

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about Disaster Relief Ministry
Prepared by Chaplains Gary Grubbs and Trudy Cane
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1. What is a Disaster Relief Chaplain?

A: A Foursquare Disaster Relief Chaplain is a licensed minister in good standing with The Foursquare Church and who has been through our Disaster Relief Training and is able and willing to be deployed to a disaster field to administer emotional and spiritual care to those affected by a disaster.

2. Do I need to be licensed?

A: A ministerial license is not necessary to go into the disaster field as a Foursquare Disaster Relief Worker. However, to be a chaplain on the field you must have a valid Foursquare ministerial license. The Disaster Relief Chaplain will typically be the lead person of a team of chaplains and workers, but there are times that a worker will have more field experience and be the team lead.

3. Do I need to attend a Foursquare church?

A: While on the disaster field you will be a representative of The Foursquare Church. In order for Foursquare to cover you under their insurance, you must be a member in good standing of a Foursquare Church recognized by the National Church Office of The International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. This also lets us know that you hold the same level of integrity and unity, showing the love of Christ as we hold throughout the nation and the world in our churches.

4. What is ministry like on the field?

A: Conditions vary depending on the size of the disaster and the damage in the area of deployment. Those deployed may be able to stay in hotels with all the accommodations or need to stay in shelters on the ground. Personal safety of those deployed is our first consideration before establishing a deployment.

While on the field you will follow your team leader in the objectives set for that particular disaster, all the while showing the love of Jesus to those affected by the incident. This may or may not include some hands-on physical labor, for the purpose of simply being the hands and feet of Jesus in order to show the heart of Him as well.

5. What shape do I need to be in?

*A: Your **spiritual shape** – should be in fighting condition! You may be facing extreme battles. Your **physical shape** – in some cases the disaster field may have poor air quality, require long distances of walking, have extreme weather variances, or any multitude of conditions that*

may or may not affect you. The email you get requesting your availability to deploy will outline the conditions on the field. Please be sure your health can handle the conditions outlined before committing to a deployment. You and your doctor are the best judge of your health. If in doubt, stay home. We do not want you to be a victim of the incident also.

6. How often will I deploy? How long will I be deployed for?

A: That's the thing about disasters, they are never planned. The frequency of deployment depends on the occurrence of disasters as well as your availability. We request your commitment to the deployment to be 7-10 days.

7. How much time will I have to prepare?

A: Foursquare seeks to have trained people ready to deploy at all times. While we certainly do not wish for a disaster, scripture tells us we are to be prepared at all times. Make sure your family is aware of your potential leave of absence and your ministry and work responsibilities can be understood and covered by those you trust while you are on deployment. Typically, you will have a few days to prepare. Depending on the size of the disaster we may be sending more teams later in the incident. Depending on your own schedule and life happenings you may respond to the deployment requests with commitments for the following team's deployment.

8. Who do I work for? Do I have to wear a uniform?

A: The Kingdom of God, of course! Also as stated above, you will be a representative of The Foursquare Church. Along with your robes of righteousness, and as per FEMA compliance, all our DR Chaplains and Workers will need to be identifiable with their organization while on the field. We will have construction type vests available for your use on the field and/or you may purchase Foursquare DRM merchandise through AV Sports. You can visit their web page at: avsports-graphics.com or email them at avsport@aol.com.

9. Do I get paid?

A: Yes! Jesus said your rewards are in heaven! Do you get paid in earthly wages? No, while we are currently working on growing our deployment funds, we do not currently have the finances to pay those who respond to the call for deployment. Those who deploy will be responsible for their own transportation, lodging, and other expenses while on the field. Many churches have started a separate fund and are taking offerings and holding fundraisers to support those congregants who will deploy when the need arises. Ask your pastor how you might start this within your own church body.

For more information about Foursquare's Disaster Relief Ministry, contact us at chaplains@foursquare.org. Comments about this document are also welcome.