

A Sample Version of
INTRODUCTION TO EMERGENCY SERVICES CHAPLAINCY

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The complete course totaling 57 pages can be taken at no charge. After successfully completing a written exam, a course completion certificate will be issued to you from the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary in Springfield, MO. It should take approximately 6 hours to complete the course.

Defining Emergency Services Chaplaincy

What is “emergency services”?

Emergency services is a category of public service and has four basic divisions: . . .

What is a “true emergency” with regard to emergency services?

A true emergency is a . . .

What is a chaplain?

“A chaplain is typically a priest, pastor, ordained deacon, rabbi, imam, or other member of the clergy serving a group of people who are not organized as a mission or church, or who are unable to attend church for various reasons. . .

What is an emergency services chaplain?

An emergency services chaplain is a person who . . . A good list of duties can be found at:
http://_____

How is a chaplain different from a pastor or other ministers?

A pastor is a minister who usually serves as the . . . Chaplains normally serve as a . . . The organizational leaders or participants generally set the culture, moral standards of conduct, and what types of behavior are acceptable. The behaviors which are a norm for the group may be very different from behaviors the chaplain would consider spiritual.

How is an emergency services chaplain different from a military chaplain?

There are some close similarities between an emergency services chaplain and those chaplains who serve our military. Both function in a . . .

The Role of an Emergency Services Chaplain

What is the role of a chaplain in an emergency services department?

The ministry of a chaplain is primarily a ministry of . . . They are there when the adrenaline is wearing off from an especially stressful call. They are there when the group gets together for . . .

They spend a lot of time . . . They do not "preach" much, if at all. They hope that questions will be asked that open the door for spiritual truth to be revealed. They depend a great deal on the Holy Spirit to provide a way and do NOT attempt to "knock down closed doors" with unwanted evangelism or proselytizing. . .

How much time does an emergency services chaplain spend each week in this ministry?

. . . "Active chaplains" see their emergency services ministry as an extension of themselves. They are . . .

Must a chaplain also be a pastor or serve on the staff of a local church?

Some departments require their chaplain to . . .

Ministering to and Relating with Responders

What does it mean for a chaplain to "go low and slow?"

The chaplain's first priority is to . . .

What is the best way to talk over spiritual matters with emergency personnel?

At first, it might be difficult for emergency personnel to . . . Emergency personnel may attempt to . . .

Will an emergency services chaplain be harassed or “picked on” from time to time?

While it is impossible to speak to all situations one might encounter, . . .

Is evangelism appropriate in dealing with responders on an emergency scene?

There are a variety of priorities on an emergency scene, and evangelism of responders is . . .

Will the presence of a chaplain cause emergency services personnel to refrain from “rude, crude, and socially unacceptable” behavior?

Sometimes this could be the case. However, as a group or individuals gets used to a person being around, they will . . .

The Chaplain and the Emergency Scene

How does a chaplain gain access to an emergency scene?

In the case of a local emergency, access to an emergency scene is based on . . .

Whose emergency is it?

Some over-zealous responders have trouble with this. When they respond to an emergency, they tend to act like the emergency is . . .

Ministering to Citizens in Crisis

What are the ministry priorities of an emergency services chaplain while on the scene of an emergency?

It is commonly accepted that a chaplain's on-scene ministry priorities should be: . . .

What might on-scene ministry look like?

On an emergency scene, chaplains need to . . .

Is evangelism appropriate with citizens or patients in an emergency setting?

This is a sensitive area. Some would say, “No, it is never appropriate to evangelize under emergency circumstances.”

Others would say that the chaplain must be very sensitive to the desires or wishes of others, but also be responsive to the . . .

What is “informed consent” and how does it apply to the work of a chaplain?

As it relates to chaplain ministry, “informed consent” is letting a person . . .

Dealing with Death

As an emergency services chaplain, will I likely have to deal with people who are considering, threatening, attempting, or have attempted suicide?

Yes, almost certainly. For many people new to emergency services, it is alarming to discover . . .

Communication and Confidentiality Issues

What is “privileged communication”?

