

Interested in becoming part of an Early Response Team? Please email jim.robisoncox@gmail.com

Mountain Sky Conference of The United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 462200
Centennial, CO 80015

To schedule a training in your area contact jim.robisoncox@gmail.com

ERT Training

- * Begins with an eight hour class led by an UMCOR certified trainer.
- * Minimum age: 18
- * Background check will be performed. Safe Gatherings training is required.
- * An ERT badge will be issued which expires after three years. Recertification classes may be shorter than 8 hours.



Early Response Team training and deployment are combined efforts of United Methodist Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM) and United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)



EARLY RESPONSE TEAMS

Mountain Sky Conference
United Methodist Church



Providing a caring Christian presence in the aftermath of a disaster.

Disasters like floods, hurricanes, tornadoes and fires impact an entire community causing physical, economic, and emotional damage.

United Methodists are known to arrive early after disasters and are often the last to leave. Here's a typical time line:

Emergency Responders handle the initial disaster response performing rescues and combating immediate damage.

As the emergency phase winds down, **Early Response Teams (ERTs)** arrive to help. A main goal is to listen to the survivors, to find out what their needs are. Further tasks might include tarping roofs to limit water damage, removing damaged household items, cleaning, removing wet sheetrock. Typically a team stays for just three days and is replaced by another team as needed.

After the early response, ongoing recovery efforts are needed to repair damage. United Methodists do this work too, but under the auspices of United Methodist Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM). These teams typically rotate in for a week at a time.

Abilities and Skills

A variety of skills and abilities are needed for a complete Early Response Team.

Each team member must be a compassionate listener and must work safely. Those with leadership skills and knowledge of early response act as **team leader** and **assistant team leader**. A **safety officer** makes sure team members are wearing appropriate protective gear, are drinking enough, and are using ladders and tools appropriately.

The **logistics officer** arranges for supplies and transportation and removes any unsafe conditions at a work site.

Base camp manager takes care of meals, water and lodging. This is critical because the team may have to sustain itself and without any community support.

Listener is designated to collect survivors stories and to relay their needs to appropriate agencies.

Equipment maintenance person keeps conference owned tools in good repair.

Other Notes

* Teams are self sufficient and self sustaining. Our conference does maintain several tool trailers, but individual team members pay for their own personal protective gear, food and transportation.

* Many trained early responders are needed because when disasters occur, some people will not be available.

* Early Response Teams must wait for an invitation to go to a disaster site. Going too early can cause confusion and can put more people in danger.

More Info:

Website:

<https://www.mtnskyumc.org/DisasterPrep>

It's a great privilege to be allowed into a family's experience at the worst time of their life. To listen with love and help begin the recovery process reminds everyone involved that God is present--offering healing and hope.