When Oklahoma Responded

Read how different acts of service met different needs.

OKH.C.8.5.B "Describe the volunteerism and heroism of responding Oklahomans, exhibiting the "Oklahoma Standard.""

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three actions Oklahomans took after the bombing. Number each action 1, 2, or 3 to show whether it helped during the rescue, supported the rescue workers, or helped people later.

The Oklahoma Standard in Action

1. On April 19, 1995, a bomb destroyed much of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. The blast killed 168 people and injured hundreds more. In the first minutes, nearby workers and passersby ran toward the damaged building, even as dust and debris filled the streets. Some helped strangers move away from the wreckage. Firefighters, police officers, and medical workers arrived to search for survivors and treat injuries. Rescue crews faced broken concrete, twisted metal, and the danger of falling debris. Their work required more than speed. They had to protect one another while trying to reach people inside.

2. Help also came from people who were not trained rescuers. Oklahomans lined up to donate blood, hoping hospitals could use it to care for those hurt in the blast. Volunteers brought food and water to rescue workers, whose long shifts left little time to stop. Others offered supplies and practical help to families seeking news of loved ones. These acts did not look like a search through rubble, but they supported that search. A meal or drink allowed a tired worker to pause and return to the job. Giving blood was another way to answer an urgent need.

3. The response did not end when the search ended. Community members continued to support survivors and grieving families through donations and acts of care. Over time, Oklahomans began using the phrase "Oklahoma Standard" for a spirit of service shaped by the bombing. It describes people who step forward when others need help, whether they face danger at a disaster site or carry out less visible work. The phrase does not mean everyone did the same thing. A responder searching unstable ruins, a stranger guiding someone away from the scene, and a volunteer serving water each met a different need.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did rescue crews show heroism while searching the damaged building?

2. How did people near the scene help strangers, and what need did that meet?

3. How did blood donors practice volunteerism after the blast?

4. How did Oklahomans continue to serve others after the search ended?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph explaining why the Oklahoma Standard includes both dangerous rescue work and quieter forms of service. Use three different actions from the passage, including one after the search ended, and explain the need each action met.

ANSWER KEY

When Oklahoma Responded

HIGH SCHOOL · OKH.C.8.5.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three actions Oklahomans took after the bombing. Number each action 1, 2, or 3 to show whether it helped during the rescue, supported the rescue workers, or helped people later. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did rescue crews show heroism while searching the damaged building?	**They searched for survivors despite broken concrete, twisted metal, and the danger of falling debris.**
2	How did people near the scene help strangers, and what need did that meet?	**They helped strangers move away from the wreckage, helping them get clear of the damaged area.**
3	How did blood donors practice volunteerism after the blast?	**They lined up to give blood in the hope that hospitals could use it to care for people hurt in the blast.**
4	How did Oklahomans continue to serve others after the search ended?	**Community members supported survivors and grieving families through donations and acts of care.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Rescue crews searched the damaged building for survivors despite the danger of falling debris. Strangers helped people move away from the wreckage. Later, community members gave donations to support survivors and grieving families. These actions met different needs during and after the disaster. Together, they show that the Oklahoma Standard includes both facing danger and caring for people over time.

Accept other passage-supported actions and explanations. For the paragraph, look for three distinct actions, one from after the search, with the need met by each.