

# ORGANIZING A DISASTER RESPONSE TRAINING EVENT IN YOUR CONGREGATION



## Frequently Asked Questions About Disaster Response Training

### › How can our congregation receive training?

To schedule a training session in your area, contact your District Disaster Response Coordinator (DDRC) at your LCMS district office. They are responsible for coordinating all LCMS LERT training in your district.

### › How much does training cost?

A registration fee of \$35 per person helps cover the cost of lunch and snacks, training materials and a LERT T-shirt; \$15 will be sent to LCMS Disaster Response to help cover the cost of materials and shipping. You will receive your certificate of participation, volunteer ID card and T-shirt from LCMS Disaster Response after the training is complete. Your LERT trainer will distribute all the LERT materials during and after the class.

### › Should we advertise to other LCMS congregations?

No event comes together by itself. It takes time, work and energy to tell people about an event. You should advertise this event in your local congregation. It is vital that you contact your circuit visitor and pastors within your circuit, as well as their lay leaders, to ask if they could also advertise this training within their congregations. Your DDRC should also help coordinate the announcement through district communication channels.

### › How long will training last?

The training sessions are generally scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. Your district trainer may choose to divide the sessions between a Friday evening and Saturday morning if preferred.

### › What will we study?

There are three main sections: 1) An introduction to the LCMS Disaster Response program, 2) Congregation preparedness and 3) Lutheran Early Response Teams.

### › Who can be trained?

Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend the training session. Only LCMS members who are 14 years or older, however, will receive certification as LCMS volunteers.

### › How much advance time does it take to schedule?

Training usually can be scheduled within three months of the request. But make sure you leave time to adequately advertise among your congregation, circuit and district. Coordinate all this with your DDRC and your local district LERT trainer.

Need more general information? Contact LCMS Disaster Response at [disaster@lcms.org](mailto:disaster@lcms.org) or visit our Facebook page at [facebook.com/LCMSDisasterResponse](https://www.facebook.com/LCMSDisasterResponse).

Registration for the training will take place through the LERT Volunteer site: [lcms-lert.org](http://lcms-lert.org). That is where our LERT volunteers see opportunities for LERT training and deployments. It is the place your DDRC will coordinate and communicate LERT activities in your district.

