

# THE ECOSYSTEM OF DISASTER VOLUNTEERS

Guidance to Protect Volunteers from COVID-19  
During Natural Disaster Response and Recovery



# The Ecosystem



# Motivation

- “Some **volunteers** may be motivated to understand more about their community or learn through hands-on experience. Others may **volunteer** as they feel the **work** will develop or enhance them as a person and help them to feel better about themselves”
- Disasters leave people feeling that they lack control, volunteering helps them gain that control and feel safer and connected
- The culture of service through volunteerism is engrain in many cultures, we see this strong presence in the faith community

# Barriers to adhering to safety protocols

- Limited time to volunteer
- Superwomen Mentality
- Service to others over self
- Belief Systems
- Lack of mandates and regulations
- Limited access to PPE

# Who is responsible?

- Organizations must develop their own volunteer/worker safety protocols:
  - Enact Hierarchy of Control Measures
  - Disseminate protocols to the volunteer/worker
  - Enforce protocols across volunteers and workers
  - Provide PPE
  - Have a back up plan
- Volunteers must understand what to expect and ensure they are comfortable with the risk:
  - Understand the organizations protocols
  - Adhere to the protocols
  - Have a back up plan

# GET TRAINED GET CONNECTED

[www.disastervolunteerismacademy.org](http://www.disastervolunteerismacademy.org)

[www.readyresponders.org](http://www.readyresponders.org)

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