

# **Involving Southern Baptists in Disaster Relief**

## **Volunteer Recertification Manual**



**Serving Christ in Crisis**

***Bringing Help, Healing, and Hope***

Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention Edition  
2021

# Involving Southern Baptists in Disaster Relief 2015

## Chapter 1: Brief History of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief

- Began in 1966 when Southern Baptist Convention authorized \$50,000 for the Home Mission Board's disaster relief efforts
- 1967 Hurricane Beulah, Bob Dixon in Texas helped with "buddy burners"
- 1971 Texas Baptist Mission offering allotted \$25,000 for first DR feeding unit
- 1972 maiden voyage of the new feeding unit in Texas
- 1973 Southern Baptist first international disaster response- An earthquake in Nicaragua
- 1976 – four more states established Disaster Relief ministries
- 1988 - 9 states had disaster relief ministries
- 1995 - D.R.O.P. Manual is published (Disaster Relief Operational Procedures)
- 1995
  - ✓ 95 mobile units
  - ✓ 3,000 trained volunteers
- 2004 (The year of the four hurricanes sweeping across Florida)
  - ✓ 497 mobile units
  - ✓ 28,500 trained volunteers

Grown from "buddy burners" with one-pot meals to equipment that can produce a well-balanced, good-tasting, nutritious meal.

### 1. National Fleet

- 1,580+ national units
- representing 42 state conventions and NAMB
- 83,000+ trained volunteers

### 2. Disaster Relief Logo



- **SBC Arch** - worldwide link-We'll respond where needed and called
- **Wheat** - physical help
- **Fish** - spiritual help
- **State name** - part of the team
- ✓ **The DR logo is as well-known as ARC (American Red Cross) and TSA (The Salvation Army) and we are one of the top three largest disaster relief organizations in the U.S.**
- ✓ **The logo is a registered and copyrighted trademark!**

### 3. Disaster Relief Motivation

- Matthew 25:32-40 “To the least of these”

<sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

<sup>34</sup> “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

<sup>37</sup> “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?

<sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

<sup>40</sup> “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

- James 2:15-16 “What does it profit?”

<sup>15</sup> Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. <sup>16</sup> If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?

- Acts 2:42-47 “With one accord”

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

<sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

- Luke 9:1-6 “They went out to the people”

When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, <sup>2</sup> and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. <sup>3</sup> He told them: “Take nothing for the journey—no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra shirt. <sup>4</sup> Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that town. <sup>5</sup> If people do not welcome you, leave their town and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.” <sup>6</sup> So they set out and went from village to village, proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere.

- Luke 10:25-37 “He showed compassion”

<sup>25</sup> On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

<sup>26</sup> “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

<sup>27</sup> He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your strength and with all your mind’<sup>[a]</sup>; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’<sup>[b]</sup>”

<sup>28</sup> “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

<sup>29</sup> But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

<sup>30</sup> In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denari<sup>[c]</sup> and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

<sup>36</sup> “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

<sup>37</sup> The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

## CHAPTER 2: The Crisis

**“A disaster is an occurrence that causes human suffering or creates human needs that the victims cannot alleviate without assistance”.**

1.

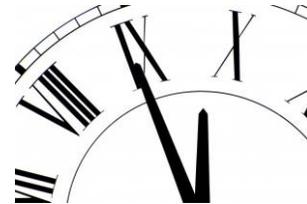
### 2. Types of Disasters (top three are most common in Minnesota and Wisconsin)

- Tornado
- Flood
- Ice storm
- Hurricane
- Earthquake
- Terrorist attack
- Mud slide
- Wild fires



### 3. Categories of Disaster Response

- Emergency Relief
  - ✓ 24-48 hours
  - ✓ Could last up to six weeks or longer
- Recovery
  - ✓ A few days to three months
- Long-Term Rebuild
  - ✓ Four months to two years or longer



### 4. Disaster Services – Nationally

5.

