

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTER (COAD)

The last 12 months have seen flooding and tornados that have severely impacted communities all over Texas. Would your organization want to respond to a disaster if it occurred in Titus County? What would be your response? How would you work with other responding organizations? Is your organization prepared to respond or know what would be needed in the time of a disaster?

The first responders in Titus County have done an excellent job in planning, preparing, training, and practicing for a disaster. However, is that the case with 2nd and 3rd responders like churches, non-profit agencies, service clubs, businesses, and other organizations?

In communities across Texas, that question has been answered by forming a group called Community (or Volunteer) Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD or VOAD). Groups have formed in Dallas, Fort Worth, and Texarkana. There is a national VOAD that is made up of national church organizations (e.g. Lutherans, Methodists, Baptists), the American Red Cross, United Way, and a host of other organizations. The national VOAD works to support local groups who are working towards the same goal.

Community Organizations Active in Disaster work as a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization that builds resiliency in the community. It serves as the forum where organizations share knowledge and resources throughout the disaster cycle — preparation, response, recovery and mitigation — to help disaster survivors and their community. The member organizations elect a Board of officers to serve in convening the group 2 or 3 times a year.

The COAD has no role in an actual disaster response. But in those communities where a COAD has been organized and working, the response to a disaster has been more effective because of the shared knowledge and the establishment of relationships before a disaster occurs.

There is not a sponsoring organization for this effort, but a request from a group of concerned citizens for you to consider attending a meeting with others in the community to see if there is interest in forming such an organization in Titus County. The meeting is set for:

Date: Thursday, June 2, 2016 Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Community Room/Luminant - 207 Madison Avenue

Please RSVP to Alan McMillin – 409-289-1255 or email at alan.mcmillin@gmail.com. If you or your representative are unable to attend, but would like to receive a summary of the meeting, please send an email to the address above, and the summary will be sent to you.

For more information about this type organization, go to:

<http://www.nvoad.org/>

<http://www.dallasvoad.org/>