quality of life for individuals and families.