



United States Department of Agriculture  
Food and Nutrition Service  
Food Distribution Division  
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## **Disaster Preparedness Reminder**

As we have recently experienced localized disasters in the country's "Tornado Alley" and are rapidly approaching the beginning of hurricane season, we thought it was timely to remind you about preparations for a disaster in or near your state.

If you have not done so, please make contact with your State Emergency Management Operations team, with the state office of American Red Cross (and/or other emergency feeding organizations in your state) and other State officials that you may be expected to work with during a disaster to assess the need for food, and if necessary make provisions to release commodities for disaster feeding.

Several regional offices are conducting disaster preparedness meetings and may also be advising their states about necessary preparations. In the event conditions warrant, there are seven states that are participants in the Rapid Food Response System (NC, PA, NY, OH, CO, CA, OK) that can usually provide multiple food shipments for disaster feeding.

You are reminded to access the FNS/FDD Commodity Program Disaster Manual ([www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/programs/fd-disasters/default.htm](http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/programs/fd-disasters/default.htm)) to review the State, RO, and FNS/FDD HQ roles in responding to a disaster. The manual also includes a Q & A section that you should find very helpful.