



Appalachian Regional Healthcare

CHAPLAINCY SERVICES

Director Sam Stacy

***ARH Chaplaincy Services-
Connecting Patients and Staff
with the God of Grace, Mercy
and Peace!***

Emergency Response Chaplains

"Turning Those in Crisis Toward Christ"

Emergency Chaplains



Emergency Response Chaplain

What are emergency response chaplains?

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

Emergency Response Chaplains

Responding to emergencies that overwhelm a community:

- At the Hospital in situations which overwhelm the 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

Emergency Response Chaplains

- The American Red Cross reports that **59%** 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

What are the goals of an Emergency Response Chaplain?

- To provide a calm presence during crisis or disasters.
- To provide hope through faith during crisis situations
- Creating a safe and nurturing place during chaos.

Emergency Response Chaplains

What is their 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 from the incidents.

Emergency Response Chaplains

- Helping staff and victims cope with the incident or situation at hand.
- Notifying first of kin in the event of death.
- Providing comfort to the family.
- Sharing with groups in the ICS system.
- Being a spiritual leader during times of loss.
- Participating in CISD (Critical Incident Stress Debriefing) after the incident.
- Creating an action plan for future incidents.

Emergency Response Chaplains

- 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

Emergency Response Chaplains

How to be effective?

Depend upon the Resources that God provides for us to use for ourselves in times of need.

2 Corinthians 1:3 **Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ 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.**

Emergency Response Chaplains

- 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.

Emergency Response Chaplains

- 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
- Lots of information is available online that covers these situations.

Emergency Response Chaplains

- 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.

Emergency Response Chaplains

- 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.

Emergency Response Chaplains

- 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, and 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 of his presence.

Emergency Response Chaplains

- 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.

Emergency Response Chaplains

How to do we respond during a crisis situation?

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

Emergency Response Chaplains

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

- Some questions might include:
- Is there anything special I can do 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)?

Emergency Response Chaplains

- 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?

Emergency Response Chaplains

- Emergency Response Kit
- Portfolio Containing
 - Scripture reference cards
 - Example Sermon Message
 - Small Notebook
 - Business cards

Emergency Response Chaplains

How to proceed?

- If you would like to participate please let me know via email me or call 606-438-1259.
- 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.
- At least 3 Emergency Response Chaplains are needed at each hospital.

Questions???