**Indiana State Council Disaster Response Mission:**

To promote education and training for Local and State Disaster Response Programs and assist Councils and their Members in the Indiana State Council jurisdiction during a disaster. As a member of the” IN-VOAD” all organizational members training may be offered to the Knights of Columbus membership, when available.

**Emergency/Disaster Preparedness:**

Being properly prepared for a likely disaster will determine if you will be a victim or survivor. Each member must prepare a personal/family disaster plan. It is only when we have taken care of ourselves, and family can we respond effectively to our communities and parish. Each Council must also prepare a disaster plan to be implemented to carry out the Council missions and to provide assistance to its members to minimize the effects of a disaster.

**Preparedness Checklist:**

* Make a plan about potential emergencies/disaster and how to deal with them.
* Practice and maintain your plans. Communicate with members and adjoining Councils.
* Build an emergency first aid and supply kit.
* Keep Informed
* Know your community and neighbors.
* The question to keep asking is “WHAT IF “

**Communication is crucial during any emergency/disaster.**

All emergency/disaster plans should include plans of communication to members, councils and state officers. Traditional means of communication can be affected during a disaster. Alternate means need to be studied and used as needed. The assistance of a neighboring Council should be considered in your Council Disaster Plans, as your members may be busy tending to their own families and property. Many times personal contact is the only means available, plan accordingly.

**State Council Assistance:**

The Knights of Columbus Indiana State Council has Disaster Response Trailer loaded with basic supplies and tools, available to loan to Councils to assist their members during the Early Response Phase of a disaster. The Grand Knight or Financial Secretary of a Council needs to contact the Indiana State Council Disaster Response Coordinator to request its use. In most circumstances the trailer will be delivered to the site requested. At that point the Council is responsible for the safety of the trailer and its contents.

**Partnerships:**

The Indiana Knights of Columbus State Council Disaster Response Team is a member of Indiana Voluntary Organizations that Aid in Disasters. (IN-VOAD). This allows our Team to coordinate our community efforts with all other State and Federal Organizations to minimize the duplications of efforts and resources. We are part of the Statewide Planning Team for Disasters in the State of Indiana.

Under this collaborative effort Indiana Knights will be offered training, planning for Early Response and Long Term Recovery Programs. This partnership will provide coordination to help reduce duplication of services and resources which should lead to a smooth and effective recovery.