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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Team Rubicon to Operate Faulkner County Disaster Relief Volunteer Resource Centers

CONWAY, AR, May 1, 2014 — Team Rubicon, a veteran-led disaster response organization, partners with the Faulkner County Judge, the Faulkner County Office of Emergency Management, and the cities of Mayflower and Vilonia in order to support the county-wide expedient home repair and residential debris removal effort in wake of Sunday's devastating tornado. Team Rubicon will conduct digital damage assessments on individual properties across the county, establish and operate three Volunteer Resource Centers (VRC), and organize, task and account for the activities of local volunteer groups in the field.

This joint effort will formally begin on Saturday, May 3 at 8:00 a.m., and continue for 30 days or until further notice.

The focus of Team Rubicon is to provide critical management of volunteer efforts. Prioritizing the needs of affected homeowners geographically, dispatching volunteer groups in a timely and precise manner, and submitting accurate reports of the work being done will help ensure a recovery effort of this scale is efficient and effective.

It is also critical to recognize that FEMA applies standards to all residential expedient repairs. By providing those standards to every volunteer team in the field, homeowners can quickly receive the financial support they need. Furthermore, the waste management organizations supporting final debris removal require all debris to be segregated and consolidated prior to pick-up to meet their own landfill requirements. Team Rubicon has strong working relationships with each of these organizations and is knowledgeable and experienced in assuring the clean-up is completed to standard.

It is important to note that Team Rubicon does not serve in a command capacity on behalf of any government entity, nor does the organization desire to seize control from any volunteers, be they individuals or groups. Their capacity in this effort is strictly limited to managing the inflow and processing of volunteer activity, and then accounting for that activity so county officials may have situational awareness of the work being completed.

All Team Rubicon volunteer management activities will be conducted from one of three VRCs in the county:

Conway

Team Rubicon HQ (“FOB Smith”)
Home Depot parking lot
500 Elsinger Blvd
Conway, Arkansas
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Mayflower

Mayflower Outdoors
57 Interstate Drive
Mayflower, Arkansas

Vilonia

Beryl Baptist Church
863 Hwy 64B
Vilonia, Arkansas

At this time, Team Rubicon calls on the group leaders from all current and prospective volunteer organizations working in the county—academic, corporate, non-profit, faith-based, or simply a large group of willing residents—to join Team Rubicon for a leaders-only meeting on Friday, May 2 at 4:00 p.m. at FOB Smith at the Home Depot in Conway. This meeting is intended to share relevant information from each of our experiences in the field; to coordinate resources and identify any critical resource shortages anyone or anywhere may have; to supportively network with one another; and finally, to address any of your questions or concerns about Team Rubicon’s role in this effort.

Beginning Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m., county and city officials strongly encourage all volunteers to check-in at one of the three Team Rubicon VRCs prior to entering the damage zone for relief efforts. At that time, Team Rubicon will be prepared to offer work orders for affected properties by individual address, and assign a team leader and necessary equipment to any volunteer groups who are not fully prepared. All volunteers are asked to be prepared for rigorous physical labor, dressed appropriately in boots and pants, bring food and water needed

for the day and any vehicles and tools they think will be useful (trucks, trailers, shovels, rakes, trash bags, saws and chainsaws, safety equipment, etc.).

Team Rubicon is eager to complement the humbling amount of disaster aid which is already having a positive impact on Faulkner County and looks forward to continuing our role as long as necessary.

About Team Rubicon *Team Rubicon (TR) unites the skills and experience of military veterans with first responders to rapidly deploy emergency response teams. TR offers veterans a chance to continue their service by helping and empowering those afflicted by disasters, and also themselves. For more about Team Rubicon, visit www.teamrubiconusa.org.*