Privileged communication is . . .

Can chaplains claim privileged communication?

According to our research, . . .

What is confidentiality?

For something to be confidential means that it is . . .

What does it mean to be a “mandatory reporter?”

A mandatory reporter is a person who, by law, must . . .

Is a chaplain a mandatory reporter?

A chaplain's conclusions regarding this matter may be impacted by . . .

Health and Safety Issues

What are some of the health risks chaplains face?

If chaplains are responding to emergency calls, they are

exposed to . . . Their health risks may include . . .

What is BSI, and does it apply to chaplains?

“BSI” stands for body substance isolation. The principle of BSI means that . . .

Additional Issues for Emergency Services Chaplains to Consider

What is CISM/CISD?

CISD stands for . . .

What does EAP mean?

“EAP” stands for . . .

What does NIMS mean?

“NIMS” stands for . . .

Fire Department Chaplaincy

Law Enforcement Chaplaincy

Emergency Medical Services Chaplaincy

What is CPE?

CPE stands for . . .

Chaplaincy to Emergency Communicators

Relationships with Other Chaplains and Ministers

Will other emergency services chaplains have similar spiritual beliefs and practices as I do?

In the field of emergency services, chaplains will undoubtedly find other chaplains with whom they . . .

Success in Emergency Services Chaplaincy

Who are some historically significant chaplains and what are their stories?

Though the following story is not a story of emergency services chaplains, it exemplifies the attitudes and dedication which is a classic among chaplaincy stories . . .

What are some outward indications that an emergency services chaplain is, or has been, successful?

First, there are certain goals and indicators that, when achieved, will point to success. An early sign that a chaplain is beginning to be accepted could be when . . .

Are there other measures of a chaplain's success?

Yes. Chaplaincy is a spiritual calling. Chaplains need to know . . . Sometimes success can be measured only by faithfulness, integrity, and courage to persevere in spite of difficult circumstances, criticism, apathy, or disrespect.

SUMMARY

Becoming a successful emergency services chaplain is an awesome opportunity and yet an incredible challenge. Whether working with fire, police, EMS, or dispatch, effectively functioning in the role of chaplain brings with it the possibility of positively affecting the lives of hundreds, if not thousands, of lost souls. Building trust and rapport with emergency responders over an extended period of time, opens the door for ministry to responders and citizens alike. And continued training will help a chaplain mature and will put additional tools in their ministry toolbox. Should you choose this ministry direction, may God give you great success.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The successful completion of this course requires that you do the following:

- 1) Go to the Internet site: _____ and watch at least two videos on . . .
- 2) Listen to at least three (3) audio recording of actual 9-1-1 calls. These can be found at: http://_____

3) Go to the Internet site: _____ In the search box, type " _____ " Click on the title and watch the video. (If you have not already done so.)

Postscript

IT IS OUR SINCERE HOPE THAT WE HAVE BEEN HELPFUL IN YOUR QUEST TO MINISTER IN EMERGENCY SERVICES. WE STAND READY WITH TRAINING AND HELPS THAT WILL ENABLE YOU TO GROW IN YOUR MINISTRY. WE WOULD ALSO INVITE YOU TO JOIN WITH US IN FELLOWSHIP THROUGH CONTACT BY EMAIL OR CORRESPONDENCE, SO THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER IN THE LORD'S WORK.

Suggested Readings & Reference Materials

Adams, Joshua. A Cop and His God. Ft. Worth, TX: Kight Higgins, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-615-20580-9.

There are dozens of reference materials listed on the following website under the pull-down menu entitled: "Ministry Manuals & Training Materials" at [http:// _____](http://_____)

There is an entire set of _____ Chaplains Training Materials (written materials, audio CDs, etc. available at: [http:// _____](http://_____) .

The above was taken from our course "Introduction to Emergency Services Chaplaincy." To take the complete course, you may email Robby Jernigan at robbyj@ipa.net or go on the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary's website www.agts.edu and look under their Continuing Education Department.

As in introductory offer, this course can be taken free of charge.