



Chaplain Requirements South Carolina Baptist Disaster Relief

DR Chaplains provide emotional and spiritual support to people in crisis and to the volunteers serving in a disaster area. The nature of their role calls for those serving as chaplains to undergo more specialized training than volunteers who serve in other roles.

Steps in becoming a chaplain with SC DR are:

1. Attend the following classes at a state DR training event:
 - a. Introduction to Disaster Relief
 - b. Introduction to Chaplaincy
 - c. Operational Stress Management
 - d. At least one ministry area class of your choice
2. Participate in a deployment with a unit as a non-chaplain team member.*
3. Attend the 12-hr. DR Chaplain Training (based on the North American Mission Board DR Chaplaincy Manual).
4. Participate in a deployment as a “chaplain in training,” shadowing an experienced chaplain.

The prerequisite classes are offered at each of our twice-a-year statewide trainings.

All prerequisites must be met to be eligible to register and attend the 12-hr training. Some people are able to do it all in one season, but for many it takes a year or more, mostly depending on how available you are for deployment, and on when & where disasters happen.

* The purpose of this requirement is so that you know what the tasks of a team are and know what it is like to travel with a team, stay at a command post, navigate a disaster area, interact with residents, etc., **before** you attend the 12-hr training. Otherwise, a lot of time is spent in that training answering basic questions about deployments rather than focusing on the actual chaplaincy skills.

We realize that not everyone can wield a chainsaw or haul heavy objects, but on any team there are less-strenuous tasks, such as light raking, checking in/out equipment, cleaning equipment, pulling nails/staples out of studs, and so on.