SDVOAD Fact Sheet

Who We Are?
San Diego Voluntary Organizations Active In Disaster (SDVOAD) is a network of non-profit, community-based organizations (CBOs) and faith-based organizations (FBOs) based in San Diego County. Collectively, these organizations provide assistance to individuals, families, and special needs populations following disasters and emergencies. Visit our website at www.sdvoad.org or email at info@sdvoad.org.

Our Mission
SD VOAD's mission is to enhance the efforts of member organizations through interagency planning, relief, response and recovery activities, all directed toward the goal of giving area residents adequate and timely services, impartially and uniformly delivered, when a disaster strikes. This is accomplished by facilitating cooperation, communication, coordination, and collaboration.

Our History
National VOAD was founded in 1970 in response to the challenges many disaster organizations experienced following Hurricane Camille, which hit the Gulf Coast in August 1969. Prior to the founding of National VOAD, numerous organizations served disaster victims independently of one another.

Unnecessary duplication of effort often occurred, while at the same time, other needs were not met. Communication among voluntary disaster agencies was very limited and coordination of services was negligible. VOAD is committed to fostering the four C's – communication, coordination, collaboration, and cooperation in order to better serve people impacted by disasters.

Our Organization
SD VOAD, under the fiscal sponsorship umbrella of the Community Recovery Team, is a California non-profit, charitable corporation under IRS section 501(c)3. The organization is governed by a Board of Directors, comprised of representatives from CBOs, FBOs, national disaster agencies (including the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army) and non-voting governmental representatives. SD VOAD is the San Diego County VOAD, serving the fifth largest county in the United States, and is an affiliate of National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) and Southern California VOAD (SCVOAD).

Our Membership
Voting membership is open to non-profit, 501(c)3 organizations. Each member organization retains its own identify and independence. Government organizations and for-profit entities may be affiliate (non-voting) members. SD VOAD works closely with other organizations to improve coordination and reduce duplication of efforts and resources. Member CBOs provide mentoring to each other and share best practices.

Our Activities
- Establishing & maintaining liaison with member CBOs prior to & following disasters;
- Facilitating improved staff and agency preparedness for member CBOs by providing training and forums;
- Convening monthly general membership meetings for information sharing and encouraging periodic working group meetings for planning and networking;
- Gathering, coordinating, and disseminating information through the network, including training and exercise schedules, disaster updates, funding opportunities, and other relevant news;
- Facilitating communication between disaster resource providers and CBOs that have disaster-related needs;
- Creating linkages for members CBOs to government emergency management agencies at all levels;
- Providing reports on disaster impact to member CBOs, government, the media, and other stakeholders;
- Participating to actively represent SD County CBOs in Southern California VOAD and National VOAD.