

Stages of readiness

When calls are being made before disaster onset or otherwise in advance of the time a member is actually needed, recruitment calls may request readiness information rather than immediate activation. In these instances, the stage of readiness that is being re-requested should be made clear. Standard levels and definitions of stages of readiness are:

- **Available** - The member is asked to make a commitment that he or she is available for a disaster relief assignment on a specific date, but there is no commitment from the organization to deploy the member.
- **Alert** - The member is asked to commit to being available to travel within 24 hours. The member remains readily available to the unit of affiliation for further instructions.
- **Standby** - An assignment is imminent, and the member is immediately available. The member packs, secures an advance from the unit of affiliation (if the member does not have a corporate Visa card), and prepares for immediate departure. The member **does not** make any travel plans.
- **Activate** - The assignment is con-firmed. The member has all reporting information and makes travel plans to depart immediately.
- **Stand down** - The alert or standby is canceled; the member is no longer needed on the relief operation, and the member no longer has a commitment for this particular assignment.

A recruitment call may request immediate activation without going through the other stages of readiness. The unit that places a DSHR System member on alert or standby status must place an update call at least every 24 hours either to verify continued alert/standby status or to change the status to stand down, based on the changing needs of the relief operation and/or a change in the nature of the incident.