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GOOD STORY

Hurricane Sandy: Veteran-Focused Disaster Response Team Rallies to Aid Recovery Efforts

The LLIS.gov team identified several innovative Whole Community ideas and practices to support preparedness, response, and recovery following Hurricane Sandy.

SUMMARY

Following Hurricane Sandy, the non-government organization [Team Rubicon](#) deployed more than 300 military and 5,000 civilian volunteers to support recovery efforts in Far Rockaway, New York. These volunteers processed work orders, tracked operations, rescued people trapped in floodwaters, delivered emergency supplies, provided medical care to evacuees, and supported residential clean-up efforts.

DESCRIPTION

Hurricane Sandy

On Monday, October 29, 2012, Hurricane Sandy made landfall near Atlantic City, New Jersey, pushing a massive storm surge to shore and generating winds to up to 75 miles per hour. The National Hurricane Center downgraded Sandy to a post-tropical cyclone shortly after landfall. Sandy caused storm surge, record flooding, and wind damage. Nine days after the storm, a large nor'easter caused massive snowfall undermining response operations in the disaster-impacted areas.

As a result of these events, millions of people were left without power and hundreds were displaced along the East Coast from North Carolina to Maine. New York and New Jersey, two of the most populated states in the nation, were particularly impacted by the storm.



**Hurricane Sandy Image Captured by
NASA on October 28, 2012**

Team Rubicon Operations

Team Rubicon was established in January 2010 with goal of employing the talents and skills military veterans routinely gain during military service. This non-government organization offers veterans "... a chance to continue their service by helping and empowering those afflicted by disasters, and also themselves." Since then, teams of military veterans and medical professionals have deployed and provided assistance to victims in Haiti, Chile, Burma, Pakistan, Sudan as well as Vermont, Maryland, Missouri, and Alabama.

Mission

Team Rubicon unites the skills and experiences of military veterans with medical professionals to rapidly deploy emergency response teams into crisis situations. (Source: [Team Rubicon - Our Mission](#))



In their largest operation to date, Team Rubicon organized and deployed more than 300 military and 5,000 civilian volunteers to support recovery efforts in Far Rockaway, New York. In collaboration with New York City's Office of Emergency Management, Team Rubicon volunteers set up a base of operations in a gated parking lot where they organized volunteers, processed work orders, and tracked operations using logistics programs and geospatial software.

Within six days of activation, volunteers rescued people trapped in floodwaters, delivered thousands of pounds of emergency supplies, tended to the medical needs of hundreds of evacuees and supported residential clean-up efforts. Using re-purposed software to track and direct their volunteers in the field, the team completed more than 700 work orders.

Recovery efforts were further enhanced through partnerships with numerous private sector businesses that made financial and material donations, such as Home Depot, Jet Blue, Meal Kit Supply, and Goldman Sachs.

The following videos provide additional information on Team Rubicon's operations in the Rockaways:

- [TR on WNYC: Veterans Lead Sandy Relief in the Rockaways;](#)
- [Team Rubicon – Hurricane Sandy Homeowners;](#) and
- [TR on WGN: Vets' experience helps in wake of hurricane.](#)



Team Rubicon Volunteers Conduct Debris Removal after Hurricane Sandy

REFERENCES

Team Rubicon

<http://teamrubiconusa.org/>

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[Team Rubicon – Hurricane Sandy Homeowners](http://teamrubiconusa.org/team-rubicon-hurricane-sandy-homeowners/)

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