





District 6880

DISASTER RELIEF Plan

**Reviewed and Revised June 2023**

**Dell Goodwin, District Governor, 2022-2023**

**ROTARY DISTRICT 6880 DISASTER RELIEF**

**Introduction**

**Purpose**: Disaster Relief (DR) is a Rotary District 6880 Cause. This Plan provides the framework for District Clubs to engage in DR within the District. The "relief" phase focuses on adding to, not duplicating, the recovery efforts of professional "first responders. This means helping those impacted by removing debris and providing food promptly to those without power or shelter. Additionally, if deploying to an area is not feasible, financial contributions may be sent to nonprofit agencies providing assistance this Plan envisions.

**The Plan**: Primarily, it covers weather-related disasters, usually the result of hurricanes and tornadoes. Many Emergency Management Agencies respond simultaneously. To augment, not interfere, with those Agencies means that Rotary Clubs must coordinate their response with local officials. This Plan addresses steps that should be taken before a disaster to facilitate a prompt response.

**The District**: The District Governor (DG) will provide visibility to Disaster Relief by declaring a Disaster Preparedness Awareness month. Club Presidents will be encouraged to have speakers address the need to prepare for and recover from natural disasters. In addition, members will be encouraged to contribute to District 6880 Foundation/Disaster Relief. The Foundation provides funds to Rotary Clubs responding to local disasters. However, the Foundation has limited resources to support Club efforts.

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**The District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC)**

The District Governor (DG) will appoint a Disaster Relief Chair (DRC) each year to coincide with the appointments to other District offices. In turn, the DRC will inform the DG that up to six but no less than four Rotarians from Clubs throughout the District have been appointed to the Disaster Relief Committee. Committee member appointments serve one-year terms, which may be renewed.

* The DRC should assess and report to the DG. the District's Disaster Relief capabilities and projected need for financial assistance as soon as possible after their appointment. Financial aid to Clubs and their communities will be limited to providing support consistent with the purpose of the Plan and within District 6880.
* The DG will notify the Assistant Governors (AG) of the appointments to the DDRC and solicit their support for Disaster Relief during their term of office. In addition, each AG should be familiar with the Disaster Relief capabilities in their Rotary Area.
* The DRCC should notify each Alabama County Emergency Management
* Agency in the District of the District's Disaster Relief capabilities and Points of Contact (typically, Presidents) at the Rotary Clubs in their counties. Rotary Clubs should complete the form District 6880//Club Contact List. Clubs located in the same county should coordinate to avoid duplication of effort.
* The DDRC should annually review and update District Disaster Documents.
* In turn, the DG will communicate with the club presidents through the DDRC about the need to support District Disaster Relief. A suggested contribution of $10.00 or more per active Rotarian annually will ensure that the Foundation has the resources to respond promptly when a disaster strikes. Funds received for Disaster Relief will be deposited in the District's 6880 Foundation, a 501c3 entity.
* The DDRC will request (through the District Governor) a quarterly financial report from the District Disaster Relief Foundation.
* The DDRC will meet quarterly, either at the discretion of the DRC or when a majority of the DDRC requests a meeting. Considering the members' schedules, the meeting will be held as soon as possible.

The DDRC and Rotary Clubs will use DACdb to network with Rotarians willing to deploy to an area to provide assistance. Clubs should survey their members periodically and maintain a list of those willing to help.

The most crucial element to the District Disaster Relief's success is the District Clubs' willingness to work together when a disaster happens. That goal should be the keystone of the DDRC communication within the District.

