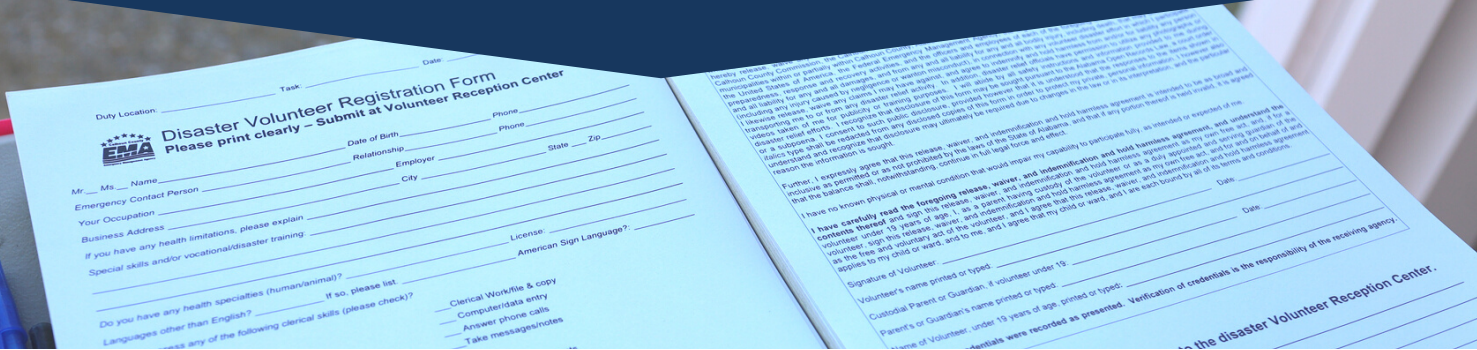


Volunteer Reception Center Executive Summary



This plan has been developed to provide the framework for activation, operation, processing of volunteers, and demobilization of a Volunteer Reception Center within Calhoun County. This plan was developed to be used during times of disaster where a large number of untrained volunteers with little or no connection to disaster relief agencies will come forward to help. If these volunteers are not designated a place where their time and talents are efficiently linked with disaster relief and recovery efforts they can be a hinderance to the response and recovery after a disaster.

Mobilizing Volunteers:

- Can be beneficial to emergency services agencies and local governments.
- There needs to be a coordinated plan to provide support to these first responders to help them manage volunteers—as a result, valuable time and resources will not be wasted in a time of crisis.
- The skill and ability to match citizens desiring to help with a specific need in the community are exactly what disaster response systems across the country typically lack.

Properly operated VRC Can :

- Spontaneous unaffiliated volunteers can work alongside trained personnel to expand the capacity of major disaster relief agencies (a “force multiplier”).
- Spontaneous volunteers can also fill staffing gaps and enhance the ability of community-based organizations to respond to their constituents.
- Offer direct services for individuals and families with limited or unavailable resources.

Most first responder agencies do not possess the equipment, training, or personnel necessary to mobilize and deploy spontaneous unaffiliated volunteers in a time of disaster. Therefore, they understand the value of an organization that can quickly mobilize and deploy large numbers of volunteers to meet a broad array of community needs.

