

## WHAT IS A COAD?

A Community Organization Active in Disaster (COAD) is a collaborative network of organizations, agencies, businesses, and others based within a county or geographic area representing public, private, and not-for-profit agencies, that work towards the mission of helping to minimize the effects of a disaster.

A COAD will enhance the community's ability to mitigate, prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters, thus ensuring that human needs are met to provide a safe, sanitary, and secure community.

## WHAT IS THE MISSION OF A COAD?

The mission of a COAD is to strengthen area-wide disaster coordination by promoting advocacy and planning to reduce the impact of disasters including facilitating communication, coordination, collaboration, and cooperation.



## WHO IS PART OF A COAD?

COADs bring together organizations from all sectors of the community including non-profit agencies, local businesses, faith-based organizations, and local governments.

Because COADs are locally driven, the local stakeholders are crucial. The better understanding everyone has of one another prior to a disaster, the more effective a local response and recovery will be after a disaster.

Getting involved is easy. Members simply agree to be part of the network and share their current contact information. Some members are more active than others in preparing for their disaster role, but all members are encouraged to actively participate as that adds to the greater good of the community. They attend 3-6 meetings a year to plan for better coordination in an emergency. Any community organization may send a representative to the COAD meetings.

## WHAT ARE THE KEYS TO A SUCCESSFUL COAD?

### Collaboration

- Develop a structure that works for your community
- Develop a relationship with Emergency Management and first responders
- Be inclusive with membership
- Maintain relationships
- Create Memorandums of Understanding where needed
- Collaborate with the Indiana VOAD

### Development

- Help to establish disaster/emergency training programs in your area
- Identify potential hazards to your community
- Prepare for response and recovery
- Identify gaps in services
- Develop a written recovery plan
- Learn and become trained in the Incident Command Structure (ICS)

### Asset Building

- Hold tabletop exercises
- Conduct cross training among agencies
- Develop Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Mapping
- Map the assets of the community including shelters and available housing partners

## WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF A COAD?

No two disasters are alike. The impact on each person is different. The needs of each are unique and often unmet. However, a community and its citizens are unquestionably better served if a COAD is in place for planning and education long before a disaster strikes.

Communities that bring resources together in a COAD can increase the effectiveness of their response to the needs of disaster survivors in a timely way, thereby reducing the social and economic impact of the disaster.

## IN WHAT PHASE OF A DISASTER WILL A COAD BE ACTIVE?

COADs will be active in all phases of emergency management, from prevention and preparedness to recovery and mitigation.

**Prevention** - Any activity taken to avoid hazards and minimize the negative consequences of a disaster.

**Preparedness**- Any activity taken in advance of an emergency that improves emergency readiness posture and develops or expands operational capabilities.

**Response** - Any action taken immediately before, during or directly after an emergency occurs to save lives,

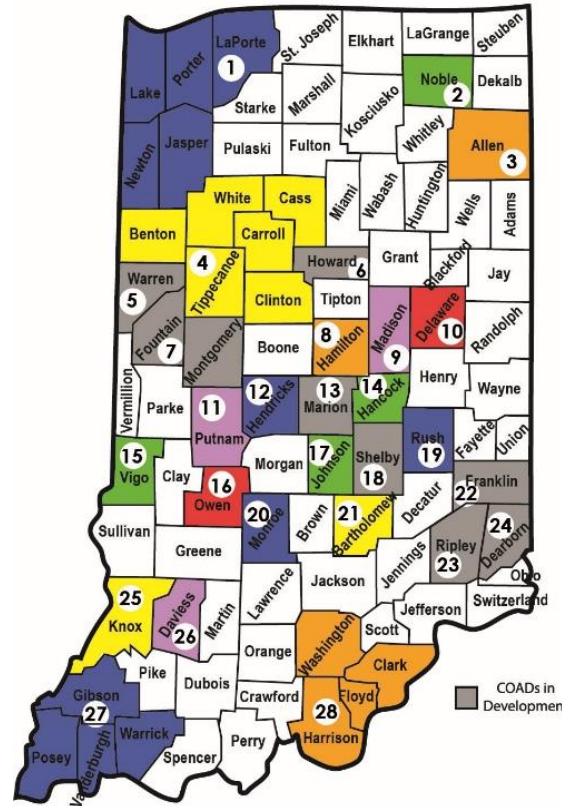
minimize injuries, lessen property and environmental damage, and enhance the effectiveness of recovery.

**Recovery** -A **short-term activity** to return vital life support systems to minimum operating standards and/or a **long-term activity** designed to return the affected people and areas to their pre disaster conditions.

**Mitigation** - Any activity taken to eliminate or reduce the degree of long-term risk to human life, property and the environment from the effects of all hazards.

## IS THERE A COAD IN YOUR AREA?

As of the spring of 2018, Indiana has 20 COADs (35 Counties) with several more in development.

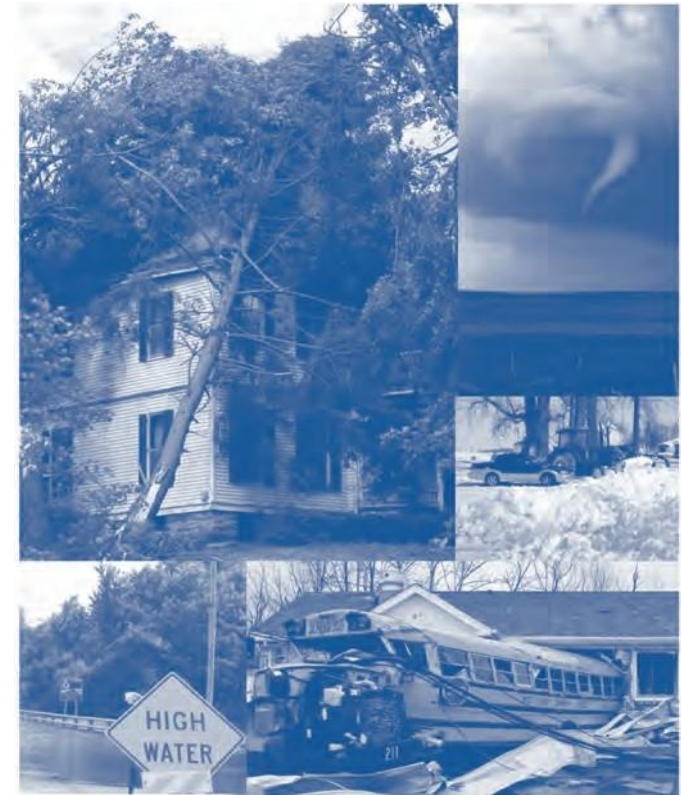


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# Community Organizations Active in Disaster



With support from:



**Indiana**  
Voluntary Organizations  
Active in Disasters