

Involving Southern Baptists In Disaster Relief



“Bringing Help, Hope, and Healing”

A Christ-centered ministry of the local church, through associational, state, and national partnerships.

2019

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North American Mission Board, SBC

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Introduction

Welcome!

You are about to embark on an adventure that has the potential to change your life. From its very modest beginnings to the well-developed organization of today, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief continues to touch the lives of thousands of disaster survivors and volunteers. It is a biblically based ministry driven by the love of Jesus welling up and overflowing through the lives of our volunteers. We are excited that you want to join our ranks of highly motivated and well-trained responders.

The beloved apostle, John, challenged us to consider the call of this ministry upon our lives. He said, ***“If anyone has this world’s goods and sees a fellow believer in need but withholds compassion from him—how does God’s love reside in him?”*** (1 John 3:17) And again in the book of Hebrews it is written, ***“And let us watch out for one another to provoke love and good works . . .”*** (Hebrews 10:24)

This manual will give you an understanding of who we are, why we do what we do, and how we get it done.

It is life-changing when a disciple of Jesus discovers that the gospel can be shared so easily when human needs are being met. That’s what Southern Baptist Disaster Relief does. We meet needs and tell people about the Hope that is within us.

We never want this ministry to become disconnected from Jesus and his Kingdom purpose. Through our work, we want people to know Jesus and follow Him. Many disaster relief organizations serve *only* a humanitarian purpose, but that is not us. We are compelled by Christ’s love for all mankind AND his desire that no one should perish. We keep our focus by nurturing our individual relationship with Jesus Christ in the context of a local body of believers who recognize and call out our giftedness in service to God and our neighbors. We acknowledge that our labor is vanity apart from Christ. As Titus 3:14 says, ***“Let our people learn to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.”*** Our fruitfulness is dependent on our connectedness to the True Vine. For us, the work of disaster relief is fruit of our glorious relationship with Christ. We want everyone to see this and give God the glory.

Our world continues to experience devastation and destruction. Man-made events and “acts of God” often lead people to ask “Why?” The truth is that God does not expect us to figure out why things happen the way they do nor who or what is to blame. But a better question might be, “What?” What can I do?

Tens of thousands of Southern Baptist volunteers are preparing themselves to assist during a crisis event. Southern Baptist churches, associations, and state conventions are, even now, working together to build relationships, developing an amazing and comprehensive plan to deploy and manage incredible numbers of volunteers, and providing significant amounts of money and other resources for our crisis response. Southern Baptist Disaster Relief is one of the top disaster response organizations in the world because we are able to quickly deploy well trained and experienced volunteers to the point of need and fully provide logistical support for them.

The ever-morphing landscape of volunteer disaster response demands that we adjust quickly and train our volunteers accordingly. Every disaster requires us to make adjustments in preparation for the next response. By requiring our volunteers to attend training at a minimum of every 3 years we are able to not only communicate the appropriate changes throughout our organization but also correct mistakes or procedures that have not produced the desired results.

For Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, however, these changes will never change our call from Christ to love our neighbor. **How can we continue to provide an effective, efficient and loving response?**

Through you – Southern Baptist volunteers! Through you as a trained volunteer force that is prepared to respond, no matter what the need, with the best equipment available, the materials and supplies to do the job, the knowledge to respond safely, and the motivation to serve in Jesus name.

So, **we need you!** Thank you for joining with other trained disaster relief volunteers who stand ready to serve. May God bless you as you prepare to bring help, hope and healing to those struggling through crises.

Chapter One: Who We Are

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief is prepared and highly motivated members of churches from 42 State Conventions joining together to deliver the Gospel message of Jesus Christ through the ministry of disaster relief.

Our MOTTO is: “Bringing Help, Hope, and Healing.”

Our MOTIVATION can be summed up in one phrase: *“A cup of cold water in Jesus’ name”* (Matthew 10:42). It seems there is no one who needs “something else to do,” as we all are overcommitted in our schedules. However, the motivation for serving others and obeying the Great Commission to “go” comes from the Scriptures and our experience of faith in Christ. How can we not go?

We are motivated by the commands and compassion of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:14). Jesus communicated through His words and deeds (Luke 24:19) how greatly He values people in crisis (Matthew 9:36).

- In Luke 19:10, Jesus speaks of His mission *to seek and to save* the lost. It is a word picture describing Jesus’ desire to go to the ends of the earth in order to save people facing an eternal crisis, the ultimate disaster.
- In Luke 10:25-37 and Matthew 22:37-40, Jesus defines our neighbor as anyone in crisis and further states that the authenticity of our relationship with God is tied to caring for our neighbor.
- In Matthew 25:32-46, Jesus establishes that our demonstration of His compassion for people in crisis is the standard by which all followers of Christ will be measured.
- Disaster relief is meeting needs in a timely response with loving care:
 - James 2:15-16 shows that meeting human needs is a faith lived out.
 - Acts 2:45 shows that meeting human needs is to be a cooperative effort
 - Luke 9:2-6 shows that meeting human needs is a companion calling to the proclamation of the Gospel.

Our MISSION is to be a Christ-centered partnership of national, state, and associational ministries serving through the local church to bring help, hope, and healing to individuals and communities affected by disasters.

Our VISION is to become a well-defined, unified disaster response organization, demonstrating the love of Christ by providing physical, emotional and spiritual help to individuals and communities affected by disasters.

Our VALUES

These Core Values are the foundation for the ministry of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief. They comprise the constant guide by which we perform disaster relief ministry and interact with an affected community, our partners, other organizations, volunteers, and Southern Baptist constituents.

Christ-centered

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief is comprised of individuals who are believers in Jesus Christ. Volunteers are under the imperative to minister to people and demonstrate God’s love as they share the message of hope in Jesus Christ.

This is how we have come to know love: He laid down his life for us. We should also lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has this world's goods and sees a fellow believer in need but withholds compassion from him—how does God's love reside in him? (1 John 3:16-17)

What would this Christ-centered life look like in your ministry with SBDR?

- You are consistent in your faith – even when you are not on a disaster response
- You have a church and know your pastor's name
- You have a Christ-like relationship with your family and church
- You maintain a steady diet of scripture
- Your character is growing in conformity with Christ's: being patient and caring, possessing a spirit of love, and desiring to see others saved.
- You are prepared to use every opportunity to share your faith in Christ

Partnership Oriented

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief seeks to be a valuable partner, building strong biblical relationships that empower leaders, volunteers, and partners to serve communities affected by disaster with passion, integrity, professionalism, and credibility.

