



## Early Response Team Basic Course

**What is ERT:** When disaster strikes, the local church usually provides the first response to members of the congregation in need. This basic understanding—that disaster response is local—helps form a foundation for UMCOR's national training and response. UMCOR equips United Methodists to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters, supporting conference and church ministries on disaster response so that they can be the hands and feet of Christ in a hurting world.

Early Response Teams (ERTs) fill a specific need in the early days after a disaster to clean out flood-damaged homes, remove debris, place tarps on homes, and otherwise help to prevent further damage, while providing a caring Christian presence.

ERTs are not a first-response group of emergency workers, nor are they recovery, rebuild, or repair teams. Under very specific guidelines, ERTs assist survivors, without causing further harm or being a burden to the affected community. ERTs require an invitation to travel to another district, conference, or jurisdiction. Participating ERTs are encouraged to wear bright green t-shirts as a means of recognition.

UMCOR works in collaboration with United Methodist Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM).

ERT Training Opportunities: All ERT members are trained by authorized UMCOR trainers, and are given identification badges as evidence of successful completion of the basic class.

**Basic ERT Member Training (6.5 hours):** Participants learn the basics of disaster response, including how to stabilize and secure homes safely, and how to work effectively with survivors and others on the response team. This standardized class is required for the basic ERT UMCOR identification badge.

### ERT Training for Basic Course

September 14<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Cost \$35.00

***Location:*** Perdido Bay UMC - Pensacola

13660 Innerarity Point Road

Pensacola Florida 32507

(850) 492-2135

**Please call the Church office to register for this course or the Pensacola District Office (850) 434-0118 to register for this course.**