



NATIONAL  
**TORNADO**  
SUMMIT  
& *DISASTER SYMPOSIUM*

**FEBRUARY 26 - 28, 2018**

COX CONVENTION CENTER  
OKLAHOMA CITY

# No Good Deed Goes Unpunished:

## Rapid Assessment of Buildings After Natural Disasters

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# No Good Deed Goes Unpunished:

## Rapid Assessment of Buildings After Natural Disasters

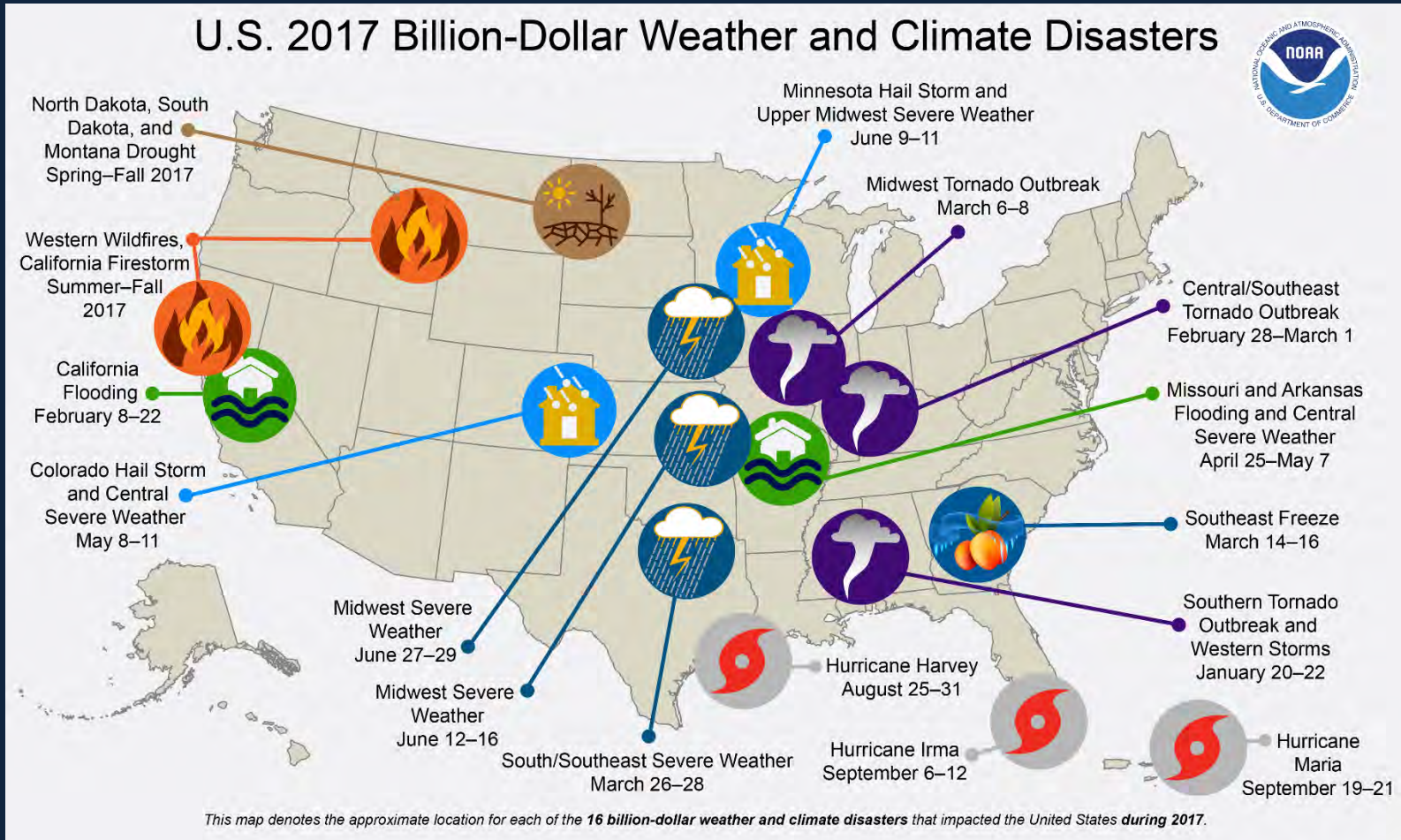
**Disaster:** a sudden calamitous event bringing great damage, loss, or destruction

