



NEWS RELEASE

HANDS ON DISASTER RESPONSE • P.O. BOX 546 • CARLISLE, MA 01741

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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HANDS ON DISASTER RESPONSE COORDINATING RELIEF EFFORTS IN MISSOURI

Local group begins volunteer project in wake of May 10th F4 tornado.

NEOSHO, MO 5/21/08 – Hands On Disaster Response (HODR), a volunteer-driven 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization, is a micro-deployment with Project Newton County. This volunteer project began May 19th and will last 30 days to help the devastated area of Newton County, Missouri. This county was the primary area in the state hit by tornados that struck on May 10th. Tornado damage in Missouri is severe with 460 homes affected 200 of which are either completely destroyed or suffered major damage.

HODR's assessment team spent time evaluating the damage and overall response in Missouri before choosing Newton County as a home for the next four weeks. The strong winds, measuring up to F-4 strength, spanned the entire 30-mile length of the county also took the lives of 18 residents. With the partnership of AmeriCorps, St. Louis, HODR will be able to coordinate projects including: staffing a support center, community needs assessment, tree and debris cleanup, home demolition, fence repair and possibly roofing and basic home repair. Please visit the website, www.HODR.org for updates on this deployment.

As always, HODR welcomes volunteers and will do their best to put skills and talents to work in the community. The volunteers only need to get transportation to the volunteer base. In exchange for volunteer time and resources, HODR provides food, shelter, and a dynamic, rewarding work experience.

HODR is also accepting monetary donations to help offset the costs of this project. Donations can be made securely on the website, www.HODR.org. All donations are tax-deductible and will be used effectively in this relief project.

For additional information on HODR's Project Newton County please visit the website, www.HODR.org or contact Paula Ogletree at 706-476-0310 or paula@HODR.org.

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ABOUT: Hands On Disaster Response is a US-based, volunteer-driven, 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization dedicated to timely disaster response and relief. HODR strives to provide hands-on relief to survivors of natural disasters with maximum speed and minimum bureaucracy. Their projects focus on applying volunteer resources and expertise to communities affected by natural disaster. Previous projects have included Thailand (2004 Southeast Asian Tsunami), USA (2005 Hurricane Katrina), Indonesia (2006 Jogjakarta Earthquake), the Philippines (2006 Typhoon Reming), Peru (2007 Pisco Earthquake), Bangladesh (2007 Cyclone Sidr), and USA (2008 Arkansas tornadoes). Donations made to HODR are tax deductible.

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