



## **National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster**

COOPERATION | COMMUNICATION | COORDINATION | COLLABORATION

### **What is Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster?**

Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) is a forum where organizations share knowledge and resources throughout the disaster cycle (preparation, response and recovery) to help disaster survivors and their communities.

VOAD organizations plan for disaster response, practice their response skills, and then call upon each other during disasters to help deliver disaster relief.

Members of VOADs form a coalition of nonprofit organizations that respond to disasters as part of their overall mission. The founding organizations of VOAD came together and committed to fostering the four C's—communication, coordination, collaboration, and cooperation in order to better serve people impacted by disasters.

### **How To Get Involved**

VOADs are most active at the state level, as all disasters are local. Some states have area VOADs or COADs (Citizens and Organizations Active in Disasters). HOPE AACR is a member of the National VOAD.

To get involved in your state VOAD, use this directory to find the right contact: <http://tinyurl.com/findvoad>

### **What HOPE Teams Do**

HOPE often supports Disaster Recovery Centers, shelters and distribution points as a result of involvement in VOADs. Whenever people have to wait for services or information, HOPE teams can be very helpful to lowering the stress level for those affected as well as responders. For those most impacted by disasters, they can be the key to helping them come out of isolation and reconnect to their communities.