



DISASTER MERCENARIES

Disaster strikes without warning, and these volunteer heroes adventure to the ends of the earth to save lives.

SERIES CONCEPT

The era of climate change disasters is upon us. Rising temperatures are creating a record number of devastating storms, prolonged droughts, wildfires, floods and refugees.

Enter: Disaster Mercenaries. These independent groups of concerned citizens—doctors, nurses, soldiers, engineers—have answered the call, and venture into most hostile environments to quite literally save the world.

FORMAT

This series profiles an ensemble of characters and organizations working year-round to prepare for, respond to, and cleanup after, natural disasters. In each episode, we bounce among 3-4 organizations in locations around the globe, as they provide relief to the hardest-hit communities.



MERCENARIES

Each of the featured organizations has their own special skillset, an uplifting story and unique mission.

WAVES FOR WATER

Their mission is simple: get clean water to anyone who needs it. Waves for Water works on the front-line to provide access to clean water through the distribution of portable filters, the digging and renovating of wells, and the construction of rainwater harvesting systems.

Jon Rose, a professional surfer, founded the organization in 2009 after finding himself in an earthquake disaster zone, and seeing the need to provide clean water to those affected. It was at that moment Jon's life would change. The eye-opening experience solidified the need for Waves For Water.



HUMANITARIAN AID & RESCUE PROJECT (HARP)

HARP is made up of highly-skilled military veterans, first responders and civilian personnel who specialize in Search & Rescue (SAR) and First Response. They're known for providing crucial relief efforts in areas experiencing war, ethnic cleansing, famine and disease. HARP has provided aid, medical support, search and recovery (humans & animals), asset extractions, and private security in South Sudan, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Chad, Haiti, Puerto Rico, and home in the USA.

The founder, war photographer Burke Bryant, witnessed conflict, destruction, and innocent suffering firsthand, yielding a greater desire to help others. He formed Humanitarian Aid and Rescue Project (HARP) and they were immediately called into tornado alley in Oklahoma, where they saved hundreds of lives in the span of a week.



BACKPACKER MEDICS

Backpacker Medics are remarkable for their ability to provide quick-response medical relief. They are often the first paramedics on the ground after a natural disaster or humanitarian crisis. Their strength is in their low profile - each medic carries all their supplies in a single backpack that they hike in themselves.

BM was founded by Nathan Burns, a mountain guide and paramedic working in Nepal during the 2015 earthquake. He realized he, and those like him, held a unique skillset that could save lives. He and a team of passionate volunteer medics have been working in crises areas ever since.



BACKROADS

PICTURES