

## **TORNADO CLEANUP UPDATE (6/7/19): Call for Workers, June 17-21, 2019**

Donna Williams, Kansas District Disaster Response Coordinator  
(316) 283-1441 (church office); (316) 641-0332 (cell)  
[ksddrc@gmail.com](mailto:ksddrc@gmail.com)

The tornado cleanup work continues in NE Kansas, specifically in Basehor, Bonner Springs and Linwood. We are still receiving calls daily of potential work sites from folks who are recovering from this devastating storm. I was in contact yesterday with a pastor with a member who is living with a large tree resting on the roof of their house as they wait for the insurance to decide the fate of their home.

**Right now, the biggest need is chainsaws and those willing to drag and stack limbs and logs.** The work is hot and messy, so safety gear is an absolute must. I've added a list of the required gear and attire at the end of this note. There is not much general debris to pick up as the tornado sucked it all up and deposited it elsewhere. You will see the oddest things resting in and dangling from the trees. Your Kansas Disaster Response Team has been on site since May 28, but there is much left to do.

**We are issuing a call to anyone who is interested in doing chainsaw/tree work during the week of June 17-21, 2019.** Lutheran Church Charities (LCC) has graciously accepted our invitation to come from northern Illinois that week. They are an RSO (Recognized Service Organization) of the LCMS and come with a wealth of experience and skills and will be valuable partners in projects that we do not have the equipment to address. Between us, we hope to build a solid team to complete some big jobs.

Again, the biggest need is certified chainsaw personnel. If you are not chainsaw certified and want to come with a team, we can put you to work on a team in the field cutting trees as a dragger, but we are stressing LERT certification for this event. ***Again, trees are our main focus; there likely will not be other projects to deploy people who do not want to work with chainsaw teams.***

Interested? Here's what you need to do:

- **Contact:** Donna Williams 316-641-0332 or [ksddrc@gmail.com](mailto:ksddrc@gmail.com)
- **Documentation:** Personal ID's, LERT ID, LERT Vest, LERT Chainsaw ID. (If you trained at my place in May, I have your ID; it will be mailed to you the first of next week if not before.)
- **Gear for chainsaw operators:** chainsaw, bar oil, mixed fuel specific to your machine, PPE (hard hat, eye protection, work gloves, chaps, steel toe shoes/frankentoes, ear muffs/plugs).
- **Gear for pullers or draggers:** PPE (hard hat (if you own one – we have a few to lend out), cap, eye protection (eye glasses qualify), work gloves, work boots/shoes (no sandals or tennis shoes) you will be walking in areas where nails, glass and other sharp debris may be encountered, t-shirts (no tank tops)
- **Clothing:** we are not requiring long sleeved shirts, but ask that you do not wear tank tops, you need to cover your skin for several reasons. Long pants are a must, no shorts. Hat or cap to shade your head and eyes, but also to help with tick protection. Extra pairs of socks.
- **Other:** Sunscreen, lip balm, bug spray.
- Typical packing list for travel to a work site.

**ADDITIONAL DETAILS:**

- **Base Camp:** Trinity Family of Faith Lutheran Church, 16928 Evans Rd, Basehor, KS. We met at 8am each morning for briefing and deployment and arrive on work sites by 9pm. Participants will log in and out at Trinity.
- **Housing:** Risen Savior Lutheran Church, 14700 Leavenworth Rd, Basehor, KS. If you need housing, please let me know ASAP. Breakfast will be provided. Supper may be on your own, but if you are staying at Risen Savior, they have a nice fully equipped kitchen.
- **Meals:** Sack lunches are provided by Trinity daily. Breakfast will be provided at Risen Savior and supper may be on your own. We are still working out the details on meals.

**IF THE WORK IS COMPLETED BEFORE FRIDAY WE MAY SEND YOU HOME EARLY, SO PLEASE BE FLEXIBLE AND WILLING TO ROLL WITH ANY ADJUSTMENTS AND/OR DEVIATION FROM THE ORIGINAL PLAN. DISASTER RESPONSE'S MOST PREDICTABLE CHARACTERISTIC IS THAT IT IS OFTEN FLUID AND EVER CHANGING. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE!**

This is hot dirty work, but we will be making a difference for folks who are trying to figure things out. Some are underinsured, some have no insurance, and still others may have the financial means but remain in shock at the devastation and the upheaval of the lives they had before the storm. We are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus to everyone, every walk of life, every social and economic group, so we are addressing the needs of all who reach out to us.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me ASAP!