

National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (NVOAD)

The “gold standard” by which to judge volunteer organizations in disasters is set by the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (NVOAD). NVOAD is the federal program that reviews methods by which volunteer organizations gather resources and make them available to disaster victims. At the state level, VOADs perform in a similar fashion.

NVOAD operates under the authority of a memorandum of understanding with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). It coordinates 33 national organizations that are active in disasters. NVOAD generally works only with groups that meet specific criteria before a disaster.

Members of NVOAD

Potential member organizations apply to NVOAD and must demonstrate their capability to operate within the parameters agreed to by existing NVOAD members. Of particular interest is the ability to meet long-term recovery needs of individuals and communities that have been affected by a disaster. In general, only organizations that can ensure dependable resource recruitment and have a formal mechanism by which to make these resources available to disaster victims qualify as NVOAD members.

At the state level only veterinary disaster management programs that are developed as an integral part of the state EMA are likely to be eligible for VOAD membership. In Georgia, for example, the umbrella group for humane and animal control agencies is part of the state VOAD. It deals with all issues involving animals and their owners in disasters, including accepting and distributing donations.

Table 22-1 1998 National Voluntary Organizations
Active in Disasters members

Adventist Community Services
American Radio Relay League
American Red Cross
Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team
Catholic Charities USA
Christian Disaster Response
Christian Reformed World Relief Committee
Church of the Brethren General Board
Church World Service National Disaster Response
Council of Jewish Federations
Episcopal Church
Friends Disaster Service
International Jewish Vocational Services
International Relief Friendship Foundation
Lutheran Disaster Response
Mennonite Disaster Services
National Emergency Response Teams
National Organization for Victim Assistance
Nazarene Disaster Response
Northwest Medical Teams International
Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors
Points of Light Foundation
Presbyterian Church (USA) World Services
REACT International
Salvation Army
Second Harvest National Food Banks
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Southern Baptist Convention
United Methodist Committee on Relief
United States Service Command
Volunteers in Technical Assistance
Volunteers of America
World Vision
