

Volunteer Disaster Relief Chaplain

We want to thank you for responding with compassion to the needs of disaster victims. Being a volunteer chaplain to those who have experienced loss and pain is a rewarding ministry, but it can also be very challenging because of the emotional and spiritual demands involved. Please read this document carefully and prayerfully, asking God to speak to your heart as you consider applying to become an SBCV volunteer Disaster Relief chaplain.

Essential Functions

While deployed in disaster areas, chaplains may experience difficult physical, emotional, and spiritual challenges. Please review the following functions as they are essential capabilities in the role of an SBCV DR volunteer chaplain.

Physical Functions:

- Be able to drive a vehicle as needed (copy of valid driver's license required to verify eligibility to drive).
- Have good physical health.
- Be willing to sleep on an air mattress or cot in a room with others in close proximity.
- Be willing to share bathroom facilities with many others.
- Understand showers may be in a shower trailer with time limitations.
- Be willing to minister outside in extreme weather conditions.
- Be willing to endure a deployment day lasting from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. (14-hour days)
- Understand electricity may be limited or not available.
- Be willing to do daily tasks, including cleaning bathrooms, kitchens, and/or showers, mopping floors, sweeping, and carrying bags of trash.
- Be able to lift at least 25 pounds.
- Understand cellphone service may be limited or not available.

Emotional, Spiritual, and Mental Functions:

- Be currently active in an SBCV church.
- Be a person of emotional and spiritual maturity.
- Always demonstrate a servant's heart.
- Be a good listener for extended periods of time.

- Focus on the emotional and spiritual care of others.
- Demonstrate God's love through compassion and care.
- Never allow your personal problems to affect your ministry to the brokenhearted.
- Be free of any medication that would impair your thinking or activity.
- Always be prepared to share God's hope.

Training Requirements

In order to maintain a high standard of excellence while providing emotional and spiritual care and operate in accordance with expected standards of the disaster community, all SBCV DR volunteer chaplains will need to complete the following minimum training requirements:

1. Spiritual Care Provider (2-hour course)
2. Southern Baptist Chaplain Course (8-hour course)
3. Assisting Individuals in Crisis Course (13-hour course)
4. One Elective Course (Choose one)
 - Spiritual and Psychological First Aid (14-hour CISM course)
 - Emotional and Spiritual Care in Disasters (14-hour CISM course)

The CISM courses are available yearly through SBCV at locations across Virginia. The required CISM courses can also be completed through the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation. Visit icisf.org to find classes near you.

Records of Completed Training:

When you complete an SBCV DR seminar, we will have that information on record.

For all CISM courses completed, you will need to send a copy of your certificate to us. This can be done by scanning and emailing a copy to DisasterRelief@sbcv.org or by mailing to:

SBC of Virginia
 4956 Dominion Blvd
 Glen Allen, VA 23060
 Attn: Disaster Relief

If you have already completed other crisis intervention training, please submit the certificate and/or class description to the SBCV DR office for consideration on a case-by-case basis for credit toward your requirements.

Two International Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF) courses listed above fulfill the SBCV DR requirements. Various courses taken through other organizations, while they may be valuable, will not be accepted as a substitute for these courses.

Other Requirements:

- Letter of recommendation from you pastor
- 3 letters of reference
- Interview with the State Director or Chaplain Coordinator

Summary

To become an SBCV DR volunteer chaplain, you need to:

1. Be a currently credentialed SBCV DR volunteer
2. Agree to the essential functions as outlined.
3. Have a current email address and access to the internet. (DR Chaplains should be aware that most SBCV DR communications are online.)
4. Have completed the required training as stated.
5. Be willing to submit to the guidance and direction of site leadership (i.e., chaplain coordinator) while deployed.
6. Be willing to deploy at least one week every two years if called.