**Natural Disaster:** a sudden and terrible event in nature (such as a hurricane, tornado, or flood) that usually results in serious damage and many deaths

Merriam-Webster



# No Good Deed Goes Unpunished: Rapid Assessment of Buildings After Natural Disasters



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## Recovery:

- the act or process of becoming healthy after an illness or injury : the act or process of recovering
- the act or process of returning to a normal state after a period of difficulty

Merriam-Webster

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## Recovery:

- the task of restoring the infrastructure and returning a community to normal operation

NCSEA - SEER

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## How does Recovery begin?

By utilizing 2<sup>nd</sup> Responders to determine whether structures are suitable for re-habitation

**INSPECTED**  
LAWFUL OCCUPANCY PERMITTED

This structure has been inspected (as indicated below) and no apparent structural hazard has been found.

Inspected Exterior Only  
 Inspected Exterior and Interior

Report any unsafe condition to local authorities; reinspection may be required.

Inspector comments:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Facility Name and Address:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Time \_\_\_\_\_  
(Caution: Aftershocks since inspection may increase damage and risk.)

This facility was inspected under emergency conditions for:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Jurisdiction)

Inspector ID / Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

**RESTRICTED USE**

**Caution:** This structure has been inspected and found to be damaged as described below:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Entry, occupancy and lawful use are restricted as indicated below:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Facility Name and Address:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Time \_\_\_\_\_  
(Caution: Aftershocks since inspection may increase damage and risk.)

This facility was inspected under emergency conditions for:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Jurisdiction)

Inspector ID / Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Do Not Remove, Alter or Cover this Placard until Authorized by Governing Authority

**UNSAFE**  
DO NOT ENTER OR OCCUPY  
(THIS PLACARD IS NOT A DEMOLITION ORDER)

This structure has been inspected, found to be seriously damaged and is unsafe to occupy, as described below:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do not enter, except as specifically authorized in writing by jurisdiction. Entry may result in death or injury.

Facility Name and Address:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Time \_\_\_\_\_

This facility was inspected under emergency conditions for:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Jurisdiction)

Inspector ID / Agency \_\_\_\_\_

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## What are 2<sup>nd</sup> Responders?

Trained and qualified individuals (recourse) capable  
of performing post-disaster damage assessments



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There are 4 recognized classes of 2<sup>nd</sup> Responders

- FEMA Structural Condition Evaluator (SCE)
- ICC Disaster Response Inspector (DRI)
- Cal OES SAP Assessor
- ATC 20 or 45 Assessor



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There are 4 methods of activating 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Responders:

- Federal Resource (Request through EM)
- State Resource (Request through EM or BO)
- Mutual Aid Resource (Request through BO)
- Volunteer (Direct Request)

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National Council of Structural Engineers Associations  
(NCSEA)

NCSEA is comprised of 44 structural engineering associations throughout the United States.

Each NCSEA Member Organization (MO) has a delegate that represents their Member Organization within NCSEA

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## Structural Engineering Emergency Response (SEER)

A Program of Professional Volunteers providing  
Post-Disaster Assistance.



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## SEER – Mission Statement:

To develop, manage, and deploy professional  
2nd responders (Damage / Safety Assessment  
Professionals) who are properly trained and certified  
both domestically and internationally

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## SEER Program

A comprehensive nationwide program consisting of four main components:

- Training
- Advocacy
- Roster Management
- Assistance Coordination

# No Good Deed Goes Unpunished:

## Rapid Assessment of Buildings After Natural Disasters

### SEER – Training

Facilitate and/or deliver training to design and construction professionals so as to qualify them to participate as 2nd responders at a Local, State or National level.