- Airlift Kitchens
- Chainsaw\*
- Chaplaincy\*
- Child Care
- Clean-up Team (mud-out or debris pick up)
- Communication
- Counseling/Pastoral Care/Chaplaincy
- Damage Assessment
- Emergency Medical
- Feeding\*
- Interpreters
- Mud-out Recovery\*
- Reconstruction
- Repair Team
- Sanitation
- Shower/Laundry\*
- Water Purification

\*Available in MN-WI Fleet

## 6. Levels of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Response

- Team
- Church
- Association
- Regional
- State
- National
- International



## 7. Southern Baptist Disaster Alert System

- **Alert** - There is a possibility a response will be needed.
  - **Standby** - There is a probability a response will be needed.
  - **GO/NO GO (STOOD DOWN)** - A response is definite, move within six hours or less
- OR**
- no response is needed-STOOD DOWN.  
May revert to standby, alert or off the response plan.
- **Closing** - Unit is no longer needed.



## 8. Training for Disaster Relief Volunteers

- Feeding
- Chainsaw
- Communications
- Chaplains
- Shower/Laundry
- Mudout
- Water Purification



## CHAPTER 3: Ministering in Crisis

### 1. Guidelines for disaster relief volunteers

- Discuss plans with your boss
- Secure “what to take” items
- Insurance information
- Make arrangements with family, church, etc.
- Keep a phone list
- Participate in training and non-disaster projects
- During disaster, contact blue hat or state director
- Safety first is the most important priority while working using common sense
- Drink water as much as possible
- Take breaks when needed

## 2. Traits of Disaster Relief Volunteers

- Christian qualities with a servant spirit
- Trained
- Follow directions
- Provide leadership
- Versatile and flexible
- Rise to the occasion
- Available
- Trained Christian witness
- Possess spiritual, physical, and moral strength



## 3. How to Become a Credentialed Disaster Relief Volunteer

- Step 1-Complete and return volunteer packet with background check
- Step 2-Complete required training
- Step 3-Get involved in preparation
- Step 4-Inform state DR director of your availability
- Step 5-Make preparation to go in advance
- Step 6-Contact state director during disaster

## 4. Do and Do Not

### DO:

- Make adjustments as needed
- Understand your limitations
- Inform leaders of special interest
- Inform leaders of preferred work

### DO NOT:

- Expect favors
- Expect to be called first
- Expect to work with only your group
- Expect to work with same people



## 5. Ethical Guidelines for Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Volunteers

- Do not use careless words or actions
- Represent Jesus Christ
- Listen to victims
- Do not exceed your training
- Refer to qualified person if necessary
- Respect the victim's property
- **NEVER** accept contributions
- Be prepared to share your faith
- Keep in confidence victim's information
- Ask permission before photographing
- Be sure of your information
- Do not spread rumors

## CHAPTER 4: Compassion in Crisis

### 1. Types of Disaster Victims

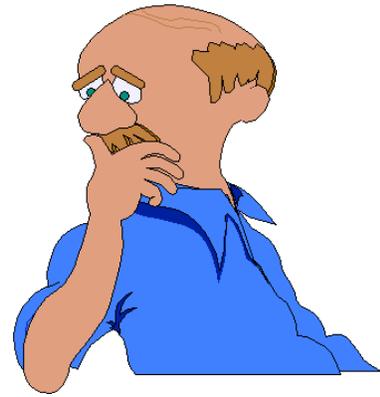
- Direct victims – those directly living in the disaster area and have suffered losses
- Indirect victims – those living on the fringe of the disaster area and may suffer guilt
- Hidden victims – these are the disaster relief workers who take on the emotional burden of compassion seeing others hurting

### 2. Dealing with Disaster Relief Emotions

- It's OK for you to express...
- Be relaxed but attentive
- Let victims express themselves
- Refer to someone else if necessary

### 3. Skills of Good Listeners (this is very important)

- Give complete attention – listen more than talk
- Give occasional responses
- Ask for clarification if needed
- Avoid interrupting
- Be tolerant of new ideas
- Do not condemn



### 4. Compassion in Crisis:

- The purpose of crisis counseling is to offer a sense of caring presence: to hold a hand or offer a friendly shoulder on which to cry.
- The primary goal of crisis counseling is to provide temporary intervention enabling the person to return to effective, independent functioning as soon as possible.

