

District 5450 Disaster Response Policy

The District 5450 Disaster Response Policy is intended to provide a systematic, cost-effective, and sustainable response mechanism for district Rotarians and clubs choosing to respond to disasters in District 5450, such as floods, fires, earthquakes, mudslides, tornados, hurricanes and other unforeseen events.

The Disaster Leadership Team will determine what qualifies as a disaster and will mobilize the committee to act. This program does not preclude a Rotary member or club acting on its own; rather it provides a larger, organized “umbrella” that can be more controlled and targeted.

While this policy is related to disasters happening within District 5450, there may be times when the district recommends supporting disaster relief efforts in other Rotary districts, nationally or internationally.

Using the **RAD** disaster acronym, most disaster responses have three phases:

R = relief (immediate, short-term, response)

A = assistance (mid-term, assisting people in partial normalization of life)

D = development (long-term, emphasizing diverse, sustained community development)

The committee has a particular interest in assistance and development post-disaster, but immediate relief can be considered.

Core Principles

The expressed needs of the intended beneficiaries will be paramount in decision-making, in conjunction with the principles of Rotary’s 4-Way Test and any applicable government regulations.

In any disaster, first-and second-responder relief efforts are paramount; the committee will not interfere (or suggest member involvement) in this regard. Once systematic post-disaster evaluations have been completed, targeted District 5450 responses can be undertaken.

A paramount principal in all of our Rotary response efforts *after* the first immediate aid, is focusing on giving a “hand up” rather than a “hand out.”

Collaborative efforts with other reputable organizations and NGOs such as the Red Cross, Project CURE, and ShelterBox are encouraged. Rotary will not duplicate or replace efforts or programs that are underway or that should be initiated by other NGOs or by governmental agencies.

Each response effort will be documented, with the results made available to all interested Rotarians and others.

Disaster Leadership Team

- District Governor
- Operations Manager
- Treasurer
- Finance Committee Chair
- Additional members as needed (ideally including a local Rotarian who is familiar with the disaster and geographic area)

Collecting Money in Response to a Disaster

When a local disaster occurs, the District Governor is contacted by a concerned Rotarian or other concerned citizens.

The Disaster Leadership Team will make the decision as to whether the district will initiate the district funding response protocol.

If it's a "go," district members and clubs are notified as to the nature of the disaster and asked for donations, emphasizing prompt solicitation of funds.

The Operations Manager will set up the donation module in ClubRunner to receive on-line donations. Checks will be sent to the Rotary District office to process.

Donors are thanked and sent a tax receipt.

Disbursing Money

There will be an on-line application for parties interested in receiving financial support to respond to the disaster.

The disaster leadership team will identify Rotarians knowledgeable about the disaster to help identify areas of need and organizations that are able to help with responding to the disaster; and assist in making decisions about who receives funds.

The leadership team reviews the applications and determines the amount of funding to disburse to any organizations.

The district will disburse funds to the approved organizations.

Reporting

At least on a quarterly basis, the district will report to its members how much money was collected and how it was spent.

Recipients of funds from the district will be asked to report to the district on how they spent the money received from D5450.

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