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| **DISTRICT 6880 DISASTER RELIEF (DR) CHECKLIST** |
| ACTION | RESPONSE | Communicates | RESPONSIBLE PARTY |
| DISASTER EVENT OCCURS |  |  |  |
| DISTRICT DISASTER RELIEF CHAIR CONFIRMS THE EVENT | Contacts appropriate agencyReviews DR Checklist for actionsContacts DRCC members | Phone, Email, ZOOM |  Disaster Relief Chair (DRC) |
| NEEDS ASSESSMENT BEGINS | Contacts the appropriate person from the contact list to determine how District can help. | Phone, email, ZOOM | DDRC |
| DISTRICT RESOURCES AVAILABLE | Compare resources and match with a needs assessment  | Email, ZOOM | DRCDDRC |
| THE COMMITTEE AGREES WITH THE DISTRICT RESPONSE  | DR Chair informs DG of DDRC's recommended response.  | Phone, Email, ZOOM | DDRC |
| COMMUNICATION  | Keep District Clubs up to date on Disaster Events | Email; Text; Phone; DACdb | DGAGDDRCClub President |
| INITIATE DISTRICT RESPONSE | Notify the appropriate agency of approved relief | Email; Phone; ZOOM  | DGAGDDRC |
| MONITOR DISTRICT RESPONSE TO DISASTER | DRC Journal | On-site observationEmail, Phone | DRC or designated representative.  |
| CONTINUE COMMUNICATION WITH RECEIVING AGENCY | Determine the need for Supplemental support.  | On-siteEmail, Phone | DDRCDR CommitteeDesignated Rotarians |
| MAINTAIN RECORDS | Submit records for reimbursement to DRC and DG inturn  | Written documentationReceipts | DDRCRotary Clubs |
| AFTER ACTION REPORT | Complete an after-action report to document and critique the efforts. | Written report to DG and Disrict Treasuer. | DRCDDRCResponding Agencies |
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**ROTARY DISTRICT 6880**

**DISASTER RELIEF PLAN**

**I - MISSION**

The mission of District 6880 Disaster Relief is to alleviate human suffering caused by weather-related disasters that impact people within or outside the District. Disaster Relief is an official cause District Rotarians support.

**II - PURPOSE**

The District Disaster Relief Plan provides the framework for District and Club involvement in the mission. The Plan assigns responsibilities and provides guidance for conducting relief activities.

As with other causes, the Plan intends to educate Rotarians on why this cause is essential for them to support and how District officials carry out their responsibilities. In addition, the Plan is meant to be a straightforward, transparent document recognizing the District's human resources and financial limitations when responding to disasters.

Rotary Clubs provide humanitarian relief typically by helping homeowners remove debris and providing food in an area where power is out, and immediate assistance is paramount. Therefore, Rotary Clubs must avoid interfering with emergency operations conducted by local, state, and federal authorities. In addition, clubs should minimize possible unsafe conditions that volunteers might encounter.

* Citizens are responsible for preparing themselves to cope with emergencies to the best of their ability. However, the catastrophic consequences of a natural disaster are beyond their control. That is when government and utility companies respond to restore order as quickly as possible. District 6880 wants to be an integral part of disaster relief within our District and, whenever possible, assist in disaster relief for events outside our District's boundaries.
* The Disaster Relief Plan integrates the efforts of all clubs within the District and serves as an official resource for relief efforts in and outside the District.

**III - ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

* **The District Governor**
* Provides support for Disaster Relief as a District Cause.
* Establishes priorities for Disaster Relief and provides general policy guidance on the conduct of the program to the DDRC and Rotary Clubs.
* Monitors the response during disaster relief operations and provides direction where appropriate.
* Keeps District Officials informed during disaster relief efforts.
* Requests assistance from other Districts if necessary

 **District Disaster Relief Committee -Membership**

* The District Disaster Committee Chair – appointed by the District Governor
* Four to six Rotarians appointed by the District Disaster Relief Chair from Clubs geographically dispersed throughout the District.
* The District Governor or their designee, ex-officio member; Ad-hoc.
* The District Public Relations chairperson, as-needed; Ad-hoc.
* The District Treasurer, as needed; Ad hoc
* The Assistant Governors, as needed; Ad-hoc.

