

TBM provides disaster relief in wake of Iowa floods

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DALLAS—Texas Baptist Men disaster relief volunteers have been dispatched to Iowa with two emergency food-service units and a shower unit to serve in the wake of devastating floods.

The Texas Baptist Disaster Relief Mobile Unit and the Top O' Texas Unit from First Baptist Church in Plains, along with the shower unit from Lamesa, left this weekend en route to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where volunteers are prepared to serve up to 40,000 meals a day.

Widespread flooding is affecting much of Iowa, where the governor has declared 99 counties disaster areas. About 400 city blocks are flooded in Cedar Rapids alone. Cedar Rapids residents began evacuating the city Thursday.

TBM teams expected to begin preparing meals Tuesday at noon. Gary Smith, TBM disaster relief volunteer coordinator, said the men's ministry group simply is trying to help people in need.

"Iowa is in dire need of Texas help, and we're glad we can provide it," he said. "We know if it were the other way around, they'd do the same."

To support TBM disaster relief financially, visit www.texasbaptistmen.org or send a check designated "Disaster Relief" to 5351 Catron, Dallas 75227.

Additional information will be posted as the situation develops.