



Disaster Relief New England

Volunteer & Non-SBC Criteria

Volunteers are the heart and soul of Disaster Relief New England. Every level of Disaster Relief ministry utilizes the skills, talents, and commitment of volunteers. Volunteers assist in the administering of the disaster operations center, feeding support for volunteers/survivors, do mud outs, assessments, chain saw, chaplaincy care and most importantly provide the front-line ministry of disaster relief (Mat. 25:31-46).

The successful Disaster Relief volunteer prepares for his/her assignment, mentally, physically, emotionally, and most importantly spiritually. First and foremost, the Disaster Relief New England is a ministry of sharing Christ in crisis. The volunteer represents his/her church and their Lord in all that they do. Volunteer service requires Christian humility on the part of every volunteer. The work is not glamorous. The work is dirty, smelly and often repulsive and accommodations are usually rough, sleeping on the floor with little or no privacy. Through all of this the volunteer must recognize that his/her individual needs become secondary to the ministry and to the larger group of disaster relief volunteers.

For these reasons and others, certain criteria have been established that volunteers must meet prior to participating in Disaster Relief New England response.

Volunteer Requirements:

Because of agreements with National agencies and organizations, the Disaster Relief New England, has the following requirements for volunteers.

1. Must be a member of a cooperating Southern Baptist Church or a recognized partner (* see below) in good standing with the Baptist Convention of New England.
2. Must be at least 18 years of age.
3. Must have satisfactorily completed the training course, "Introduction to Southern Baptist Disaster Relief" and a specialized training course.
4. Must complete a Volunteer Profile form along with having a criminal background check resulting in approval for service.
5. Represent the Lord and Savior, church, fellow Christians and team as Christ would want, in attitude, behavior, speech, dress and work. Must be ready to show Christ's love in action.
6. Must be flexible.
7. Must be trained by Disaster Relief New England-certified instructors.

***Partners**

Disaster Relief New England welcomes and values the participation of partner volunteers or organizations from outside Southern Baptist churches (Non-SBC). We desire that these volunteers can fully engage in, appreciate and participate in what makes SBC Disaster Relief such a strong and successful ministry or work. Non-SBC partners fall into two categories:

1. Groups or NGOs: These might include non- SBC churches, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, VOADs and state and local emergency managers
2. Individuals: non SBC persons from other like minded Christian denominations

There are a number of conditions we ask of such partners in order to keep continuity, safety and the values of the organization:

1. Non SBC members are those who have been trained and are in agreement with the values, identity, policies and procedures of the Disaster Relief New England Ministry.
2. Non SBC members agree to work with and under the supervision of a SBC team leader.
3. Non SBC will be held to the same guidelines as SBC volunteers and be required to provide health insurance and sign release waivers before being deployed to serve.
4. Non SBC volunteers or teams never deploy without the invitation of the Baptist Convention of New England.
5. Non SBC volunteers will only wear the official SBC attire when working with and along side other SBC volunteers. The SBC DR logo is sole property of the North American Mission Board and Southern Baptist Disaster Relief.
6. Non SBC Partnership dues will be paid to the Baptist Convention of New England:
 - a. Group, Church or Organization \$200.00 (Due annually)
 - b. Individual \$25.00 (Once every 3 years, due at training)
7. At such time that a non-SBC group or individual member either does not support the prior 6 conditions or that the Disaster Relief New England deems it necessary to do so, membership and certification will or can be revoked. Revocation of membership will require returning badges and uniforms.

Volunteer Responsibilities:

All Disaster Relief New England volunteers agree to carry out the following responsibilities:

1. Complete all seven prior mentioned requirements .
2. Complete renewal 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. Wear official disaster relief apparel and display the SBC Disaster Relief logo only as prescribed and only while engaging in a SBC relief event.
5. 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.
6. Inform my team leader of my availability during a disaster response.
7. 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.
8. Pay my own expenses, arrange my own transportation and bring clothing, bedding and personal items I will need at the disaster site.
9. Purchase accident and liability insurance and provide insurance and health information to appropriate persons at the disaster site.
10. Assist with unit preparation, training events and non-emergency use of the unit, as my availability and ability allow.

Volunteer Preparation:

1. If employed, discuss your situation with your employer. Be sure your absence for disaster response is fully approved. Do not jeopardize your employment.
2. Look over the "What to Take" checklist and have on hand basic items. Add any items that you know you might need for health, safety, comfort, and efficiency.
3. Keep insurance information with your disaster relief information and gear.
4. Make arrangements with family, church, civic clubs, et cetera, for someone to "cover" for you.
5. Keep the phone number for the Baptist Convention of New England (508-393-6013 ext 223 ext 222) where you can find it. Use only this number to communicate with the state DR organization.
6. Make suggestions, ask questions, and participate.

Volunteer Code of Conduct:

1. You represent your church and the Disaster Relief organization as well; therefore, your attitudes and actions should reflect the teachings of Christ and values of the church.
2. You should be sensitive to people especially the victims you serve. As a caring person, take time to listen with an understanding heart and a mind on what they say.
3. You have made a commitment to assist disaster-affected persons within your abilities and limits; honor your commitment as unto Christ.
4. You are putting your faith into action and, therefore, sharing the gospel. This is not a time to engage in spiritual exploitation. By answering "Why are you here?" you share your faith.

5. You respect other people's possessions, especially the possessions of the disaster victims, and are careful to assist in salvage and are helpful in replacing some of their losses.
6. You are sensitive to persons' feelings when taking pictures of victims or property and obtain permission first.
7. You do not accept cash from anyone you are assisting. (This is a sensitive issue, which may at times need to be referred to a pastor or other person familiar with local attitudes.)
8. You respect confidential information and privacy of disaster victims, such as names, financial matters, et cetera. Sharing your experience in a general way to illustrate the ministry is acceptable and recommended.



NON-SBC CHURCH / ORGANIZATION TERMS COMMITMENT

I / we have read and agree with the terms of **Volunteer Criteria**. I / we desire to be a non-SBC member of Disaster Relief New England and commit to supporting the work and ministry.

Today's Date: _____

Choose one:

☐ Individual Member Name: _____

☐ Church / Organization Name: _____

Church / Organization Leader Name: _____

Mailing address: _____ St _____ Zip _____

Email address: _____

Main Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Individual / Church – Organization Leader Signature: _____