Always praying with joy for all of you in my every prayer, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

(Philippians 1:4-6)

Fluid in Practice

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief's hallmark is a commitment to serving Christ in the crisis, anyway, anytime, anywhere. Whatever it takes, we are His hands and feet.

. . . we endure everything so that we will not hinder the gospel of Christ. . . To the weak I became weak, in order to win the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I may by every possible means save some. (1 Corinthians 9:12c, 22)

One of the strong points of Southern Baptist disaster relief ministry is our ability to be fluid in the midst of the crisis response. Fundamental to our ability to respond is our ability to adapt to a rapidly changing situation.

Effective in Action

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief empowers leaders, volunteers and partners through training, mentoring, accountability, and structure. In this way SBDR enables them to use their skills, talents, abilities, and resources to be effective followers of Christ ministering to others affected by disaster.

Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God. (1 Peter 4:10)

Local Church Focused

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief maintains a strategic and intentional partnership with local churches to support, reinforce, and encourage their ministry of making disciples of Jesus Christ and growing the Kingdom of God.

Now to him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us— to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21)

Does my personal responsibility strengthen our organizational integrity?

A volunteer needs a positive mental, social, and spiritual attitude to take on the task of providing physical assistance. As a volunteer, you have the responsibility for your own personal preparation, motivation, attitude, availability, participation, training, and improvement.

Take a personal survey to check your attitude.

- Do I have a servant's heart or am I thinking about myself much of the time?
- Am I willing to take directions from others or am I resentful of demands made on me?
- Am I able to adapt to ever-changing circumstances or do I become frustrated when the instructions continue to change and evolve?
- Do I know how to be part of the team, or do I need to be in charge?
- Am I going to help people in need, or do I have a personal agenda?
- Am I willing to work wherever needed or am I inflexible?
- Am I self-controlled in speech, attitude, and actions?
- Am I physically strong enough to work long and strenuous days?

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief is not for everyone. One should carefully examine our vision and core values to determine if we are a good fit.

Why is it important to learn from our history?

For over half a century, we have been learning valuable lessons about what constitutes an effective response to the needs of survivors, first responders and SBDR volunteers. We have discovered best practices and discarded failed ones. However, there is always a tendency to drift back to old comfortable but sadly ineffective ways. You may, after some training and experience, want to “push-back” on a particular “SBDR” practice. Look closely at our history in **Appendix Seven** and see if there was not a dynamic force at play during a particular deployment that led us to implement that very change.

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief traces its beginning back to 1967 when a few Royal Ambassador leaders took some of their RA boys to respond to a Texas hurricane. So, it is appropriate that the SBDR logo borrowed the blue and gold color scheme from the rich symbolism of the Royal Ambassador shield:



- The blue represents the volunteer's loyalty to Christ which governs our actions and relationships
- The gold represents the worth of every person to Christ.
- The arch of the Southern Baptist Convention is the umbrella of the SBDR world-wide cooperative network.
- The wheat symbolizes physical help
- The fish symbolizes spiritual help
- The name below the logo identifies the Baptist state convention being represented

The Southern Baptist Disaster Relief logo has earned the reputation of quality service that makes a difference. Pioneers in Southern Baptist Disaster Relief have earned a reputation for the gold hat volunteers and for what the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief logo stands.

To keep the integrity intact, credentialed team members are urged to wear disaster relief apparel proudly but only during a disaster relief response or disaster relief functions, such as training, promotion, and conferences related to SBDR. Upon becoming inactive, SBDR volunteers should check with their state director on how to properly repurpose their DR apparel.

Since 1967, SBDR has grown into one of the three largest disaster response organizations in the United States (along with the American Red Cross and The Salvation Army). But it is not clout we seek. We'd rather be known for sticking to our primary purpose. As Lloyd Jackson of Virginia stated, *"Disaster relief provides a unique opportunity to translate the message and person of Jesus Christ into flesh and blood as His followers respond in love and compassion to hurting people regardless of circumstances, social status, financial situation, language, political persuasion, theological stance, education or race. 'As you do unto these, you do unto me' remains the guideline for ministry to people in and through disaster relief."* **To God be the glory!**

Chapter Two: What We Do

We Bring Help

When disasters happen, people and communities find themselves in immediate need of basic necessities: food, water, shelter, electricity and fuel, etc. Our network of volunteers and equipment makes it possible for Southern Baptist Disaster Relief to quickly respond anywhere in the United States and in many places around the world.

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief can also provide direction for the energy of individuals and churches desiring to be of service. Through planning, training, and practicing, disaster response teams can be positioned to provide the leadership and expertise required for an efficient response.

We are known for our mass feeding capacity (which we still maintain), but we have added other ministries including but not limited to: flood recovery, chainsaw recovery, fire recovery, temporary roofing, etc. In addition, we have impressive capabilities in chaplaincy, shower, laundry, child care, communications, power generation, water purification and more. Following Jesus' example, we bring real help at just the right time.

At the end of the day, we endeavor to utilize natural talents, knowledge, and acquired skills to proclaim the Kingdom of God and meet the crucial needs of the people in the name of Christ Jesus.

We Bring Hope

There are two kinds of hope. The first is illustrated by the following quote:

[A substantial percentage] of those impacted by disaster find their usual coping mechanisms have failed and find themselves suffering significant distress. While their immediate life needs may have been met they still cannot see a better tomorrow; they have no hope that things will get any better. (Pastoral Crisis Intervention 2002 International Critical Incident Stress Foundation, Inc.)

For these people, hope is being able to see a way forward. It is a situational hope. They may have slipped into hopelessness before the disaster happened. Or perhaps the disaster is the source of their distress. All they can see in front of them is a mountain without a way around it. As a disaster relief volunteer, you may be able to offer them the hope that there is a way around the mountain. You *may* be able to actually remove the mountain.

