

# The Seaboard

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## Featured VOAD: Team Rubicon

Team Rubicon's primary mission is providing disaster relief to those affected by natural disasters, be them domestic or international. By pairing the skills and experiences of military veterans with first responders, medical professionals and technology solutions, Team Rubicon aims to provide the greatest service and impact possible.

Through continued service, Team Rubicon seeks to provide our veterans with three things they lose after leaving the military: a purpose, gained through disaster relief; community, built by serving with others; and self-worth, from recognizing the impact one individual can make. Coupled

with leadership development and other opportunities, Team Rubicon looks to help veterans transition from military to civilian life.

When responding to a disaster, TR is "credentialed" meaning that person is trained for that specific task, i.e heavy equipment, chainsaw, passed back ground check, morality clause signed, insured, and totally self supporting.

Please check out their website: [www.teamrubiconusa.org](http://www.teamrubiconusa.org)

## Sheltering Class

There has been a bit of reorganization within the Red Cross and I am trying to coordinate a sheltering class for those interested. With this class you can assist those working in our shelters when activated. I think a few of you have had this class so if you have any information that can assist me, please send me an email. Hurricane season is only a few months away.

## Community Outreach

If you or a member or know of any church, civic group, club, association, business or municipality we (and maybe one of you) will come and give a presentation about Preparedness and Emergency Management. We can do this nights, days, weekends, what ever is convenient to the group that requests us.

## Individual versus Public Assistance for Winter Storm Jonas

Individual Assistance vs. Public Assistance.

Winter Storm Jonas was ferocious enough that Maryland Governor Larry Hogan issued a Disaster Declaration for the State. Thanks to this declaration, it is possible for counties, cities, and individuals to apply for assistance to recover expenses resulting from damages and storm related work.

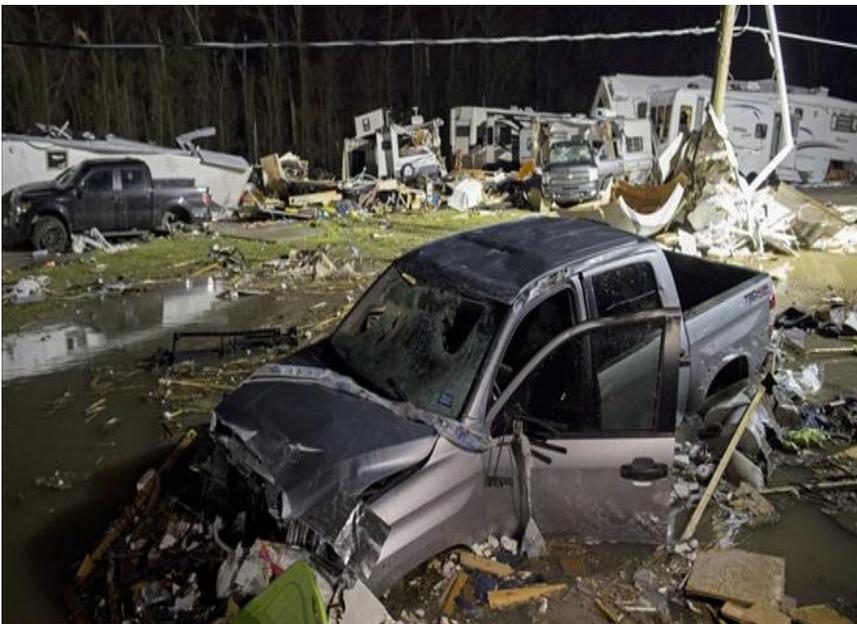
Before reimbursements can occur, two things must happen. First, each county must meet a monetary threshold for damages,

and second, there must be a Presidential Disaster Declaration. As of this printing, a Presidential Declaration has not yet been announced. Maintaining paperwork and proper documentation on Incident Command System (ICS) forms is imperative in order to prove county expenses, should the ability to apply be granted in the future.

