

Get involved with disaster assistance

The phases of emergency management shown here reflect the phases of a typical disaster event, as described on [page 38](#). Each disaster scenario is unique. The more successful a community is in advancing hazard mitigation, the lower the hazard risk. Likewise, preparedness efforts will lead to a more efficient and effective disaster response and recovery.

Phase	Preparedness	Response	Recovery	Mitigation	
DISASTER EVENT	<p>CONNECT with your local Disaster Assistance Program through state or local AIA chapters. If a local program doesn't already exist, consider spearheading one; see page 168.</p>	<p>COORDINATE with your state or local chapter to institute the five components of a State Disaster Assistance Program. Learn the disaster assistance essentials on page 74.</p>	<p>DEVELOP relationships with state officials and the community—well in advance of a disaster. Find out who your best allies are on page 72.</p>	<p>BUILD a broad geographic network of volunteers. When disaster strikes, architects within the affected area will be focused on their own families, homes, and businesses. Learn about volunteer activation on page 83.</p>	
	<p>STAGING</p>	<p>CONFIRM that a request for disaster assistance has been made by the authority. Follow the disaster protocol on page 108.</p>	<p>LEARN what certification and training is needed to serve your community in an emergency on pages 76 & 177.</p>	<p>UNDERSTAND the commitment typically required of volunteers. Learn more on page 109.</p>	<p>CONFIRM your state's Good Samaritan legislation on page 81.</p>
NORMAL	<p>DEPLOYMENT</p>	<p>PROTECT your personal safety and professional liability if you're volunteering in a disaster response effort. Learn how on page 106.</p>	<p>STAY safe and healthy when deployed. Learn how on page 93.</p>	<p>UNDERSTAND the types of assessments performed post-disaster. Learn more on page 103.</p>	<p>UNDERSTAND local recovery challenges and community needs. Review the common hurdles and unexpected opportunities featured on page 125.</p>
	<p>NORMAL a better status quo</p>	<p>UNDERSTAND local recovery challenges and community needs. Review the common hurdles and unexpected opportunities featured on page 125.</p>	<p>PREVENT the next hazard from becoming a disaster. Employ hazard mitigation tactics described on page 63.</p>	<p>RENEW your community by choosing wisely to repair, rebuild, retrofit or relocate. Learn about recovery options on page 132.</p>	<p>UNDERSTAND the toll disasters can take on a community. See the stats on page 8.</p>
Mitigation	<p>REDUCE risk of disaster by evaluating how vulnerable you and your clients are. Find data you need to prioritize hazard mitigation design decisions on page 61.</p>	<p>PARTICIPATE in community hazard, disaster recovery, and resilience planning and policy efforts to create a more sustainable community. See government efforts outlined on page 45.</p>	<p>GET INVOLVED in your community's adoption, application, and enforcement of building codes and standards on page 54.</p>	<p>EXEMPLIFY AIA's Code of Ethics by providing community service through disaster assistance. Learn more on page 12.</p>	



FOR FULL ACCESS, VISIT [AIA.ORG/DISASTERASSISTANCEHANDBOOK](https://www.aia.org/disasterassistancehandbook)