The other kind of hope is relational. This hope is present regardless of a person's situation because it rests on the person and work of Jesus Christ. In Christ, hope is also eternal. As a SBDR volunteer, you are a messenger of good news and the bearer of eternal hope. As Colossians 1:27 says, ***"God wanted to make known among the Gentiles the glorious wealth of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."*** Be ready. The act of bringing help *may* open the door to share the hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Ministry *may* prepare the soil for the planting of the seed of the gospel. This is our greatest work because it leads to eternal results. So, be prepared to answer the question *"How much does this work cost?"* with *"The price has already been paid . . ."*

We Bring Healing

Just the simple act of listening to those who are affected by disaster initiates the healing process. In most

cases, the survivor's greatest need is having someone listen to their story. By allowing others to tell how they were affected by an event, we assist them in realizing that it does not have to be permanently debilitating.

When we arrive with a feeding unit and a team of volunteers who bring smiles and words of hope along with a nutritional meal, affected residents get the feeling that someone cares; that they won't have to wonder about where to get their next meal. Fear and dismay give way to healing. When a neighborhood crushed by mass destruction is paralyzed by shock and grief, we can step in to bring a sense of order to the chaos by showing them a way forward and offering assurance that God knows their plight and hears their prayers. When a family whose home and possessions have been destroyed by flood, wind, or fire sees a team of caring people in gold hats and shirts removing mountains of debris and bewilderment, they begin to see the possibilities for a new beginning. Suddenly, what seemed hopeless and impossible starts looking like a plan with a purpose. And most importantly, the question "Where is God when I need Him?" is transformed into belief that "God is here and He cares for me."

It is not unusual for our presence to be a catalyst for reconciliation between neighbors and family members. Nor is it strange for us to help "victims" become factors in their own recovery. When our volunteers bring their knowledge and experience to the disaster, they can ease tension and stress by helping individuals and communities align their expectations with reality. Regardless of the form healing takes, it is inspiring to remember that in every town Jesus visited, He left many healed people in His wake.

SBDR Definition of Disaster:

An occurrence that causes human suffering or creates human needs that the survivors can not alleviate without assistance. A disaster normally affects more than one person and has an element of danger.

Types of Disaster

Blizzard	Explosion	Natural Gas Accident
Boat Accident	Famine	Nuclear Accident
Bombing	Fire	Power Failure
Bridge Collapse	Flood	Riot
Chemical Spill	High Wind	Terrorist Attack
Crash	Highway Accident	Tidal Wave
Drought	Hurricane	Tornado
Drowning	Ice Storm	Transportation Accident
Earthquake	Industrial Accident	Typhoon

How We Classify Disasters

Extent of Destruction

- Regardless of area affected, the duration of the event and reconstruction help classify disasters as local, widespread, or catastrophic. A fire in a single-family dwelling can be as tragic and disastrous to those involved as a massive earthquake is to its survivors.

Primary/Secondary Disasters

- A primary disaster is the initial or triggering event, and a secondary disaster is a consequence of the original occurrence.
- Earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, and winter storms, although caused by nature, are usually primary. These may trigger secondary disasters like tidal waves, power failures, dam failures, or fires.

Natural/Man-made Disasters

- Natural disasters include tornadoes, hurricanes, drought, snow, ice—any crisis event due to weather conditions. Volcanic eruption and earthquakes are other examples of natural disasters.
- Man-made disasters can be of major consequence as well—fires, riots, explosions, transportation accidents, terrorist attacks, war.

Phases of Disaster Response

Based on reaction time and length of response...

READINESS

Begins now: be alert, available and able.
Proper training and personal preparation is vital to the success of the mission.

Demonstrate consistent spiritual preparation.
Be ready not only when a disaster strikes, but more importantly, when God sends.



RESPONSE

The immediate response to a disaster.
Usually begins within the first 24-48 hours and can last several weeks.

Emergency relief is provided such as:
Feeding, shelter, child care, chaplaincy, crisis counseling, and immediate needs.

RECOVERY

Key role for SBDR is the recovery phase.
Can last a few days to a few months. Help is provided to get people back to a new normal.

Provided as need & resources are available.
Chainsaw, flood clean-up, fire clean-up, chaplaincy, temporary roofing, etc.



REBUILD

Rebuild is more long term.
Can last from short term to a few years and takes resources and emotional support.

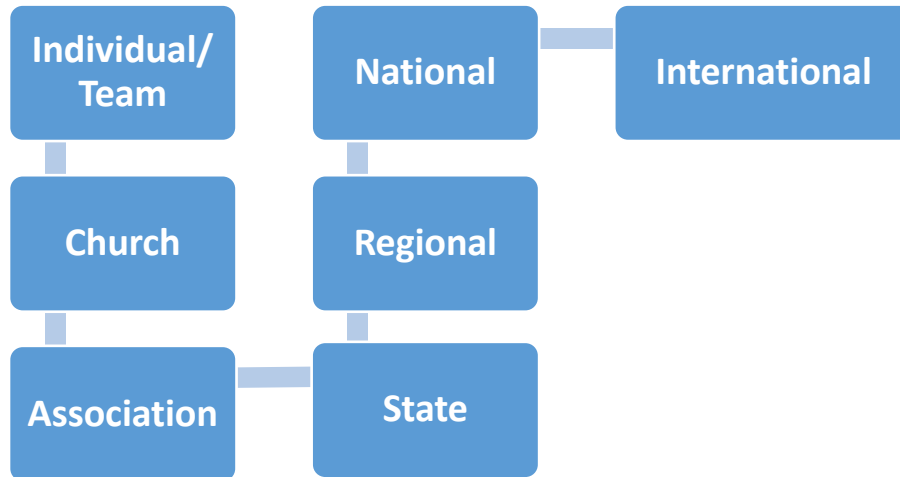
Many aspects involved in rebuild.
Includes financial assistance, reconstruction, rebuild, insurance claim, etc.

