



Marianna, FL ERT

2018 Hurricane

Physical & Mailing Address:

Rivertown Community Church
Attn: Mennonite Disaster Service
4534 Lafayette St
Marianna, FL 32446

Telephone/E-Mail:

717-823-8614
Michael@mds.mennonite.net

Directions:

Use GPS to direct you to Rivertown Community Church. Our MDS trailers are behind the strip mall on the east side of the property (closest to the river). Use the entrance with an MDS worksite yard sign and park in the south parking lot closest to Lafayette St. Our MDS office is in the Florida Showcase Realty building, which is the second to last office in the strip mall as you walk towards the church.

Location

Marianna is the county seat of Jackson County, FL, which is in the 'panhandle' of Florida. Marianna has a population of approximately 7,300 people and the Chipola River forms the eastern border of the city. The downtown area has been restored to encourage tourism.

Disaster

Hurricane Michael made landfall near Mexico Beach, FL on October 10, 2018. It was the third-most intense Atlantic hurricane to make landfall in the contiguous United States. Hurricane Michael caused at least \$14.5 billion dollars in damages.

MDS

ERT teams coming in will be installing tarps, cutting up large pine and live oak trees, and moving debris to the edge of the road. ERT Teams should be prepared to sleep without air conditioning, and we may not have showers for the first couple of weeks.

Volunteers should be prepared to bring their own food for all 3 meals, but we will have lots of drinks available. We will not have access to a kitchen, so food should be able to be stored in your vehicle. More and more restaurants are available in town, and MDS Region 2 is willing to reimburse food

expenses during your term of service. We are partnering with Convoy of Hope, another nonprofit sharing our facilities, but that will not last very long.

If you come with an RV, we will not have available hook ups, so you will need to be self-contained entirely. Volunteers should expect to use their own vehicles to travel to the job sites, and if you have skid steers with grapple hooks or chainsaws, with your own bar oil and gas, bring it along. Some trees are 3-4 feet in diameter.

Transportation Options

It is the responsibility of weekly volunteers to plan, schedule, and pay for their transportation to and from the project in Marianna. If you choose to fly in or take a bus, you will need to be sure to arrange for transportation from the station to the project, as MDS is not able to pick up weekly volunteers. If you have questions about this, please call the Coordinator for Weekly Volunteers at 800-241-8111.

- Dothan Regional Airport is the closest airport, about 50 miles away. Rental cars are available through several organizations (AVIS is one and can be reached at 800-331-1212).
- Greyhound has a bus station in Dothan, AL, about 50 miles from the project site, and can be reached at 800-231-2222.