

## If you have:

A desire to help your community

An interest in learning about disaster preparedness and response

Access through your organization to resources that can support disaster preparedness and response.

Such resources include but are not limited to:

Water, food, clothing, hygiene kits

Facilities for sheltering

Mental health services

Child care

Interpreters and signers

Pet care support

Transportation

Direct financial assistance

Administrative support

IT support

Other volunteer assistance

The Mercer County COAD encourages you to become involved in this important group in ways that suit your organization or agency. The COAD recognizes that no one individual can “do it all”. We need to work together to ensure that resources are available and allocated as necessary in disaster response and planning. If you are interested in learning more, please contact:

Mercer County Mental Health

Administrator at: 609-989-6529



## MERCER COUNTY COAD

### Community Organizations

#### Active in Disaster



Voluntary Organizations  
Active in Disaster

COOPERATION | COMMUNICATION | COORDINATION | COLLABORATION

*COOPERATION*

*COMMUNICATION*

*COORDINATION*

*COLLABORATION*



The Mercer County COAD is a network of public, private, faith-based, and not-for profit organizations that are actively involved in disaster preparedness and response activities. The goal of the Mercer COAD is to provide a mechanism to encourage and support cooperation, communication, coordination, and collaboration in the disaster relief, recovery and rebuilding response to disasters in Mercer County.

The COAD typically meets twice annually, once for an exercise and once for a workshop. In times of disaster, a COAD meeting or conference call is convened as soon as is feasible and a meeting schedule is established to support planning and response efforts.

*The time to plan for a disaster is before it strikes!*

## What is Mercer COAD?

The COAD is a mechanism for supporting the coordination, collaboration, cooperation, and communication in disaster planning and response. It is a network of:

Community organizations

Volunteer agencies

Disaster response agencies

Faith-based organizations

Businesses

Individuals

Government entities

Social service agencies

Special interest groups

Fund-raising organizations

Disaster relief organizations

## Mercer COAD:

*Supports* the disaster planning efforts of interested groups and individuals by offering access to a network of individuals and groups involved in various phases of disaster response activities.

*Provides* an effective mechanism to support the coordination of services between COAD members and traditional disaster response organizations in the planning, immediate response and long-term recovery activities to maximize resource allocation, minimize duplication of service and prevent gaps in service.

*Maintains* information about organizations, individuals, and resources that may be available in the preparation for and response to local disasters.

*Offers* information regarding disaster preparedness, opportunities to exercise disaster plans, training and networking opportunities.

*It is important to note that the COAD is a **network** of individuals, groups and organizations who are willing to participate in disaster response and planning activities. The COAD **members** do the work. The COAD is a mechanism for supporting the coordination, collaboration, cooperation, and communication in disaster planning and response. The COAD does not deploy groups or resources but is one means of access to them.*

## BEFORE DISASTER STRIKES

## BECOME INVOLVED-STAY INVOLVED

### Benefits of COAD participation:

COAD participants gain access to legitimate and credible sources of information regarding disaster responses in the Mercer County area

COAD participants strive to avoid duplication of services and so learn to leverage their agency's resources wisely during disaster response

COAD participants are able to better meet the disaster-related needs of their constituents through networking

COAD participants have opportunities to participate in training, exercises and drills, and networking activities