Types of SBDR Services

Airlift Kitchens	Airlifting kitchen equipment, supplies, and personnel overseas and setting them up for food preparation in a disaster area.
Asset Protection	Watching and patrolling SBDR sites and equipment.
Chainsaw	Clearing trees and other major obstructions following wind and flood events.
Chaplaincy	Disaster chaplains and other volunteers who provide crisis intervention and spiritual care for individuals throughout the disaster cycle.
Childcare	Providing temporary child care through a mobile unit or at fixed location such as a church or school.
Communication	Equipment and qualified personnel who provide communication capabilities during disasters and disaster relief responses.
Damage Assessment	The preliminary assessment of the disaster including extent of damage, number of homes affected, and so on.
Feeding	Food preparation and distribution. Feeding may be from a mobile unit or a fixed location such as a church or school.
Fire Recovery	Involves sifting and/or removing ash and debris with proper disposal and recovering personal property.
Flood Recovery	Involves removal of contaminated belongings and dwelling components; includes washing and sanitizing affected areas.
Heavy Equipment	Heavy equipment to support disaster operations.
Incident Management Team	Directs the SBDR daily operations and provides appropriate leadership for the disaster response
Interpreters	Translating or interpreting regarding disaster assistance.
Medical Support	Provides medical support to the SBDR ministry teams. These individuals often work with a variety of SBDR units.
Rebuild	Rebuild / Repair to homes and churches
Temporary Roofing	Covering impaired roof sections with appropriate material and securing it to reduce further damage to the interior of the home.
Transportation	Involves asset and volunteer transport.
Water Purification	Provides large capacity of filtered potable water.

Levels of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Response

From one concerned church member to a national organization, Southern Baptists bring unique skills, preparation, and approaches to disaster relief efforts, always with Christ as the prime example. The Southern Baptist response takes place at seven levels:



Individual or Team

Individual volunteers can provide manpower, equipment, or specialized services, such as cleanup or feeding. They provide their own equipment at their own expense and serve in cooperation with the organized disaster relief effort. They may work with or support other groups to provide needed services.

Volunteers can serve as part of a unit that is designed and equipped to provide specialized services in a disaster area. These units may be self-contained (e.g., feeding unit or communication unit) or designed for use in another facility (e.g., a child care unit serving from a church building).

If you would like to be a part of the disaster relief response, you should make your availability known according to the protocols set up by your convention's Disaster Relief Director. You must complete the required training to participate with a specialty unit so you are ready when called to serve. Trained disaster relief volunteers know that **self-deployment** is an **unacceptable** practice. Yet, even individual volunteers are tremendous assets when deployed properly by your state Disaster Relief Director.

Individuals are also encouraged to develop a family disaster preparedness plan. By developing a family disaster plan and supply kit, you will be prepared to respond to needs within your family and then the community in the event of a disaster. Ask your state Disaster Relief Director for a copy of the ***Family Preparedness Manual***.

Church

Talk with your local church about ways they are already involved or could be involved in disaster relief ministry. Churches have an incredible opportunity to provide friendship, crisis intervention, and encouragement to survivors of disaster. It is best to work in cooperation with your Baptist convention and your local association as there are experienced leaders and resources to help train and equip members of your local church and to assist your church in preparing for disaster relief involvement. After receiving the church's approval, prepare the church facilities for disaster relief service. A church can provide their facilities and designate space for a specific disaster service, such as a kitchen, a shelter, or storage. Identify and/or prepare space to collect,

sort, and/or distribute food, clothing, blankets, clean-up kits, and other supplies during a disaster.

Churches should seek the assistance of the Baptist state convention Disaster Relief Director, who will be able to provide teachers, training, and assistance in the development of the church disaster relief plan. Trained disaster relief volunteers from the church can be organized into specialty teams. Examples of the specialty teams include feeding, recovery, communication, water purification, showers, child care, and so on.

Churches are encouraged to develop a church disaster preparedness plan. Ask your state Disaster Relief Director for a copy of the ***Church Preparedness Manual***.

Association

Associations can provide a full or partial specialty team. Associations can coordinate their member churches' involvement as shelters, feeding units, and so on. Associations can coordinate collection and distribution of food and other commodities. They can coordinate personal ministries during times of disaster. Examples of the personal ministries are child care, elder care, and crisis intervention.

Associations are encouraged to develop an associational disaster preparedness plan. Ask your state Disaster Relief Director for a copy of the ***Associational Preparedness Manual***.

State Convention

State conventions develop their own disaster relief response plan and training based on the DROP (Disaster Relief Operational Procedures) Manual and the SBDR Framework.

State Conventions determine the types of services, equipment, and organization needed for a disaster response. State conventions coordinate church, association, and in-state units/teams when responding to a disaster within their own jurisdiction. State Convention Disaster Relief Directors can deploy units within their state convention.

State conventions can also deploy units and personnel in multi-convention, national, and international disasters in response to a request from other state Disaster Relief Directors, the North American Mission Board, or Baptist Global Response.

Contact your state convention Disaster Relief Director to volunteer for disaster relief response. All enlistment, training, activation, and deployment of volunteers and units are the responsibility of the state convention Disaster Relief Director.

Regional

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief is also organized geographically across North America into *regions*. A region is a cluster of state conventions in proximity to one another. When a state's resources are inadequate to meet the response needs, the affected state Disaster Relief Director may call upon his/her regional partners for assistance before inviting help from more distant conventions across the country.

National

The **North American Mission Board** (NAMB) exists to work with churches, associations and state conventions in mobilizing Southern Baptists as a missional force to impact North America with the gospel of Jesus Christ through evangelism and church planting.

Send Relief is NAMB's compassion ministry arm. Send Relief offers resources, training and events to help individuals and churches engage in relief work through prayer, giving and service. Opportunities are provided to support foster care and adoption, fight poverty, end human trafficking, help refugees and internationals, engage collegiates, and mobilize for crisis response.

The **Southern Baptist Convention** has also given to NAMB/Send Relief the ministry assignment of assisting churches and conventions in disaster response. Send Relief provides resources, manpower, coordination, and communication as requested by the affected state Disaster Relief Director. Send Relief will assist with training when requested by the affected convention disaster relief leadership.

International

Baptist Global Response (BGR), in consultation with the **International Mission Board (IMB)**, is responsible for international disaster relief. Project requests and funds for disaster responses outside of the United States are coordinated by these organizations. The national Executive Director of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief serves as consultant for BGR and IMB during international responses and provides coordination of the overall disaster relief response. Volunteers who respond to international disasters are responsible for providing their own transportation and other expenses.

Chapter Three: How We Do It

We Plan

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDR) has developed plans with local churches, associations, state conventions, and multi-state regions. We also plan in coordination with Baptist entities such as the North American Mission Board (NAMB), Send Relief, and Baptist Global Response (BGR). We engage with many voluntary organizations, State and local government, emergency management officials, and the Department of Homeland Security.

We encourage and assist families and churches to develop a plan of action to minister to their community in the event of a disaster. They also should plan how they will work with others in ministry in the aftermath of a disaster.

