



**EMERGENCY  
RESPONSE  
CHAPLAINS**

# EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHAPLAINS

- Specialized group of Chaplains that provide services during disasters or crisis situations

# EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHAPLAINS

- RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES:
- At the Hospital that may be overwhelming to staff
- Natural Disasters
- Multiple Car Accidents
- Violent acts- shootings
- Mine Disasters
- When emergency personnel are severely injured or have died while on duty
- Deaths of children- school shootings

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- The American Red Cross reports that 59 percent of Americans would be likely to seek counsel from a spiritual care provider in such circumstances. (Disasters or Crisis)
- Chaplains are needed to respond to crises and disasters on a large scale, in order to utilize their role and skills in an intentional manner to enhance the coping capabilities and spiritual reactions to such events.

# EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHAPLAINS

- GOALS OF AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHAPLAIN:
- Provide a calm presence during crisis or disasters
- Provide Hope thru faith during crisis situations
- Creating a safe place during chaos

# EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHAPLAINS

## MISSION:

Provide pastoral care and counseling to victims, hospital staff, employees and families of law enforcement, fire and emergency medical service agencies

- Comfort and encourage victims in time of crisis when they may be overwhelmed and distraught

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## MISSION:

- Coping with the incident
- Notifying first of kin
- Providing comfort to the family
- Sharing with groups
- Being a spiritual leader during times of loss

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- Visit sick or injured emergency services, law enforcement or crisis personnel in the hospital
- Attend and participate in funerals of active as well as retired members of law enforcement, fire department and EMS
- Plan and preside at memorial services when appropriate



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## HOW TO BE EFFECTIVE?

Depend upon the Resources that God provides for us

**2 Corinthians 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.**

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- HOW TO BE EFFECTIVE?
- Use training resources:
- The International Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF) and 2) the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA).
- Both of these organizations have well-established methodologies for crisis intervention and can assist chaplains in becoming more informed about how to interact with other care providers.

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- For additional information:
- See the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Training Manual at the below address
- [https://www.namb.net/Resources/PDF/DR\\_Chaplain%20Training%20Manual\\_2008.pdf](https://www.namb.net/Resources/PDF/DR_Chaplain%20Training%20Manual_2008.pdf)

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- Providing spiritual care in the wake of disasters often involves integrating spiritual responses with other kinds of help provided by emergency care responders, mental health providers, and social care agents.
- Such help is best managed through the framework of established crisis intervention principles.

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- Recognizing one's own natural instinct to excuse oneself from the crisis, the chaplain must still choose to become engaged in the suffering.
- Being compassionate means that one must intentionally choose to engage in the crisis or disaster, knowing that it "feels" contrary to natural instincts.

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- Command of Galatians 6:28 ---and therefore, **“You must be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate”**
- Chaplains provide compassion by bearing one another’s burdens. By choosing to suffer with others during a time of disaster or crisis

# EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHAPLAINS

- “The heroes of the faith had one thing in common: They were all ordinary people with no power of their own.
- Chaplains who enter into the suffering and chaos of crisis are empowered by the same presence of God to give them victory over despair, loss, and insufficiency.
- The chaplain in disasters shares God’s presence with victims and offers the same words of assurance—“I am with you.”

# EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHAPLAINS

- The chaplain does not deny the reality of the crisis, should not minimize the sense of loss it causes, and may not be able to diminish any of the pain.
- But, the chaplain offers the comfort of God's presence through words of comfort and assurance



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Chaplains may experience some anxiety as they approach victims whose cultural identity is unfamiliar or different. With a desire to help, not harm, chaplains hesitantly enter the relationship.

Clarification is an important aspect of diagnosis and preparation. Helping survivors and families deal with traumatic death is based on respect and care.

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How to Respond during a Crisis situation:

- Generally will report to Emergency Room
- Assess the situation
- Do I need to call for additional Chaplains to help with the Crisis?
- Eyes open for hurting family members and staff
- Let staff and family know that you are an ARH Emergency Response Chaplain

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Clarification questions could be very helpful after initial contact is made.

- Some questions might include:
- ☐ Is there anything special you'd like me to know about how to help you through this crisis?
- ☐ What would be the most helpful thing I could do for you right now?
- ☐ Is there anything special I could do for \_\_\_\_\_(deceased)?

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- Is there anything special I could tell someone about how you would like \_\_\_\_\_'s body handled?
- Do you have any special religious needs I could help you with?
- Do you have any questions about what will be happening now that I can make inquiries about?
- Do you have any religious or cultural restrictions I should be aware of?
- Can I call your pastor or priest?
- Is there anyone else that you would like for me to call?

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## How to proceed?

- If you would like to participate please let me know via email me or call 606-854-8506
- Your name will be placed on Emergency Response Chaplains list
- You will be asked to respond to your local ARH hospital in times of emergency
- 3 Emergency Response Chaplains are needed at each hospital.