## CHAPTER 5: Organizing for Crisis

### 1. Disaster Relief Leadership Team

- National Director
- State Director (White Cap)
- Incident Commander
- Offsite Coordinator
- Unit Director (Blue Cap)
- Lead Workers
- Call-out Coordinators
- Recognized Volunteer (Yellow Cap)
- Volunteer Coordinator

## 2. Statements of Understanding – with National Partners

- American Red Cross (ARC)
- The Salvation Army (TSA)
- International Mission Board (IMB)
- Baptist Global Response (BGR)
- Mercy Medical Airlift
- Homeland Security
- FEMA
- Convoy of Hope
- National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (N-VOAD)



## 3. Volunteer *Basic* Training Requirements

- *"Involving Southern Baptists in Disaster Relief"*
- Specific Unit Training
  - a. Each unit requires classroom training
  - b. Some units require "hands-on" training to learn special equipment unique to that unit
  - c. Some units require additional training such as CPR for Adults/Children/Infants, First Aid or OSFA (Operational Stress First Aid), etc.
- Completed Volunteer Packet of forms returned and on file
- Background check completed and approved

## 4. Other Disaster Relief Training

- Family Preparedness
- Church Preparedness
- Association Preparedness
- Unit Director (Blue Cap) Training
- Incident Command System
- Hope in Crisis
- CPR/First Aid
- Safe Food Handling

**Be Ready to Go...**  
**and offer the hope we have in Christ.**  
***Bringing Help, Healing, and Hope***

## CHAPTER 6: Volunteer Agreement with State Disaster Relief Director

As a volunteer member of the **Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention** disaster relief team, I agree that, as my availability and ability allow, I am expected to:

1. Complete a disaster relief skill checklist, and keep current my (1) address and phone number, (2) availability status, (3) skills and abilities.
2. Complete the required training and renew required training a minimum of every three years; take optional training which will increase my usefulness as a team member.
3. Take responsibility for my spiritual and mental preparation as a disaster relief volunteer, as well as my work skills needed at the disaster site.
4. Represent my Lord and Savior, church, fellow Christians and team as Christ would want, in my attitude, behavior, speech, dress and work.
5. Wear official disaster relief apparel and display the SBC Disaster Relief logo only as prescribed and only while engaging in a relief event. Badge must always be visible.
6. Protect my health and safety and the health and safety of victims, co-workers and all other persons while en route to or from and while at the disaster site; inform on-site team leaders of any physical limitations to be considered in my work assignments.
7. Inform the state director of my availability for a disaster response.
8. Take initiative in order to improve my usefulness; increase my availability by making adjustments in my other responsibilities in order to serve as a disaster relief volunteer.
9. Pay my own expenses, arrange my own transportation and bring clothing, bedding and personal items I'll need at the disaster site.
10. Purchase accident and liability insurance and provide insurance and health information to appropriate persons at the disaster site.
11. Assist with unit preparation, training events and non-emergency use of the unit, as my availability and ability allow.
12. Sign a release and indemnity document, if requested.

Therefore I volunteer to do my best to help carry out the purposes of SBC Disaster Relief in the manner stated above.

I also give my permission for a background check.

I consent for my photo to be used for Disaster Relief training and promotion of this ministry.

## Chapter 7: Hats

ID Badge and Hat are the “official” uniform



1. **YELLOW** hats are *trained* volunteers

- They have completed the necessary training for a particular unit
- Can respond to any disaster call out – local, national, international
- Must be 18 years of age or older
- A chaplain may be indicated above the Disaster Relief logo

2. **BLUE** hats are unit directors

- They have completed the necessary training to lead a particular unit
- Only wears the blue hat when asked to respond to a disaster to lead a unit
- If not responding as unit director with a unit, must wear yellow hat as a volunteer

3. **WHITE** hats are State Directors or Disaster Coordinator

- They have completed the necessary training to coordinate multiple units in a disaster
- Only wears the white hat when multiple units are on disaster site
- On a disaster site, there should be only ONE person wearing the white hat

4. **GREEN** hats are *trained* volunteers *under* the age of 18 years

- This is unique to MN-WI
- They have completed the necessary training for a particular unit
- Has some restrictions within the unit-check with blue hat
- Can respond to *only* to a disaster – within Minnesota and Wisconsin
- Must be 7<sup>th</sup> grade or older
- When volunteer turns 18, may turn in green hat for a yellow one

5. **ANY Other Color** of hat is an *untrained* volunteer

- Has come on site of a disaster offering to help
- Is referred to as a “walk-on” volunteer
- Has registered and signed in
- Has a *paper* name badge
- Has restrictions around the unit – check with Blue Cap if questions



**Minnesota-Wisconsin**  
**DISASTER RELIEF**  
A Cooperative Program Ministry  
of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention

Ben and Kayla Seamans  
State Disaster Relief Directors