



Home Builders Association of IOWA

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IOWA DISASTERS

Tornados & Floods

GENERAL INFORMATION

- All areas that have been declared a Federal Disaster Area via a U.S. Presidential declaration will be required to follow SET federal / FEMA rules for the reconstruction.
- FEMA is setting up offices in Iowa and will begin to mobilize to your communities.
- FEMA will set regulatory requirements and standards for the reconstruction. This may include elevation of the building. **DO NOT** start any renovation work until FEMA has announced its requirements – you may just be throwing your time and customer's money down the drain when you have to redo the work to meet the new standards.
- If a structure / building / home requires over 50% renovation, the reconstruction **MUST** be built to the current building **CODE** of the state and / or the minimum building **CODE** required by FEMA. Make sure you know what these updated codes are.

IDEAS for our HBAs

- Meetings with your members to explain the FEMA and State process for recovery.
- Educational Programs for members on how to be in compliance or to reconstruct to the new standards – what does it mean.
- Table Top Event for Consumers – get your members together and host an event for consumers to come in and meet with your members to find out about services available and to get the homeowners back into their homes. Have your contractors ready with teams to go out and provide estimates.
- Model Contracts – make sure your members have contracts / construction agreements available to work with consumers.
- Registrations / Licenses – remind your members to make sure they are current and to have their documentation available to verify credentials when signing up for jobs.

Key Tips for HBA Members

- Flood repair work is **NOT** the same as your typical renovation work. Make sure you understand what is **REQUIRED** by both FEMA and your local Cities to be in compliance before you begin.
- Patience is a key – do not over commit what you can do or services you can provide.
- **STRESS** levels – both emotional & physical will be high everywhere including homeowners, business owners, employees, government officials and contractors – be prepared.
- Understand that **HEALTH & SAFETY** for everyone are top priorities. Make sure any building you enter has been declared structurally sound first and that you have proper ventilation masks, etc. Be safe.
- If you do **VOLUNTEER** or step in to assist with typical government services – make sure you know who is liable throughout the process. Do not allow yourself or employees to enter into an unhealthy environment without proper protection.
- There will be others out there trying to “make a deal” to scam consumers – make sure you set yourself apart as a legitimate business owner. Continue to utilize your contracts and work agreements and have your credentials & resumes up to date.

Getting Started

- Assess the needs of your HBA members – who have lost their homes, businesses, tools of the trade. Work with members that were less affected to offer assistance to those in need. It may be as simple as volunteers to help relocate materials back to their shops when the waters recede or to loan materials and tools to get the business operational.
- Get in contact with your local officials – City Leaders, Building Departments, Chambers of Commerce, Insurance Divisions, FEMA headquarters and **COORDINATE** your resources and efforts. **This will be a TEAM effort** – make sure they know your HBA is ready to assist when needed and would like to be involved with the ongoing restoration and process updates.
- Communicate, Communicate, Communicate – keep the lines open to help your members stay informed of the constant changes & updates.