



www.HelpInDisaster.org is the only national database registry and information resource for volunteers who want to serve before and during times of disaster. Volunteers register and maintain secure profiles that detail their capabilities and availability to help. Nonprofit organizations use these profiles to identify qualified, interested, and available disaster volunteers and invite them to serve where their skills are needed in the recovery effort.

How does it work?

Volunteers complete a profile, detailing their skills, levels of expertise, availability, location and ability to travel. This information is stored securely and can be updated at any time. Users retain full control over their profile, including contact options.

By registering their specific interests and abilities, individuals are invited to targeted volunteering opportunities. Volunteers may also use the site to learn about training provided by organizations involved in disaster preparation, response and recovery, and how they can help at home with the recovery effort.

Nonprofit Organizations identify a need, then use the database to find volunteers whose skills match the opportunity and invite them to help. Personal information remains anonymous until the volunteer accepts the invitation. The matching is performed through a propriety algorithm developed especially for this purpose with the assistance of IBM.

Additionally, organizations can use the site to manage volunteer service hours. Provided by the Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network, the site is free to volunteers and nonprofit organizations.



How is it different from other disaster volunteering sites?

HelpInDisaster.org was created and is maintained by 1-800-Volunteer.org, a service of the Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network.

As part of the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, the Foundation is the lead agency responsible for managing unaffiliated volunteers during times of disaster using web-based tools and leveraging the resources of local Volunteer Centers active in over three hundred and fifty communities nationwide. This is the national database for volunteers interested in helping during disasters.

In addition, as the only national database with this type of unique matching technology, our system increases the likelihood that an appropriate volunteer match will be made. This benefits the organization needing help and leverages the volunteers' skills more effectively.

Because HelpInDisaster.org is powered by 1-800-Volunteer.org, volunteers also have access to the 1-800-Volunteer.org database of year-round opportunities. Users can register a VolunteerAlert that will automatically notify them when matches are posted.

How do I get involved?

Register a volunteer profile at www.HelpInDisaster.org. Nonprofits may apply to access the database registry and post opportunities through a local Volunteer Center.

For more information, including national outreach partner and sponsor opportunities, please contact Katherine Watier (KWatier@PointsofLight.org).