

Early Response Team Information Request Form

Church: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____

Contact: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Does your church have a Disaster Response Plan?

Yes No I don't know

Are you interested in ERT Training for your church?

Yes No I don't know

Comments / Specific Questions:

Mail completed form to:

Early Response Team Training
PO Box 106
Dansville MI 48819

Or call—(517) 623-6594

Or email—pastor@dansvilleumc.com

Overview - ERT Training

- › Who? What? When? Why?
- › Covenant Agreement
- › Equipping a team
- › Team safety
- › Safe Sanctuaries Policies
- › What exactly does an ERT do?
- › Instructions for tasks
- › Team building activities
- › Forms
- › Test your knowledge...

Training Logistics...

- › This class takes an average of 6 to 8 hours in order to complete, not including meals or breaks.
- › All participants must be 18+, and submit to a criminal background check.
- › All ERT members are trained by UMCOR-Authorized Trainers.



Early Response Team training and deployment is a collaborative effort between UMCOR and UM-VIM.



UNITED METHODIST VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION
Christian Love in Action!

ERT

EARLY RESPONSE TEAM



The mission of an Early Response Team is to provide a caring Christian presence in the aftermath of a disaster.



Emergency Preparedness / Disaster Response Ministry
West Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church

WHAT IS A DISASTER?

A disaster is any specific event that results in overwhelming physical, economic and/or emotional damage to a community. Early Response Teams are flexible so that they can respond to any disaster that may occur in the local setting.

Early Response Teams (ERT) fill a specific need in the early days after a disaster to establish the presence of the church. There are specific tasks assigned to an ERT with their first priority being the people they serve.

EARLY RESPONSE TEAMS ...

- share the love of Christ in ways that make a Christian difference.
- take steps to prevent further damage to property, by doing tasks such as tarping, and cleaning out flooded homes.
- are caring listeners who will help survivors begin to heal.
- provide an opportunity for Christian service for those who want to give their time.

WHY DO WE NEED EARLY RESPONSE TEAMS?

- Disaster survivors are reassured that the church cares for them.
- Members of the local church and the community are able to see the church in action.
- Early Response Teams provides immediate assistance to persons who are usually older or disabled, or without a family support system nearby
- Early Response Teams provides immediate and quick response care for survivors

TEAM MEMBERS...

While there is no upper age limit (ERT members must be 18+), all team members need to be in good physical health. Below are the team members essential to any ERT and a brief description of each person's role.

Team Leader needs to have leadership skills and have thorough knowledge of the Early Response Team's role.

Assistant Team Leader serves as a back-up to the team leader

Logistics finds the needed supplies and transportation for the team, and is also responsible for team safety at the work site.

Base Camp Manager is responsible for meals, water and lodging.

Equipment Maintenance is responsible for keeping conference owned tools and equipment in working condition. Small engine repair skills, and a working knowledge of power tools is helpful.

Listener is designated to listen to the survivors and get their stories. This person also keeps the team's forms and is responsible for relaying the survivors' needs to the appropriate agency or relief organization.

Safety Officer is designated to pay particular attention to the individual team members' safety. This includes making sure that team members are wearing appropriate personal protective equipment, are drinking and eating often enough, and are not over-exerting themselves.

*Specialized training for individual roles may be available.
Use the form in this brochure to request more information.*

DID YOU KNOW...

- In 2008 there were 10 conferences in the North Central Jurisdiction that faced major disasters? Relief and rebuilding efforts are still ongoing in several conferences.
- United Methodists are known as "the first ones in, and the last ones out"? We are generally the first relief group to arrive, and generally the last to leave.

TEAM SIZE...

- Optimal team size is 7-14 (UMCOR recommendation)
- Recruit at least three times as many persons as the final team size that needs to be deployed. This will allow for the deployment of two or three teams at once.
- Out of a recruited pool of 30 volunteers:
 - six volunteers should be designated as team leaders,
 - three should be logistic members,
 - at least three volunteers should be trained in the ministry of caring (intentional listeners),
 - one person is needed for equipment maintenance, and
 - at least one person is needed to serve as a construction consultant who is available to give advice for plumbing, electrical / structural issues.

EQUIPPING AN ERT...

Each team must be self-sufficient and self-sustaining. As a team is making preparations, they need to keep in mind the need for basic necessities, such as food, fuel, water and sleeping gear, as well as debris removal equipment.

The West Michigan Conference currently has one equipment trailer available for use by Early Response Teams. Contact the Conference Disaster Response Coordinator for more information.

CONTACT INFORMATION

West Michigan Conference ERT Trainer

Jeremy Wicks
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(517) 623-6594
pastorj@dansvilleumc.com

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