



The California Nurses Association and National Nurses Organizing Committee (CNA/NNOC)

is a national union and professional organization of 70,000 registered nurses in 44 states who are pursuing a powerful agenda of patient advocacy that promotes the interests of patients, direct-care nurses, and RN professional practice.

CNA/NNOC has won groundbreaking patient protection legislation including first-in-the-nation RN staffing ratios and whistle-blower protection for healthcare employees who expose unsafe hospital conditions.

We are our patients' safety net. RNs are in a unique position to continue our long and proud history of acting as social advocates by fighting for and providing equitable healthcare for all. CNA/NNOC formed the RN Response Network (RNRN) to further these goals.

RNRN—Registered Nurse Response Network
CNA/NNOC
2000 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94612

These nurses are headed to a disaster area.



RN Response Network will help get them there.

To disasters like hurricanes, tsunamis, earthquakes, and other major emergencies where volunteer RNs are needed for hands-on care.

RNRN
RN Response Network
The Power of Nurses Helping Nurses
Respond When Disaster Strikes
www.RNRResponseNetwork.org

RNRN is a national network of direct-care RNs — powered by California Nurses Association and National Nurses Organizing Committee — that coordinates sending volunteer RNs to disaster or evacuation sites where and when their help is needed most.

RNRN was organized in 2005 when Katrina and Rita — two of the most destructive hurricanes in history — dramatically exposed America's flawed disaster relief system. RNRN volunteers went to the Gulf to help provide care for the hundreds of thousands of people abandoned without food, water, shelter, medical aid, nursing care, or even a basic evacuation plan.



“I was deployed to South Cameron Memorial Hospital, a very small hospital right on the Gulf. The hospital was quickly overwhelmed with evacuees from New Orleans and surrounding parishes. We provided the entire nursing staff for the evacuation shelter and clinic that was opened up in a closed wing of the hospital. The RN overseeing the ER and the shelter had been working for 21 days without a day off until we arrived.”

— **Bonnie Martin, RN, NP**
CNA Board of Directors
Lodi, California

“I tried to volunteer with at least half a dozen relief agencies who said they needed nurses in the region without success. It was a matter of days after contacting CNA/NNOC that I arrived in my assigned hospital in Baton Rouge. The hospital was in dire need of nurses as a result of getting the bulk of medical evacuees from New Orleans, which resulted in a doubling of their census overnight. Ten minutes after my arrival, I had a nursing license in Louisiana, changed into scrubs, and went to work.”

— **Diane Dengate, RN**
Detroit, Michigan

“The people of the Gulf Coast left a life-changing impression on me. Their lack of healthcare in normal conditions is a national tragedy. Many of the people there had never seen a doctor before the hurricane. Years of untreated chronic diseases like diabetes and hypertension put the evacuees at much greater risk.”

— **Shirley Usher, RN**
Los Angeles, California

After Hurricane Katrina **CNA/NNOC** was among the first to take action to cut through the inertia and red tape roadblocks of government and private relief agencies. We created a historic first-ever direct-care RN disaster response network.



California RN volunteer Deborah Thompson working neonatal intensive care unit at Earl K. Long Memorial Hospital in Baton Rouge. CNA/NNOC provided more than half of the RN staff for the two months following the hurricane when the census more than doubled overnight.

The images of people clinging to rooftops and thousands huddled amid the chaos of the Superdome stunned everyone who watched the disaster unfold on TV. But what shocked and outraged Americans even more was the bungled relief effort that followed, itself a monumental disaster. It would turn out to be one of the most mismanaged disaster responses by the world’s wealthiest and most powerful nation.

As the first media reports of Katrina’s fury came in, RNs across the country quickly discovered that designated relief agencies were in no position to place volunteer RNs. This was one of the deadliest hurricanes in history. There was no coordinated effort to place volunteer RNs where they were needed most. Many nurses were told to wait by their phones for a call that never came.

But nothing gets between RNs and patients who need their help. While politicians pointed fingers and disaster officials bickered, RNs took action. CNA/NNOC began contacting disaster zone hospitals and evacuation sites to assess where volunteer RNs were needed most. At the same time, CNA/NNOC put out an emergency call to RNs across the country for volunteers. In just a matter of hours, responses flooded in. Within days, the first RN relief team was on its way to the Gulf Coast. They were soon joined by 300 more RNs dispatched to 25 hospitals, clinics, and mobile units in Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi.

RNRN is designed to provide support, training, and coordination for volunteer nurses when disaster strikes. With RNRN, nurses can focus entirely on providing patient care. RNRN takes care of everything else, even raising funds to cover airfare, safe lodging, and meals. RNRN also works directly with federal and state agencies to resolve issues of medical credentials and licenses for out-of-state nurse volunteers.

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RNRN

- YES**, I would like to help. Add my name to the RNRN roster.
- YES**, Sign me up for email alerts for RNRN updates and upcoming CE classes and trainings.
- YES**, I want to join CNA/NNOC to protect RN practice and patients. Start my complimentary subscription to *Registered Nurse, The Journal of Patient Advocacy*. Enclosed is my \$30 membership fee.

NAME _____

HOSPITAL OR AFFILIATION (NAME & LOCATION) _____

EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

JOB TITLE/CLASSIFICATION _____

PLEASE LIST AREAS OF SPECIALTY, EXPERIENCE, AND/OR CERTIFICATION: _____

- YES**, I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to help send volunteer nurses to disaster areas:
 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 other _____
- Enclosed is my check. Make payable to:
California Nurses Foundation (CNF) Disaster Relief Fund.
- Payment by credit card:
 Visa MasterCard American Express

CREDIT CARD # (if applicable) _____ / _____

SIGNATURE _____

EXP. DATE _____

Mail to: RN Response Network – CNA/NNOC
2000 Franklin Street, Oakland, CA 94612
800-578-8225

To join online, visit:

www.RNResponseNetwork.org