

Disaster Service Workers

As public employees, district personnel fall under the designation of “disaster service workers”. Disaster service workers are responsible for the protection of the health and safety and preservation of the lives of students. Since you serve a population that is dependent upon your services, you cannot abandon this critical responsibility during an emergency situation and should be prepared to protect all students. The wildfires and earthquakes in Southern California show how important disaster service workers can be at returning normalcy to an extremely difficult situation.

What is a Disaster Service Worker?

- All public employees are included in the disaster service worker status, whether employed by a county, city, state agency, public district or schools.
- Public employees are assigned disaster service activities by their superiors, or by law, to assist the agency in carrying out its responsibilities during times of disaster.
- Employees may be activated as disaster service workers any time there has been a declared disaster, and may be recalled during a work stoppage.

What are Disaster Service Workers expected to do?

- Public employees, acting within the scope of a disaster service worker, assist any unit of the organization, perform any act contributing to the protection of life or property, or mitigate the effects of an emergency.



How Can You Prepare For Disaster Service?

- Since employees may be activated as disaster service workers any time of day or night, employees should ensure your personal life and family are prepared in an emergency situation. It will be difficult to coordinate emergency actions for your family and loved ones while serving as a disaster service worker.
- Employees who may be the sole caretaker of an elderly relative or disabled child should inform your supervisor so an early priority release can be considered.
- Designate an out-of-state phone number for you and loved ones to check in and indicate you are safe so that you can then focus on your disaster service worker duties.
- Keep a disaster kit with you of spare clothes, comfortable shoes, toothbrush, medicines and anything you might need for an extended stay.
- Participate in training when provided – CPR, first aid, triage, CERT, search and rescue, etc.