



National

Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

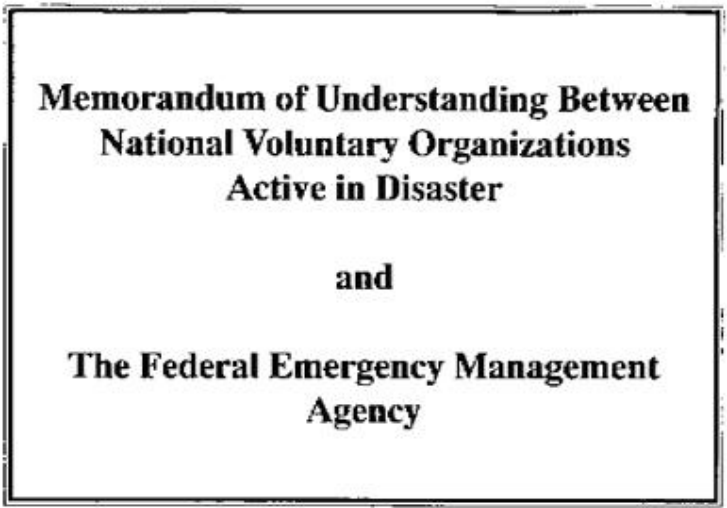
[About NVOAD](#) [History & Mission](#) [Poll](#) [Links](#) [Calendar](#) [Contact](#) [Join NVOAD](#)

Cover page and 3 text pages of NVOAD/FEMA Memorandum of Understanding signed July 16, 1997

- [Cover Page](#)
- [Text Page #1](#)
- [Text Page #2](#)
- [Text Page #3](#)

- News & Information
- Member Tools
- Annual Conference
- Calendar
- Members
- Documents
- Links
- Home

Cover Page



[\[back to top\]](#)

Text Page #1

FEMA – NVOAD MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

I. PURPOSE

This agreement provides a frame of reference within which the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) will cooperate in disaster preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. In addition, it provides a frame of reference for similar cooperative agreements between state and local governments and state and sub-state VOADs.

II. STATEMENT OF BASIC RESPONSIBILITIES

FEMA is the lead federal disaster coordinating agency designated by the President in a federally declared disaster as prescribed by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended. FEMA also has responsibilities to assist State and local governments and the American public in general, including voluntary agencies, in preparing for and responding to disasters.

NVOAD is the association of voluntary organizations active in disaster. Its mission is principally to foster a cooperative planning and preparedness environment for the major voluntary organizations active in disaster in the United States. NVOAD also facilitates the coordination of mitigation, response and recovery services among its members. NVOAD does not itself provide emergency management services, but seeks to enhance in its members, cooperation, communication, coordination and collaboration as they provide such services.

III. COORDINATION OF EFFORT

FEMA Agrees To:

- A. Contribute to the public awareness of NVOAD by:
 - 1. Making regular reference to NVOAD in FEMA publications and announcements.
 - 2. Encouraging State emergency management agencies to act collaboratively with their VOAD counterparts.
 - 3. Encouraging non-member voluntary organizations active in disaster to seek affiliation with NVOAD and State and sub-state VOADs.
 - 4. Invite, as appropriate, a NVOAD representative to participate in the Joint Information Center (JIC) on relief operations when the JIC is convened.
- B. Contribute to the training of NVOAD and VOAD members' leaders by:
 - 1. Sharing information concerning existing FEMA and State courses.
 - 2. Cooperating in the development of training courses.
- C. Assist NVOAD in helping its members contribute to disaster mitigation by identifying training and financial resources that may be available to voluntary organizations.

[\[back to top\]](#)

Text Page #2

- D. Assist NVOAD members in disaster response and recovery by facilitating the temporary use, as appropriate, of FEMA equipment and supplies, insofar as governmental regulations, resources, and priorities allow.
- E. Assist NVOAD in the development of a partnership between its members and the business community.
- F. Engage in joint projects with NVOAD from time to time that promote our common mission of efficient and effective public service in emergency management.

NVOAD Agrees To:

- A. Keep FEMA informed concerning the activities of NVOAD members by encouraging members to regularly share with FEMA reports, policy and guidance manuals, brochures, videos, and other information and training resources.
- B. Disseminate FEMA emergency management information through its membership.
- C. Encourage linkages between governments, the business community, and State and sub-state VOADs, which enhance preparedness for coordinated future relief efforts.
- D. Support implementation in time of disaster of an effective national donations management strategy.
- E. Engage in joint projects with FEMA from time to time that promote our common mission of efficient and effective public service in emergency management.
- F. Lead and encourage the mitigation of natural hazard risks through outreach, education, and local community involvement both before and after disasters occur.
- G. Assist FEMA when a major disaster or emergency is declared, in convening a meeting of the voluntary sector in efforts to better coordinate response and recovery.
- H. Encourage its members to regularly share information about field disaster response and recovery activities with FEMA regional offices prior to and following disaster declarations by the federal government.

[\[back to top\]](#)

Text Page #3

IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

This memorandum becomes effective on the date shown below, upon receiving the signatures of both the Director of FEMA and the President of NVOAD. Both parties have the authority to amend provisions of this memorandum upon mutual consent.

By: Michael Bruinooge
Michael Bruinooge
President
NVOAD

By: James Lee Witt
James Lee Witt
Director
FEMA

Date: July 16, 1997

Date: 7/16/97

[\[back to top\]](#)

[Return to Documents](#)

[News and Information](#) | [Member Tools](#) | [Annual Conference](#) | [Members](#) | [Documents](#)
[About NVOAD](#) | [History & Mission](#) | [Poll](#) | [Links](#) | [Calendar](#) | [Join NVOAD](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Home](#)

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