



**TEXAS GULF COAST REGIONAL
VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS
ACTIVE IN DISASTER**

Who and What is VOAD?

Understanding VOAD

- **VOAD** stands for Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster.
- **The VOAD** movement is designed to help bring national, state, and local organizations together before the next disaster, and to make it easier to communicate, coordinate, collaborate, and cooperate in the face of a disaster.
- **VOAD's** goal is to coordinate immediate service delivery planning and to reduce duplication of services to people affected by disaster.
- **VOAD** is recognized by local, state, and federal government as the first response¹ after a disaster.
- **VOAD** is functional year-round regardless of an active disaster.

Note¹: First response; not first responder, such OEM, firefighters, police, etc. State and Federal Government looks to VOAD for the immediate and short-term response activities.



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Understanding VOAD

- **VOAD** can refer to both the organizations themselves or to the network, entity, as a whole.
- **VOAD's** target audience is disaster response and recovery organizations, or the departments within an organization that are charged with disaster planning.
- **VOAD** activities will change based on which phase of the disaster cycle is underway.
- **VOADs** support and promote the establishment of a Long-Term Recovery Organization or Committee in communities that do not have an established group.

What is VOAD?

- **VOAD** is a coordinating body.
- **VOAD** is an autonomous alliance of various voluntary organizations which provide their own unique disaster response skills and volunteers.
- **VOAD** is the communication link between emergency management and member organizations, provides a single point of contact for emergency managers, and allows for smooth information flow.

What is VOAD?

- **VOAD** encourages collaboration to maximize resources and avoid duplication of services.
- **VOAD** is open to any reputable organization that has a role to play in helping communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

What isn't VOAD?

- **VOAD is not** an operational entity. VOAD takes **NO** role in providing direct services.
- **VOAD is not** a competing or exclusionary organization.
- **VOAD is not** people acting as first responders.
- **VOAD is not** limited to emergency services.
- **VOAD is not** an individual volunteer organization. It is designed to be an organizational membership group.



VOADs vs. LTRCs

Overarching Purpose: Work within a community to assist individuals and families as they recover from disaster.

	VOADs	LTRCs
Characteristics	VOAD is a cooperative body that is made up of representatives from faith-based, non-profit, government, business, and community-based organizations.	LTRC is a cooperative body that is made up of representatives from faith-based, non-profit, government, business, and community-based organizations.
Service Delivery	VOADs activities do NOT include a provision of direct services to survivors; their members do.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ LTRCs activities DO include a provision of direct services to survivors.▪ LTRCs typically function as the Unmet Needs Committee and has a provision of Disaster Case Management.
Activation Timeframes	In response to a disaster incident, VOADs are primary active during immediate response and short-term. VOADs focus on preparedness year-round.	LTRCs function long-term to provide recovery assistance and can do so for years after a disaster incident.
Locality	VOADs are present at national, state, and sub-state levels. Therefore, having a broader reach.	LTRCs are localized and typically serve one county. LTRCs forms around local needs and available resources.