



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 Requirements:

- 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 Requirements:

- Be currently active in an SBCV church.
- Be a person of emotional and spiritual maturity.
- Be a good listener for extended periods.
- Be free of any medication that would impair your thinking or activity.

- Always demonstrate a servant's heart.
- Always be prepared to share God's hope.
- Always avoid letting personal problems affect your ministry to the brokenhearted.
- Always focus on the emotional and spiritual care of others.
- Always demonstrate God's love through compassion and care.

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, assistants and mentors will need to complete the minimum training requirements listed below.

Types of DR Chaplains

1. Assistant DR Chaplain – May deploy with Chaplain Mentor
2. DR Chaplain – May deploy solo
3. DR Chaplain Mentor – DR Chaplain who may also deploy with and serve as a mentor to Assistant Chaplain)

Disaster Relief Chaplain Training Requirements

- A. Assistant DR Chaplain – can deploy with a Chaplain Mentor
 - Spiritual Care Provider Course (2-hour course)
 - Southern Baptist Chaplain Training Course (8-hour course)
 - Pastoral Reference or Church Leader Reference
- B. DR Chaplain – can deploy solo or with other DR Chaplains
 - All of the requirements for Assistant DR Chaplain plus...
 - Operational Stress First Aid (OSFA) Course (8-hour course)
 - Assisting Individuals in Crisis (AIC) Course (13-hour course)
 - Three Personal References / Interview with State DR Director
 - Skill Proficiency – Lead a DR Group Prayer; Lead a DR Devotional
- C. DR Chaplain Mentor – Can deploy as a mentor to an Assistant DR Chaplain
 - One CISM Elective Course (SPFA or ESCD)
 - One Specialized Training Course (4-hour course)
 - Skill Proficiency
 - Minimum 3 SBCV DR Deployments
 - Cross-training in one or more DR Activities (Feeding, Chainsaw, Flood Recovery, etc.)

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.

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.