During a disaster, SBDR leadership at every level is engaged in matching the resources with the needs. Information is gathered and evaluated so that wise decisions can be made. Logistical support for volunteers (lodging, meals, showers, laundry) will be arranged ahead of their arrival and as assets are en route, they must be tracked. It is common for teams to be given a new destination even while they are on the way because new information leads to adjusted priorities and better efficiency. It is important for trained volunteers to understand the dynamic nature of response planning and practice flexibility. Always, pray for your leaders, be gracious, and trust them.

We Train

Experience has shown the need for a standard orientation and training for disaster relief volunteers. There are some general training requirements for a person to be recognized as a Southern Baptist Disaster Relief worker.

Disaster relief volunteers must retrain and renew background checks every three years. While there may be some variation from one state convention to another, there is consensus on this point: ***Retraining helps to ensure our readiness and maintain our integrity as a dependable and trusted partner.***

Disaster relief volunteers will find it helpful to participate regularly in disaster relief training. Even if you have already had training, you can help others by sharing your experiences.

- Participate often in disaster relief projects like training, non-disaster operations, maintenance, and renovations.
- Disaster relief volunteers are expected to participate in training events and learn about disaster conditions and how to deal with the situations they will face.
- Disaster relief volunteers must be willing to provide leadership as the need arises and assignments are made.

Conventions may expand their training requirements but should always include the following courses of study:

- *Involving Southern Baptists in Disaster Relief*
- Unit specific training
 - Child Care

- Communications
- Chaplaincy
- Feeding
- Laundry
- Shower
- Recovery
 - Chainsaw Recovery
 - Flood Recovery
 - Fire Recovery
 - Temporary Roofing
 - Assessment
- Water Purification
- Unit Leader (Blue Hat)
- Incident Management Team (IMT)

Additional training may include:

- Relevant courses provided by our many faith-based and community-based partners
- Utilizing Affiliated Volunteers
- The Federal Emergency Management courses
- Operational Stress First Aid (OSFA)
- Personal Evangelism
- Standard First Aid/CPR
- Incident Command System (ICS)

We Organize

Job Descriptions for Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Team Members

The following list of job descriptions will help you understand the organization of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief. Each person on a unit or team has an important responsibility. There are those who are placed in leadership positions. As a Southern Baptist involved in disaster relief, you should understand the disaster relief organization as well as the unit structure. Involvement in convention training events is the only way to fully understand it because every convention organization is slightly different.

- **State Convention Disaster Relief Director**—The person designated by a convention to develop and implement disaster response for that convention. In the event of a disaster, the affected state convention's Disaster Relief Director will direct the total Southern Baptist disaster response for that convention.
- **Incident Commander (White Hat)**—The person designated by the state director to direct the overall daily operations of the disaster relief response and reports directly to the state director. They will develop a command staff and general staff as needed to provide appropriate leadership for the response.
- **Incident Management Team (IMT)**—The on-site leadership team as constructed by the Incident Commander or State Director to manage planning, operations, logistics, and administration for that site. The lead person is the Incident Commander.

- **Unit Leader (Blue Hat)**—The person designated to direct the overall daily operation of a disaster relief unit or team. Reports directly to the Incident Management Team (IMT).
- **Lead Workers**—The people designated to direct one part of the daily operation of a disaster relief unit for a period of time (e.g., chief cook, inventory person, mechanic). Reports directly to their Unit Leader (Blue Hat).
- **Credentialed Volunteer (Gold Hat)**—A member of a disaster relief unit or team who has completed the minimum required training and background checks. Reports directly to their Unit Leader (Blue Hat).
- **Volunteer Coordinator**—The person assigned to coordinate local volunteer response; may work at a unit site or in the surrounding community; may include or be limited to (as determined by the affected state convention or its Disaster Relief Director) uncredentialed affiliated volunteers and spontaneous unsolicited/untrained/unaffiliated volunteers (SUVs).

The Command Center

When out-of-convention units or teams come to the affected convention, the operation becomes a “multi-convention” response, and the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief network is activated. The ***SBD*** ***Response Framework*** specifies working relationships between the affected convention, NAMB/Send Relief, and assisting conventions. The national agreements with other agencies (see list on page 21) also define working relationships during responses.

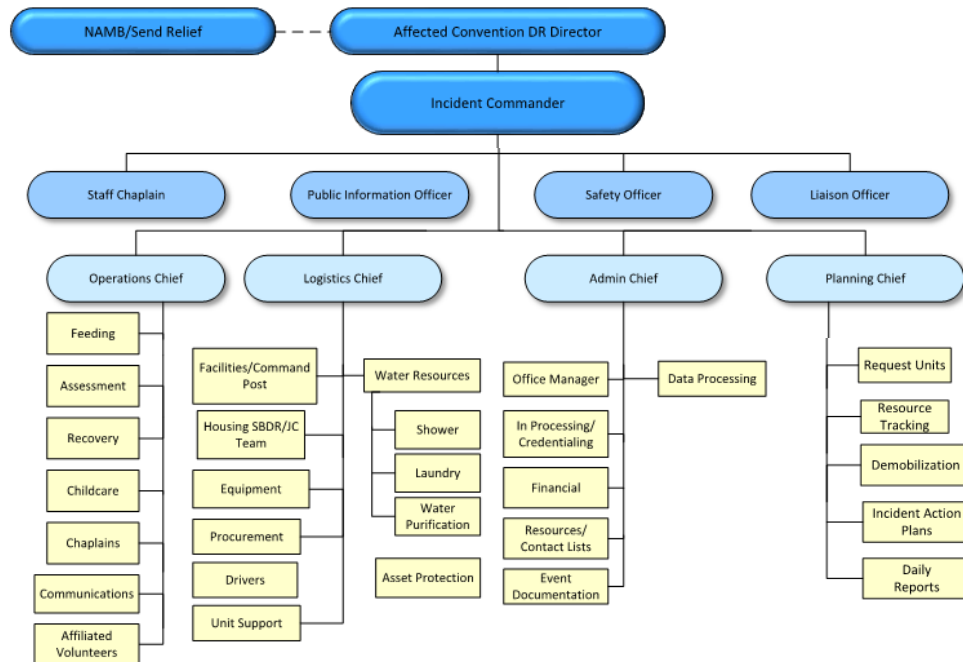
The affected convention’s Disaster Relief Director directs the response for the affected convention. He/She may serve as the incident commander or enlist another qualified person.

