

Disaster and Volunteering Resources

When tragedies occur, members, non-members and other organizations frequently contact ACEP to determine what role or action ACEP is taking to provide relief or coordinate assistance.

ACEP is a non-profit, professional medical association that exists to advocate on behalf of patients needing emergency medical care, and on behalf of emergency physicians practicing throughout the U.S. healthcare system. It is not, however, a disaster relief organization

Historically, members of ACEP's Disaster Medicine Section and its Section on International Emergency Medicine, acting as individuals, have been involved in disaster settings not only in this country, but around the world. Many members have had the opportunity to work for the International Red Cross, the State Department, CDC, HHS, VA, and non-governmental agencies that have been tasked to domestic and world events.

The Mexico City earthquake of 1985 first brought the idea of disaster assistance to the College's attention. It was decided at that time not to directly organize relief efforts due to liability concerns, but rather, provide supportive measures such as training, educational events, linking up resources, and providing content expertise for those who request it.

To assist members interested in volunteering for disaster assistance, the ACEP Disaster Medicine Section has created the following resource to explain the breadth of the commitment an emergency physician must make to be a volunteer and a list of disaster relief agencies.

Volunteer Opportunities

- The American Medical Association has a listing of international organizations that offer overseas volunteer opportunities
- American Red Cross
- Doctors Without Borders
- HealthRight International (formerly Doctors of the World)
- International Medical Corps California
- Project Hope
- Medical Reserve Corps -- A component of the Citizen Corps and the USA Freedom Corps
- Medical Direction of a Community Emergency Response Team
- The National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
- United States Agency for International Development

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