- ICC – DRI
- Cal OES – SAP

# No Good Deed Goes Unpunished:

## Rapid Assessment of Buildings After Natural Disasters

### SEER – Advocacy

- ICC and NCSEA have signed an agreement to partner in disaster response and coordinate our future efforts. The plan is to expand the 2nd Responder Roster, to develop a joint cobranded web page and to coordinate the NCSEA and ICC efforts such that communication, recruitment and deployment will be much more efficient.

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## SEER – Advocacy

- ICC and NCSEA have shared the planned collaboration with FEMA who responded by stating:

*“We are turning the page in finally getting the system to work for the benefit of impacted communities and the critical needs of building officials post-disaster.”*

At this point FEMA is going to begin working with our organizations to determine how to engage our volunteers through the EMAC system



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## SEER – Advocacy

- NCSEA is working with the SEER Committee to deliver Cal OES and ICC training throughout the Country.

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## SEER – Roster Management

- Compile and maintain a database of Structural Engineers as well as other design and construction professionals who are willing to assist with post-disaster condition assessments of structures at a Local, State or National level

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## SEER – Assistance Coordination

- Coordinating and/or providing 2nd response assistance to AHJ's and other stakeholders based on the roster
  - Local and State level – through the MO's, and their State SEER Committees
  - National and International level – through NCSEA

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## 2017 SEER Response – Hurricane Harvey

### Hurricane Harvey: Event Summary

On the 25th of August 2017, Hurricane Harvey made US landfall near Rockport, Texas as a Category 4 hurricane with sustained winds of 130 MPH. Within 48 hours, 53 NCSEA/SEER members from across the country volunteered to provide 2nd Responder assistance. Of those 53, 51 were actively deployed.



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## 2017 SEER Response – Hurricane Harvey

**3** Requests Responded To  
**7** Municipalities/AHJs Supported  
**51** Responders Deployed  
**13,878** Structures Assessed  
**12** Days Deployed  
*\*Interim Update 9-29-2017*



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## 2017 SEER Response – Hurricane Irma

### Hurricane Irma: Event Summary

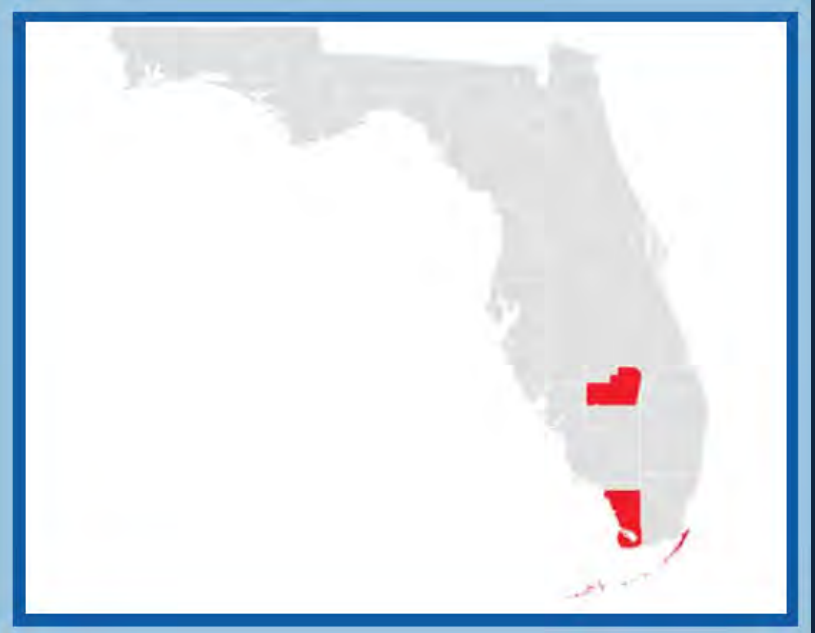
On the 10th of September 2017, Hurricane Irma made US landfall in the Florida Keys as a Category 4 hurricane with sustained winds of 130 MPH. Within 48 hours, 84 NCSEA/SEER members from across the country volunteered to provide 2nd Responder assistance. Of those 84, 24 were actively deployed.