The affected state Disaster Relief Director establishes a command center, an adequate building and/or mobile unit(s) as close to the damaged area as possible which is capable of supporting the operation (food facilities, water, electricity, telephones, basic office equipment, and sanitation). The affected convention will provide a leadership team to the incident commander. The incident management team will have span of control authority to manage the disaster response.

Chain of Command

In most state conventions, planning and preparation for disaster relief has been assigned to a state convention staff member or designated volunteer. The chain of command for disaster relief responses is reflected in the chart below. **As a Gold Hat, all you really need to know is that, unless told otherwise, you are responsible to your Blue Hat.**

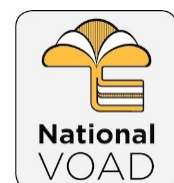
SBDR Organizational Chart



We Partner

Through the development of a cooperative team effort, family and community needs can be effectively and efficiently met for the glory of God. Our partnerships extend to faith-based, community-based, and governmental entities (such as Emergency Management) at every level – Municipal, County, State, and Federal. We can increase our capacity to meet needs by pooling our resources, time, and talents. Southern Baptists have developed such a cooperative system throughout its entire history. Every Southern Baptist convention in North America has a disaster relief ministry. They vary in their abilities, number of units, number of trained volunteers and resources. This cooperative nature of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief allows communities affected by disasters to call for needed resources from across North America.

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDR) is one of the founding members of the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) and has signed national agreements with:



We Deploy

The following suggestions will assist you in preparing for your involvement in disaster relief.

Health Guidelines

- Stay in good health and good physical condition.
- Have regular physical examinations.
- Consult your physician about your involvement in disaster relief.
- Get recommended inoculations (i.e. Tdap; Hepatitis A series)

Practical Guidelines

- Look over the ***“Deployment Checklist (What to Take)”*** (Appendix Five) and secure the basic items.
- Disaster relief volunteers need to arrange time to be available.
- If you are employed, discuss your situation with your employer and inquire about volunteerism policies.
- Each volunteer is responsible for their own medical insurance and health coverage in case of accident, injury, or illness.
- For each deployment, volunteers must provide a current up-to-date ***Medical Release Form for Volunteers*** (Appendix One), and must complete and sign a ***Release and Indemnity Agreement*** (Appendix Four).
- In times of disaster, be proactive and seek deployment information for further details and mobilization instructions.

Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers:

- Don’t expect favors or preferential treatment
- Don’t expect to be the first called
- Don’t expect to work with only your group
- Don’t expect to work with the same people every time
- Don’t attempt to meet physical or personal needs you are not trained to handle
- Do make adjustments as needed
- Do understand your limitations
- Do inform leaders of your special interests and abilities
- Do inform leaders of your preferred work

Volunteers who respond to disasters are responsible for providing their own transportation and related travel expenses to and from the disaster site. Carpooling is encouraged. Typically, meals are provided throughout the duration of the response.

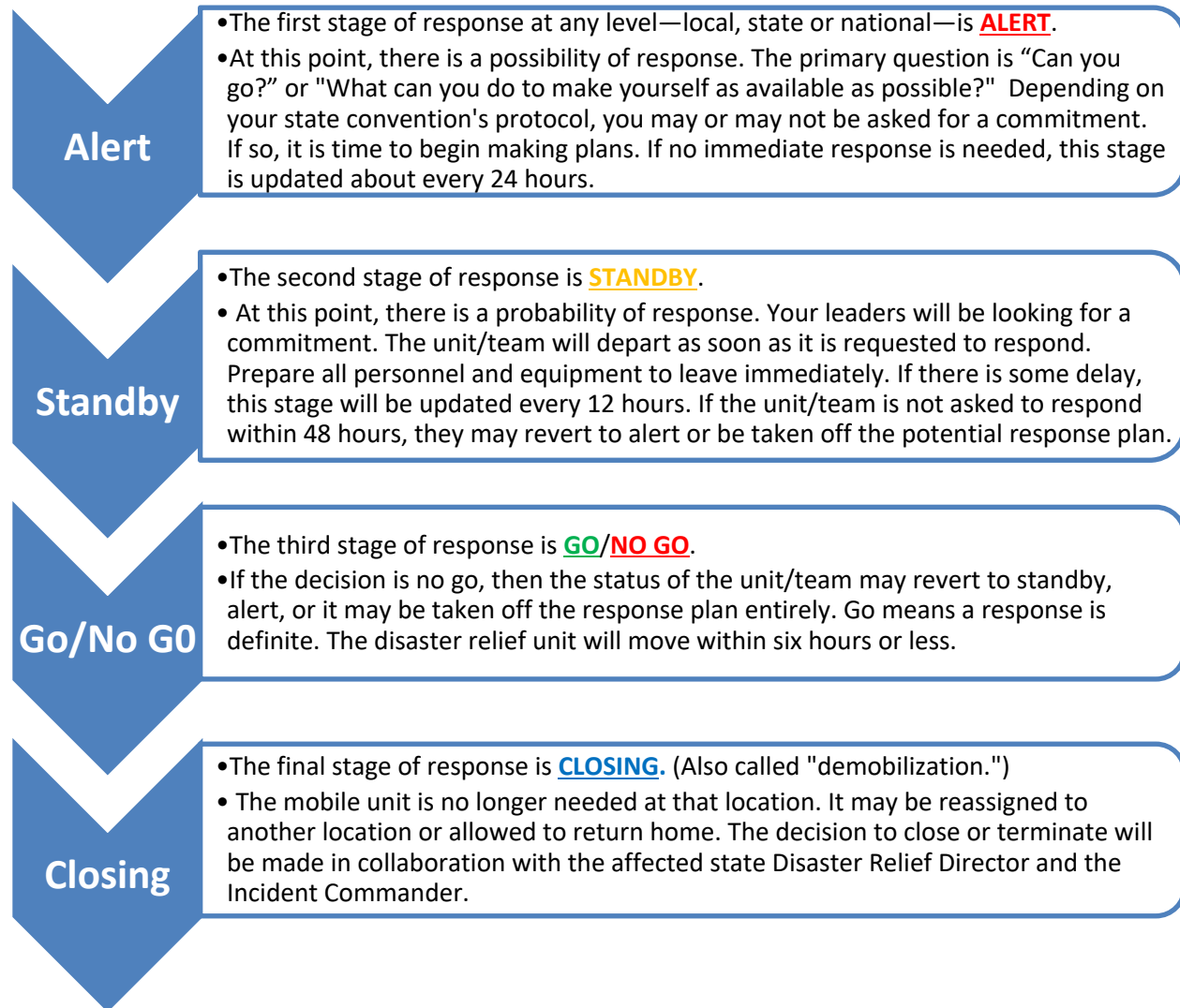
Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers should be prepared to recognize stress in themselves and others. Disaster response conditions are stressful. Volunteers will often work long hours under difficult conditions. Volunteers should:

- Take medications as prescribed by your physician. If possible, have a backup prescription order for medications.
- Work within your strengths and limitations: physical (strength and health), emotional (stress

- management), and mental (knowledge and skills).
- Take personal health items that are helpful to your comfort and well-being.
 - Wear clothing, footwear, and special equipment suited to the task and conditions you will face.
 - Wear modest, appropriate and Christ-honoring clothing at all times, day and night, including sleepwear and loungewear.
 - Avoid extended sitting or standing in the same position, constant exposure to the sun, and prolonged exposure to water, heat, and cold.
 - Eat regularly and drink plenty of water.
 - Rest when you can. Sleeping will be difficult.
 - Do not base your work load on that of another person.
 - Pace yourself.
 - Use caution in danger areas where you may encounter heavy traffic, broken glass, nails, and downed electrical lines.
 - Report all injuries to the Unit Leader (Blue Hat).
 - Become familiar with policy and procedures for on-site illnesses and injuries including how and where to get help in an emergency.

Stages and Alert System

The first step to activate units and teams begins with the affected state convention placing a call for help. SBDR uses the following process for the activation of units and volunteers. The urgency of some events requires immediate activation of personnel and material resources.



The next step in the Go/No Go stage is when the state convention Disaster Relief Director activates the convention’s units/teams, determining the number of volunteers needed and giving its members the following essential details:

- Specific circumstances at the disaster location
- Location and how to get there or to the staging area
- Specific assignment of service
- Contact information of person to report to
- Any other pertinent information available at the time of deployment about the response

Ethical Guidelines for Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Volunteers

- Take care not to damage the group effort by careless words or actions.
- Each person must remember that he or she represents the Lord and the church.
- All attitudes and actions should demonstrate the teachings of Christ.
- Our policy is to not accept contributions from the people you help. If they insist on making a contribution, refer them to the unit leader (Blue Hat).
- Be sensitive to the fact that information shared by anyone in confidence should remain so. Respect the privacy of every individual.
- When taking pictures of disaster damage, be sensitive to the people involved. Always ask permission before taking pictures.
- When sharing information, be sure your facts are accurate.
- Do not participate in spreading rumors that circulate following a disaster.

We Evaluate

Effective organizations take great care to evaluate themselves. We evaluate while tasks are being accomplished and again when they are completed.

- Did we meet the physical and spiritual needs?
- Plans were made. Were they carried out?
- Systems were created. Did they work?
- Equipment and tools were used. Did they work? Do they need to be repaired or replaced?
- Communication happened. How well?
- Training took place. Did it actually match the task?
- Collaboration took place. Are relationships intact? How can the relationships be strengthened?
- What must happen to be prepared for the next response?
- Did we make converts or make disciples?

Everyone is tired at the end of a response. This is the best explanation for why the step of evaluation is too often glossed over. Look for ways to give your unit leader (Blue Hat) helpful feedback while memories are fresh. Feedback needs to be developed into actions items.

Ideally, everyone is built up when evaluation takes place. However, when bad things happen, they, too, must be addressed. SBDR is made better because the internal parts find their place and are strengthened. In the end, our Lord is magnified.

Chapter 4: Deeper Disaster Dynamics

Disasters affect people. This chapter will help you as a Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Volunteer care for yourself, your teammates, and the people you are sent to help. You will also gain a deeper understanding of the importance of the work we do.

Types of Survivors

Direct

- Direct survivors live in the area affected by the disaster and has suffered losses.

