



Louisiana Floodplain Management Association Disaster Response Team (DRT) Program

PURPOSE

The Louisiana Floodplain Management Association (LFMA) Disaster Response Team (DRT) assists requesting communities in times of flooding or other natural disasters to handle the influx of floodplain management responsibilities that are required in post-disaster scenarios. The intent of this service is to expedite response and recovery tasks immediately after the disaster, by swiftly identifying the magnitude of the damage; locating survivors affected by the disaster; encouraging code-compliant rebuilding. This action occurs from the imminent time of disaster until a Federal or State involvement is available.

The LFMA DRT works to collaborate with state-wide building trade and disaster survivor organizations, including the Building Officials Association of Louisiana (BOAL), the Louisiana Voluntary Organizations Against Disaster (LaVOADs), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to share data and response information that will assist in expedited community recovery.

VOLUNTEER ROLES

Volunteers assist the local floodplain administrator (FPA) by conducting jurisdiction-wide **flood damage reconnaissance, high-water mark data collection, Substantial Damage Estimate** screenings and assessments, and **flood recovery education** for homeowners.

Disciplines/Qualifications:	Training Requirements:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Floodplain Administrators ➤ Building Code Officials ➤ Designers ➤ GIS ➤ Other (flood industry related) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ High-Water Mark Data Collection ➤ Substantial Damage Estimate field assessment and software ➤ Flood survivor education ➤ Safety Training

Commitment: Volunteers are scheduled in rotations to minimize any individual's time commitment away from their home community. Commitment levels can range as low as a full or half work day - We appreciate and want to utilize any assistance that is offered.

Compensation: Volunteers agree at the time of signing up for the DRT they do not require labor compensation. Personnel capable of performing Substantial Damage Estimates and ATC-45 Building Safety Assessments can be eligible for reimbursement through mutual aid agreements made between the requesting and assisting jurisdictions. Mutual aid agreements are made through the State Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).

Efforts will be made to provide water and meals for the volunteers while deployed through the DRT.

RESPONSE OPERATIONS

Pre-Disaster: When a disaster is impending, Floodplain Administrators (FPA) and/or Building Code Officials (CBO) should contact the LFMA DRT Coordinator to discuss potential needs and strategic planning.

At this time, the LFMA DRT Coordinator will also alert volunteer membership to ascertain upcoming availability. The LFMA DRT Coordinator prepares a preliminary schedule for the volunteers in the event of a deployment.

Post-Disaster: If it is determined that the FPA and/or CBO needs assistance with disaster response responsibilities, they must formally request the assistance of the LFMA DRT through their Parish Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The Parish EOC will then contact the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) to notify them of the number of personnel and type of assistance needed from the LFMA DRT. **(The preliminary schedule that was created by the LFMA DRT Coordinator will be used during this time to meet the request.)**

Response Protocol: Upon arrival in the local community, the volunteers are under the direction of the local FPA and/or CBO, and the LFMA DRT Coordinator.

The volunteers are assigned sections of the community to obtain flood damage data. Volunteers are sent out in phases according to their response team type:

- **First Team Responders:** Deploy immediately after flood waters recede. Responsible for understanding the magnitude of flooding within a community and collecting flood depth data.
 - **Typical Deployment Duration:** 1-2 days (depending on magnitude of damage)
- **Second Team Responders:** Deploy to flooded areas identified during flood damage reconnaissance. Volunteers will go door to door to pre-screen homes for potential Substantial Damage Estimates. Flood recovery education is provided to homeowners via doorhanger information and LFMA website. Survivor information will be noted at this time, to ensure special attention is given in a timely manner to persons falling in the vulnerable population, such as elderly, disabled, sick, poverty stricken, emotionally distressed; or abandoned pets. ATC-45 Rapid Safety Assessments can be performed at this time if a CBO or designer is present.
 - **Typical Deployment Duration:** 1-3 days (depending on magnitude of damage)
- **Third Team Responders:** Perform SDE assessments for homes identified in the screening phase.
 - **Typical Deployment Duration:** 1-7 days (depending on magnitude of damage)

Volunteer Protections

Volunteers must sign a hold-harmless waiver to participate with the LFMA DRT and understand that they are working at their own risk during such missions. The federal Volunteer Protection Act (VPA) provides protection to nonprofit organizations' volunteers for harm caused by their acts or omissions on behalf of the organization or entity. This act does not require that an emergency declaration be in place for its protection to apply.

Louisiana EMAC legislation is being revised to provide immunity to flood and code enforcement professionals who volunteer their services during the emergency.

For more information, please contact: Shandy Heil, LFMA DRT Coordinator disasterresponse@lfma.org