

Disaster Relief Volunteer Chaplains Team



Volunteer Disaster Relief Chaplains are needed in times of crises. Disasters can be natural or man-caused. Natural disasters can include: fires, hurricanes, flooding, tornados, severe thunderstorms, and other acts of nature. Man-caused disasters can include: terroristic acts, such as New York City on 9/11, accidents, suicides, etc. Certainly, there is a great need for volunteer chaplains to respond in a time of crisis. However, our response must be planned and coordinated, and responders must be trained and qualified.

Authorities control access to disaster scenes for many good reasons. Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers have gained the trust and respect of local, state, and national officials. We work alongside such groups as American Red Cross, The Salvation Army, and others. **Without proper credentials**, access may be denied, even with the best of intentions.

Southern Baptists have these major components of Disaster Relief Training for volunteer chaplains:

1. Completion of "Involving Southern Baptists in Disaster Relief"

This 2 hour course covers the basics of Disaster Relief and is required for ALL Disaster Relief volunteers. Check the "Training" page to see when it will next be offered. For more information, contact Dave or Jeanne Wedekind at: dwedekind@mwbc.org or jwedekind@mwbc.org.

2. Completion of "Disaster Relief Chaplain Basic Course"

This course is usually taught over two consecutive days. Check the "Training" page to see when it will next be offered. Additional opportunities can be scheduled.

3. Reading the Disaster Relief Chaplain Manual

It is not possible to completely cover the Chaplain Manual in the training. It is also required that you read the complete manual before receiving your credentials. This manual is 90+ pages. If you do not want to print it out, you can read it by pressing [HERE](#).

4. Completion of OSFA (Operational Stress First Aid)

This 8 hour course is a great opportunity for anyone needing training for Disaster Relief Chaplaincy or needing an additional ministry tool.

ALL our volunteers must complete and return the volunteer packet of forms which includes the authorization for a background check. After an acceptable background check is received and all training is complete, the ID badge/credentials can be issued.