**The Disaster Relief Ministry of the Nashville Baptist Association**

**Mission Statement:** The Mission of the Nashville Baptist Association Disaster Relief Ministry is to equip member churches to offer recovery care during and after natural disasters or catastrophic events in the loving name of Jesus Christ.

**NBA Church teams:**

It is the prayer of the Nashville Baptist Association Disaster Relief Ministry that each church will recognize the importance of developing a disaster relief response team (DRT) in their church. This team will consist of individuals within the church possessing a variety of skills to be utilized to assist those in need within the church, the local community, state wide, neighboring states and internationally. The church will appoint a DR leader who will work in close coordination with pastor. The DR leader is the point of contact for all related DR concerns within each church. It may not be necessary for the DR leader (DRL) to be actively involved in all efforts towards DR concerns through the church, but it will be their area of ministry of which they will offer their attention and supervision. When DR needs are presented to the DRL, he will attempt to meet those needs either through abilities within the congregation or through identifying the need through NBADR leaders or TBMBDR. When a need is expressed to the DRL from NBADR or TBMBDR, he is responsible to make the need known to the members of the church and to become a point of contact for information and coordination as that or other needs are expressed.

**Nashville Baptist Association, Disaster Relief Ministry Purpose:** The purpose of the DR team at Nashville Baptist Association is to communicate, equip, and coordinate. The team currently consists of an NBA staff member (Jack Carver, Church Strengthening Strategist for NBA), one office support person, Paul Vawter, Cynthia Scott and Terry Ward. NBADR strives to incorporate the following elements of service in this ministry:

* **Cooperation** - We believe we can accomplish more together than we can separately.
* **Encourages Team Ministry** - We function through empowered teams to discover needs and provide resources to assist churches in providing disaster relief ministry.
* **Servant Leadership / Mentoring** - As leaders are developed and strengthened, God’s Kingdom work is advanced.
* **Cultural Relevance** - To be effective, we must understand our context and explore new and more effective methods and resources to assist our churches.
* **Excellence** - We believe in the biblical mandate is to do all things with excellence.
* **Communication** - We want to clearly share helpful information with one another.
* **Encouragement / Strengthening** - The Biblical model in Acts is to build one another up in Christ.

**NBA equipment:** The NBA owns a DR Chain Saw trailer of equipment and a Shower/Laundry trailer. Each trailer is available for use by NBA church members, and during times of national response, and meeting the needs of those who are responding from the state. This equipment is not for private or everyday use. As a church team has a need to respond to, it is available in accordance with NBA policies and procedures.

NBA does NOT have a prime mover for these two trailers. Current policy mandates that if no one in the church has a 1-ton truck or greater to be the pull vehicle, NBA will consider renting a piece of equipment to do so.

**Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief**

Tennessee has one of the largest Southern Baptist Disaster Responses organizations in the nation. Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief is the state level office for the coordination of response efforts in state and to other states at the direction of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and the International Mission Board (IMB) in cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA has an agreement in place with NAMB to provide food preparation support to the Salvation Army and the Red Cross when they are called in to feed and provide to the needs of displaced people after a natural disaster. Towards that end, TBDR coordinates DR responses of volunteers and is responsible for certified training and the equipping of volunteers to support DR efforts with the purpose of sharing the love and compassion of Christ to those who are suffering from natural disasters and in need.

**How TBCDR likes to do business:**

TBMB considers each church across the state of Tennessee with an active team to be on call. In the event of a natural disaster, they will call directly to the DR leader associated with your church. They expect a church to have a roster of eligible, TBC certified, and willing volunteers. They will notify the DR leader of the need and want a response as to when the DR leader will have a team of volunteers ready to go. Their requirements to be “deployed” to a site is that the volunteer has a current back ground check and has “passed” the requirements for representing TBC, your church, and your state for being a volunteer in a response effort. TBC will not certify anyone who has not attended their Introduction Class and at least one specialty training class which they offer through the year. You must complete the certification class every three years, to include paying for a new background check. The “certified” requirement meets the guide line as prescribed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and it is recommend by the insurance carrier utilized by TBMB for underwriting coverage for volunteers. In response to Hurricane Harvey in Texas during 2017, non-certified people were allowed to go with a call out team, but they had to be under direct supervision of the Churches’ Team Leader.

**NBA DR local churches with DR teams and equipment.**

Hermitage Hills BC, Hermitage, DRL Don Kochanski: Chain Saw, Shower and Bath trailer, 1.5 Ton Truck

Judson Baptist, Nashville, DRL Daniel Boon.

Green Hill BC, Mt. Juliet, DRL (?): Chain Saw Trailer

Tusculum BC, Nolensville Rd, Nashville, DRL (Bill Highsmith?): Chain Saw Trailer

Bellevue BC, West Nashville, Chain Saw Trailer (hasn’t been used in years) DRL?

Brentwood Baptist, Brentwood, Medical Equipment Response Trailer, DRL?