# No Good Deed Goes Unpunished: Rapid Assessment of Buildings After Natural Disasters

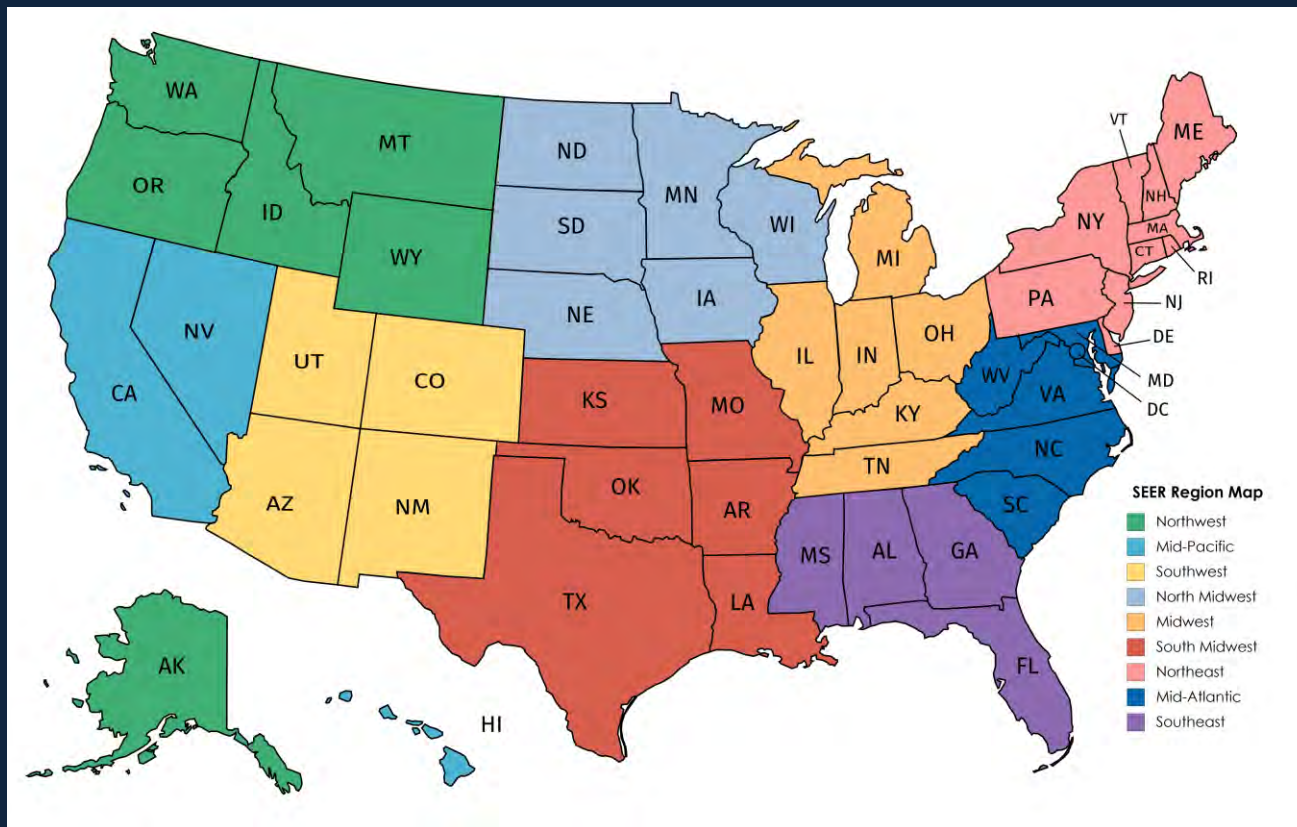
## 2017 SEER Response – Hurricane Irma

**3** Requests Responded To  
**4** Municipalities/AHJs Supported  
**24** Responders Deployed  
**5,032** Structures Assessed  
**12** Days Deployed  
**\*Published 10-06-2017**



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## SEER – Regional Map





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SEER Regional Committee Members

Committee Co-Chairs:

Scott Nacheman (Illinois) [Snacheman@Gmail.com](mailto:Snacheman@Gmail.com)

William Bracken (Florida) [WBracken@BrackenEngineering.com](mailto:WBracken@BrackenEngineering.com)