 **District Disaster Relief Committee Responsibilities**

* Meet in July each year to assess current disaster relief capabilities and financial support through the District 6880 Foundation.
* Establish and maintain strict accountability and transparency for donations to the District 6880 Foundation and expenditures for disaster relief in conjunction with the District Treasurer. Requests for financial support will be voted upon by the Committee and submitted to the DG for approval. Expenses associated with deployments will be paid only with valid receipts.
* Solicit Rotary Club financial and material support for Disaster Relief.
* Encourage Rotary Clubs to survey their members to determine their willingness to deploy to a disaster area as a club service project.
* Review and update the District Disaster Plan as needed to reflect current capabilities.
* Provide information for individual Rotary Clubs on requesting assistance from the District in the event of a disaster;
* Establish and maintain communication with the Rotary Clubs in areas affected by a disaster;
* Evaluate and approve requests for assistance connected with that disaster.
* Prepare an interim and after-disaster report to the District Governor detailing the services provided, funds expended, and recommendations for improvement;
* Remind volunteers to set the example of "Service Above Self" when deploying to an area impacted by a disaster.
* Encouraging Rotary Clubs to appoint a Disaster Relief Liaison. The Club President is the liaison if no one is selected.

**Disaster Relief Assistance Outside District 6880**

* The usual goal is to forward financial and possibly material assistance to the receiving Rotary District or Club for relief projects. Relief in these cases comes through special collections made after the disaster. However, Rotary Clubs in District 6880 may choose to send volunteers to an affected area if the safety of personnel can be reasonably assured. However, reimbursement from the 6880 Foundation to help offset the cost of the deployment is only permitted for activities within the District. Should a donation come from the receiving Club outside of the District for services provided, the proceeds are exclusively for the Club.
* The DRC needs to anticipate the possibility of an evacuation before a weather-related event and contact the receiving District or Club to determine where they will bed down.
* The receiving District or Club should inform DRC of its assessment of the impact of the disaster on the community and what kind of assistance and support is most urgently required. To ensure an effective response, regular and recurring communication between the receiving and giving organizations is critical.
* As the District 6880 Disaster Relief Committee determines what assistance is available for the disaster area, contact should be made with the receiving Club to inform them what type of assistance to expect.

The delivery location for supplies must be confirmed with the receiving District or Club so they can ensure proper control and distribution.

* The DRC should designate Committee members whom the local Clubs can contact in the absence of the DRC.
* The receiving District or Club should provide feedback to the District Disaster Relief Committee on accomplishments realized through joint efforts, problems encountered, and suggested improvements or solutions. In addition, it is suggested that the receiving District or Club provide photographs of relief projects in process or completed.

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| **DISTRICT 6880 // CLUB DISASTER CONTACT LIST** |
| **Rotary Clubs should contact their County Emergency Management Agency, which can provide contact information.****Rotary Disaster Relief Resources Should Be Shared with Emergency Management, 2-1-1 Centers, and Healthcare Coalitions.**  |
| CONTACT AGENCY | CONTACT PERSON | CONTACT PHONE | CONTACT EMAIL |
| COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT |  |  |  |
| FIRE DEPARTMENT |  |  |  |
| EMS AGENCY |  |  |  |
| LAW ENFORCEMENT |  |  |  |
| LOCAL ROTARY CLUB |  |  |  |
| REGION HEALTHCARE COALITION |  |  |  |
| LOCAL CHURCH RESPONDERS |  |  |  |
| ALABAMA BAPTIST DISASTER RESPONSE |  |  |  |
| SALVATION ARMY |  |  |  |
| RED CROSS |  |  |  |
| COUNTY GOVERNMENT |  |  |  |
| CITY GOVERNMENT |  |  |  |
|  Essential Community ServicesPhone 2-1-1 |  |  |  |
| LOCAL HOSPITAL |  |  |  |
| District 6880 Disaster Relief Committee Chairperson |  |  |  |
| Disaster Aid USADisaster Aid Response Team |  |  |  |
| Volunteer Organization Active in Disasters (VOAD) |  |  |  |
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