



What to expect when you're (not) expecting....a natural disaster

-DAN BALDWIN

Putting together a disaster response plan:



6 LESSONS LEARNED FROM EXPERIENCE (THE HARD WAY!):

1. KNOW WHERE YOU'LL SET UP SHOP SHOULD YOUR OFFICES BE AFFECTED.

2. WORK NOW TO BE PART OF THE RELIEF AND RECOVERY PROCESS.

a. Know the players and their roles

b. You can't wait to be asked to the table; you must already be there

3. BE CLEAR ABOUT YOUR ROLE, BUT UNDERSTAND THAT YOU MAY HAVE TO STEP OUTSIDE YOUR COMFORT ZONE

a. Survey the impact of the disaster on the nonprofits who deliver services

b. Philanthropy is not government, nor is government philanthropy

4. RESPOND QUICKLY. COMMUNICATE OPENLY AND OFTEN WITH BOARD LEADERSHIP AND STAFF. IF POSSIBLE, GET THINGS IN MOTION WHILE THE DISASTER IS UNFOLDING.

5. MEET WITH OTHER FUNDERS SO YOU HAVE A COORDINATED APPROACH TO THE RESPONSE.

6. BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT YOUR STAFF. EMOTIONS ARE ALWAYS NEAR THE SURFACE. YOUR SENSE OF CALM IS CRITICAL.