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SEER Regional Committee Members

## Regional Representatives:

Northwest: Sarah McClendon (Idaho)

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Mid-Pacific: Raymond Lui (California)

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Southwest: David Troxell (Arizona)

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Rapid Assessment of Buildings After Natural Disasters

SEER Regional Committee Members

## Regional Representatives:

North Midwest: Bob Steckel (Wisconsin)

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Midwest: Mohammad Seraji (Kentucky)

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# No Good Deed Goes Unpunished:

Rapid Assessment of Buildings After Natural Disasters

SEER Regional Committee Members

## Regional Representatives:

Northeast: David Daniels (Pennsylvania)

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Mid-Atlantic: Colby Baker (North Carolina)

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Southeast: Heather Anesta (Florida)

[Heather@AnestaConsulting.com](mailto:Heather@AnestaConsulting.com)

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Insurance, Legal &  
Risk Management Issues  
Raised by  
Volunteer Work

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## Inglorious Side of Volunteer Work

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## RISKS OF VOLUNTEER WORK IN DISASTER AREAS

Not typical conditions

Lack of experience

Human trauma – Seeing hurt & dead  
victims

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## RISKS OF VOLUNTEER WORK IN DISASTER AREAS

Lack of Time – to do usual high standard  
job

Lack of Resources – to do usual work

Lack of Sleep, Water, Food – not at your best



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## RISKS OF VOLUNTEER WORK IN DISASTER AREAS

Lack of Access – to do usual high standard  
job

Unknown occurrences – wind, water

Unknown history, age of structure

Psychological Pressure – Family wants to  
return to home

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## RISKS OF VOLUNTEER WORK IN DISASTER AREAS

Unknown local customs – not a resident

Unknown zoning laws

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Breakdown of Risks of Good Deeds:

1. To Yourself/Injury/Death
2. Injuries and Death to Others
3. Lawsuit for Professional Services

# No Good Deed Goes Unpunished:

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Breakdown of Risks of Good Deeds:

## 1. To Yourself/Injury/Death

Wading in deep water, reptiles

Dust – World Trade Center

Electrical –

Unsafe Structures

# No Good Deed Goes Unpunished:

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Breakdown of Risks of Good Deeds:

## 1. To Yourself/Injury/Death

Health Insurance – your own

Workers' Compensation – You, your  
employees

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Breakdown of Risks of Good Deeds:

## 2. Injuries and Death to Others

People injured and/or killed by building collapse after return to building

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Breakdown of Risks of Good Deeds:

## 2. Injuries and Death to Others

Errors & Omissions policy

Exclusions bodily injury

Exclusions for property damage

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Breakdown of Risks of Good Deeds:

## 3. Lawsuit for Professional Services

Analyzed, rated building incorrectly

In normal circumstances, would have had different analysis



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Breakdown of Risks of Good Deeds:

## 3. Lawsuit for Professional Services

Subsequent report after disaster over  
by other Structural Engineer  
and/or Contractor

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Breakdown of Risks of Good Deeds:

## 3. Lawsuit for Professional Services

Not your client –

No prior relationship –

Client(s) lives destroyed –

Have nothing to lose

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Breakdown of Risks of Good Deeds:

## 3. Lawsuit for Professional Services

Exclusions for work not done for fee

Exclusions for work done for federal,  
state or government agency

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Breakdown of Risks of Good Deeds:

## 3. Lawsuit for Professional Services

Affect premium –

Insurability -

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## GOOD SAMARITAN LAWS & IMMUNITY STATUTES

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Federal statute and/or laws

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State by State:

Each state is different

Each law is different

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State by State:

Example: In Washington state, Samaritan Law applied to individual volunteer workers, but not to statewide organizations that train & coordinate volunteers



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Good Samaritan Law Issues –

Cannot protect you from wilful,  
intentional act – drunk?

Exceeded scope of duty or responsibilities

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Release signed by owner of property prior to inspection?

Not always practical or available -  
Subject to state laws interpretation

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STILL WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

No Good Deed Goes Unpunished

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## QUESTIONS?

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