Legionnaires from Post 210 in Mobile, Ala., collected relief items and delivered them to families in the tornado-stricken area around Birmingham.

HELP THOSE IN NEED

After a community recovers from disaster, there is often a desire to give back. At the same time, charities such as the National Emergency Fund need to replenish their coffers. This is a good time to consider a fundraising drive for future emergencies.

TO RAISE MONEY:

Fundraisers such as motorcycle runs, fish fries or raffles are great ways to gather donations. Another Legion post, Auxiliary unit, Sons of The American Legion squadron or Riders chapter can assist in sponsoring or promoting a fundraiser for NEF.

TO DONATE:

Proceeds from fundraisers, individuals or groups may be donated to NEF by visiting **www.legion.org/NEF** or mailing a check to **The American Legion, National Emergency Fund, P.O. Box 1954, Indianapolis, IN 46206**.

ADDITIONAL COPIES

To print copies of this and other NEF brochures in this series, please visit **www.legion.org/publications**.

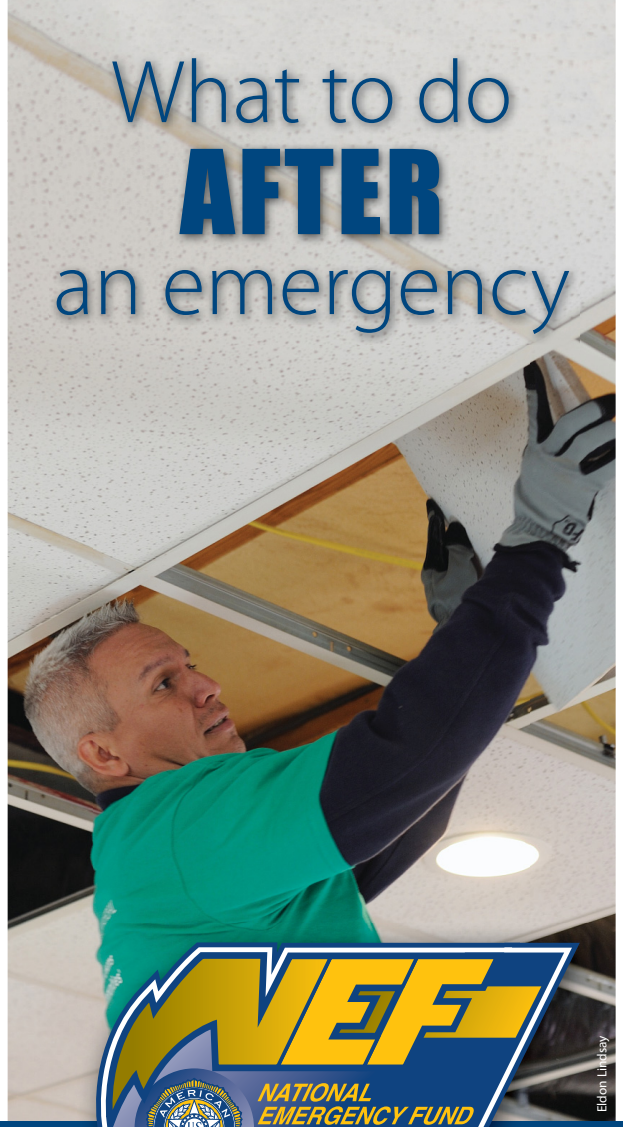
THE AMERICAN LEGION
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
317-630-1330
ia@legion.org
www.legion.org/NEF

Artwork # 07IA0813
Stock # 30-501-D

Follow The American Legion at
www.legion.org/facebook
twitter.com/AmericanLegion

THE AMERICAN LEGION'S
NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND

What to do AFTER an emergency



Eldon Lindsay

NEF NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND

Volunteers prepare lunches for relief workers and victims at Illinois Post 235.
Photo by Eldon Lindsay.

In the aftermath of an emergency or natural disaster, there is a lot of work to be done: rebuilding physical structures and healing the lives of those affected. To assist with recovery efforts, The American Legion's National Emergency Fund provides financial grants to Legion Family members and posts.

An NEF coordinator's role does not end when he or she finishes assisting applicants as they fill out the proper paperwork. After the initial work to locate Legionnaires and submit their paperwork, there are still tasks to be completed.

" We plan to get training from our police and fire departments. This way we get the training from them, and we learn what the police and fire departments need so we can help them when the time comes."
– Joe DeLaCruz, American Legion member who helped coordinate NEF funds following tornadoes in Oklahoma

ENSURE CHECKS ARE DELIVERED

It takes about a week for checks to be delivered from National Headquarters to the Department Headquarters. As the processors are taking the applications, they should use a spreadsheet to document the details: name, contact information, etc. A sample spreadsheet provided by National Headquarters has been provided to departments and is available at **www.legion.org/NEF**.

It is also recommended to use this sheet to follow up with those who have not received their checks. Contact them to coordinate when and where they can receive their checks.

KEEP COMMUNICATING

NEF coordinators should conduct discussions with their team members soon after the NEF work is completed. Find out what worked well, what did not work well and what improvements should be implemented before the next disaster occurs. NEF coordinators are encouraged to make recommendations to their department leadership.

ENCOURAGE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

After leading a team through the NEF process in a disaster aftermath, the NEF coordinator has unique knowledge and perspective. Consider discussing with your department leadership what you learned and what would be helpful for other communities in the event of a disaster. What you learned also may serve as a good session during a department convention.

GENERATE GOOD PR

In the immediate aftermath of a disaster, you most likely came in contact with members of the local media. As you finalize grants and other assistance, this would be a good time to reach out to the media again for positive coverage. For example, you could write a letter to the editor and/or issue a press release detailing the number of grants and money distributed to victims. The media often looks for positive stories after an emergency, so you could also suggest stories on how a post building or veteran's home is recovering in the aftermath.