

Safety Briefing for Volunteers

(Presenter: Be sure to edit this training for the specific incident.)

Thank you for volunteering today!

1. If you will be working outside, dress for the weather. Boots may be helpful, as debris on the ground can be sharp and dangerous.
2. Bring work gloves, sunscreen, hat and any appropriate tools you have. You will be responsible for your tools.
3. Water may be available at your work site, but you are encouraged to bring a personal water container. It is important to drink lots of water while you work.
4. While working, you may have a higher than normal exposure to bacteria. When you take a break, wash thoroughly.
5. The work you will be doing may cause you stress, anxiety, fear or other strong emotions. You are providing a valuable service by volunteering today. Please understand that, by helping, we will not be able to undo the effects of this event. We are each just one person. All we can do is help in our own small ways to assist survivors into the recovery process. If you care for one lost animal, find one child's lost favorite toy, or hold the hand of one wheelchair bound senior in a shelter, you will have eased a little of the pain.

Do not feel guilty because you are not able to fix everything. Just work your shift, then go home to rest and eat well. Both will help to relieve the stress. **Be sure to attend any debriefing that may be conducted at the end of your shift.**

6. Older children can help with some kinds of disaster recovery work, but parents must sign a release of liability form for each child under the age of 18. Children should remain in school, if it is open. Older children may be able to participate with parents on weekends.
7. In case you are injured while volunteering and need medical care, you should plan on paying for that care. The agency with which you are volunteering **might** have a policy that will cover you while you volunteer for disaster relief. If you are volunteering under the direction of a government entity, you **might** be covered by their Workers Compensation policy. It's best to ask questions and not make any assumptions about health/accident coverage.
8. **Follow carefully any instructions given to you at your job site.**
9. **Please attend any debriefing activity provided at your worksite after your shift.**