Individual Assistance follows a different path. After a Presidential Declaration is made, the individual must use insurance for recovery. If the loss is extensive, the Small

Business Association will assist with low interest loans. Individuals should take pictures of damages and keep all receipts for reimbursement if possible. If the individual's losses are so great that elevation, relocation or demolition is needed, a different route is followed for that individual.

The process isn't complicated, but it can become time consuming, especially with paper work. To put things into perspective, we are still providing assistance from Hurricane Sandy, which hit in 2012.



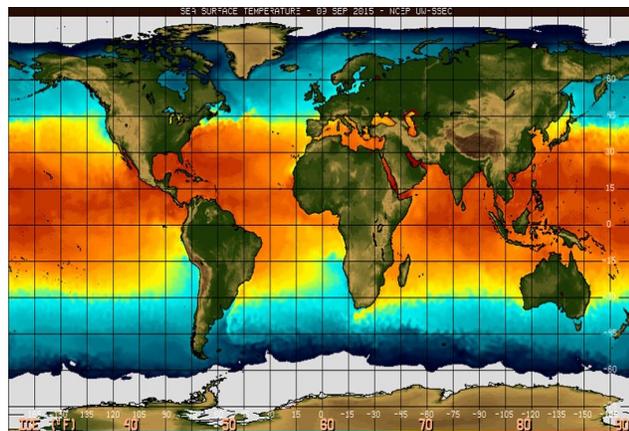
*On February 24, 2016, were you getting the Tornado alerts for watches and warnings? Do you remember the difference between a watch and warning? The picture to the left is from that date's storm that hit in Waverly, VA. Waverly is 2.5 hours southwest of here, and is about the size and population of Snow Hill.*

*The latest updates are that there were 4 deaths from this storm. We were lucky! Would you have been prepared if it came our way? Be aware and be prepared!*

## El Niño and Sea Level Rise

Currents and tides influence topography as does temperature. Water expands as it gets warmer, and the lack of cold water nutrients make it less dense. This results in sea level rise which is observable from space.

Ocean surface height may rise as much as 6 to 13 inches above normal during regions of El Niño. Affected regions are shown as the yellow, orange, and red areas in the image to the right.



## Selecting a Safe Room

If you don't have to evacuate and plan to ride out a hurricane at home, set up a safe room for you and your family in case your home is damaged. This is also a good place to store emergency supplies, important papers, and battery powered radios. Make sure the room has a solid core door with heavy hinges for greater protection. Use long screws to ensure that the hinges are anchored securely. Installing a deadbolt lock, like those found on entry doors, will further help protect your family.

Where your safe room should be located depends upon how many levels there are in your home or building.

- In a one story house, the ideal safe room is in the center of your home with few or no windows.
- In a two story house, seek out an interior first floor room such as a bathroom, closet, or space under stairs.
- In a multiple story building, go to the first or second floors and take refuge in halls or other interior rooms away from windows. Interior stairwells and areas around elevator shafts are generally the strongest parts of the building.

## Be Prepared With the FEMA Mobile App

Features contained within the app include:

- Alerts from the National Weather Service: Receive severe weather alerts for up to five locations across the U.S. and see information about how to stay safe.
- Disaster Reporter: Upload and share photos of damage and recovery efforts.
- Custom emergency safety info: Save a custom list of the items in your family's emergency kit, as well as the places you will meet in case of an emergency.
- Maps of disaster resources: Locate and receive driving directions to open shelters and disaster recovery centers.

- Safety tips: Learn how to stay safe before, during, and after over 20 types of hazards, including floods, hurricanes, tornadoes and earthquakes.
- Apply for assistance: Easily access [DisasterAssistance.gov](http://DisasterAssistance.gov) to apply for federal disaster assistance.
- Information in Spanish: The app defaults to Spanish language content for smartphones that have Spanish set as their default language.

The app is available for Apple, Android, and BlackBerry devices and can be downloaded from their respective app stores.



## Training Schedule

The next CERT class is scheduled to start Tuesday, March 8th, at the Fire Training Center in Newark, MD and will be from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm.

Past students are always welcome to come for a refresher, or even give a short talk.

Call or email for information or to register.

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