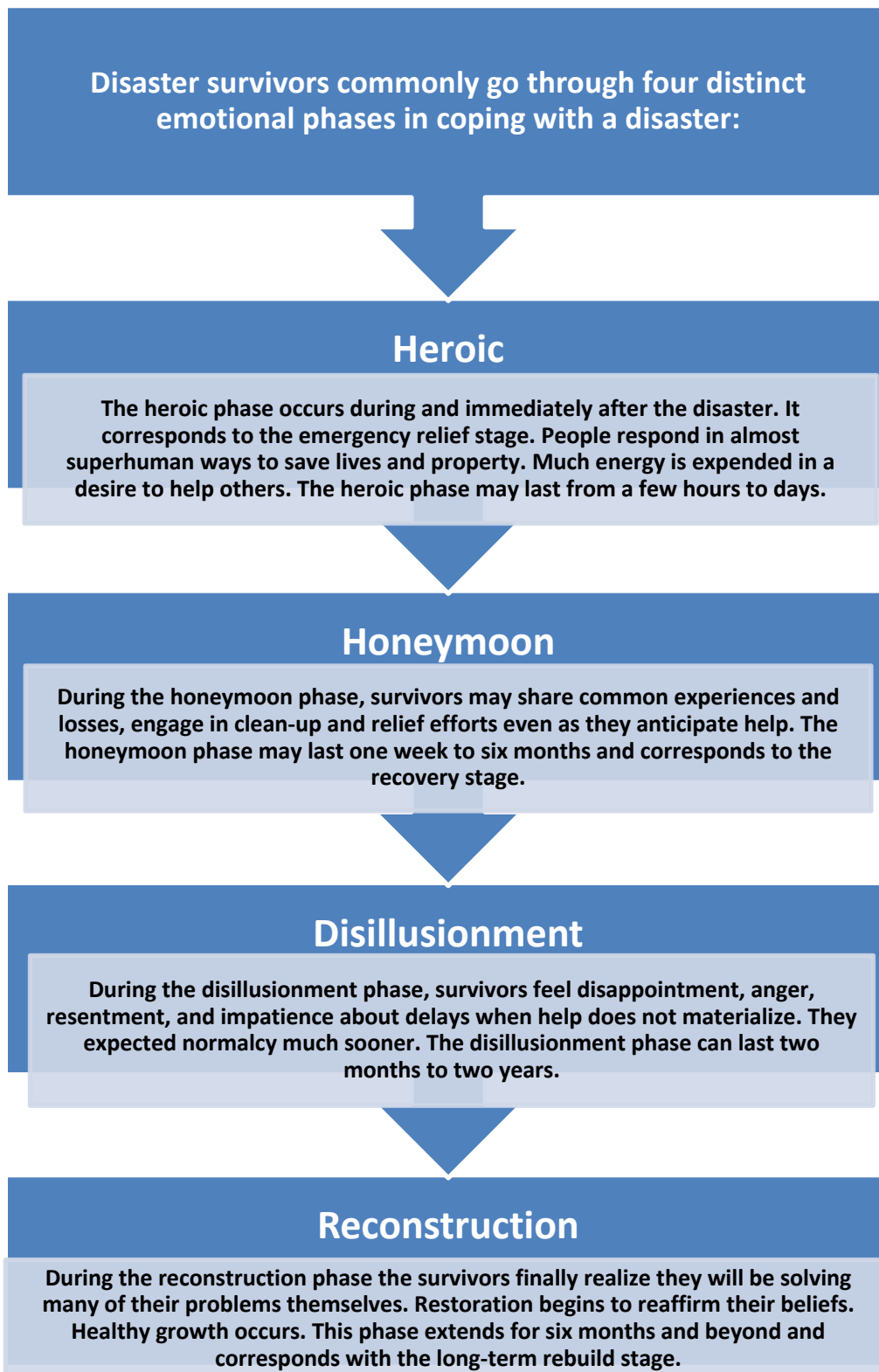
Indirect

- Indirect survivors live on the fringe of the disaster area, near those directly impacted. They may have grown up in a home in the impacted area. The indirect survivor may suffer minor inconveniences or guilt feelings over the losses of others while feeling happy that his family was not affected. Early on he or she may take an active role in relief efforts. Or his or her reaction to the disaster may include leaving the area.

Hidden

- Hidden survivors are the disaster relief workers or first responders who couldn't save everyone or every home. Volunteers tend to be caring people who do not like to see other people hurting, so they take on the burdens of the affected. As they internalize the pain, they may become survivors themselves. Volunteers can avoid this by discussing these feelings during the daily debriefing, with Disaster chaplains or crisis interveners. Operational Stress First Aid (OSFA) is another tool available to volunteers to help one another cope with the stresses of deployment.

Phases of Emotions in a Disaster Relief Response



Survivor Reactions at the Three Stages of Response

Earlier in this manual we learned that disaster relief efforts may be classified in three stages: emergency, recovery, or long-term rebuild. We will now look at typical survivor reactions during these three stages.

Survivor Reactions During Emergency Relief

The survivors' reaction during the emergency relief period will depend upon the severity of the disaster and their personal losses. People tend to repress emotions. They may work until they reach the point of exhaustion and go without sleep, adequate food or proper medical treatment. For themselves and their loved ones, they often act on the need for self-preservation, trying to salvage and protect what is left and recover what has been lost. They tend to be friendly, talkative, and want to share their experiences.



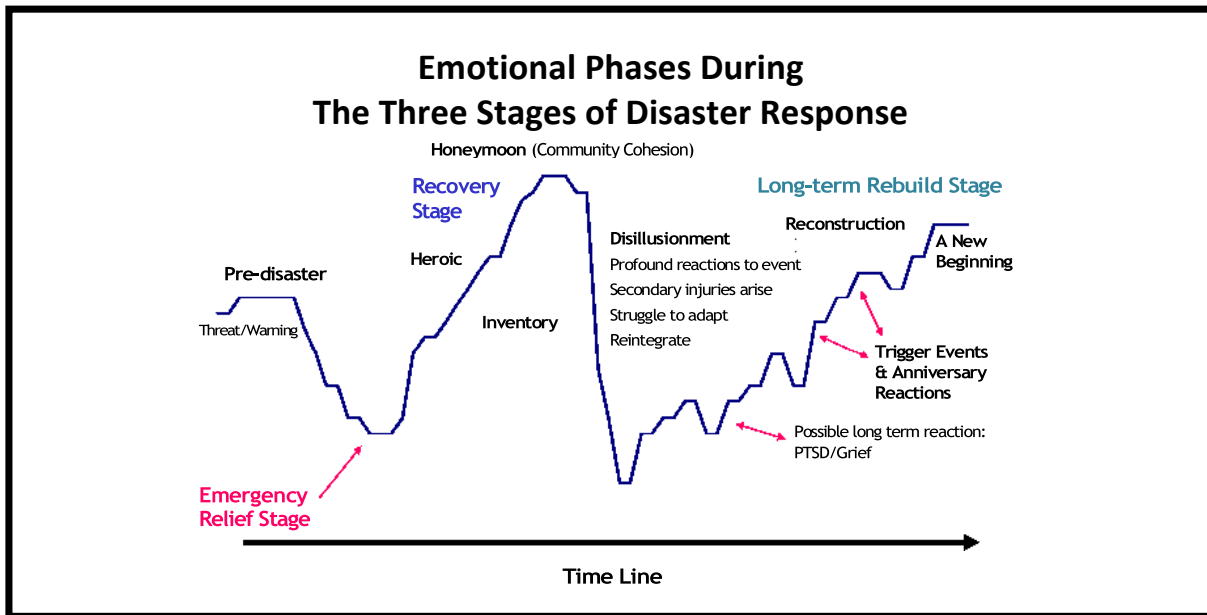
Survivor Reactions During Recovery

During the recovery period, relief workers are on the scene. Survivors begin to slow down. Emotions surface. Decisions become difficult. They expect more from relief workers than may be possible. They need someone to listen to their stories.



Survivor Reactions During Long-term Rebuild

Long-term rebuild may begin one to six months after the disaster strikes. Many disaster relief agencies have left the community and most local help-givers have moved on to other things. They feel they should be back in their homes. Their emotions range from frustration to anger to pessimism to a state of fault-finding to depression. They feel forgotten - that nobody cares.



Physical Effects of Disaster

God's design for our bodies causes a chain reaction that helps people respond to threats. To some extent, these responses enable people to perform better and faster. At some point, though, the body's response can overwhelm the survivor and lead to diminished ability to cope. The brain's ability to function can diminish with excessive stress response. The two halves of the brain lose the ability to communicate with each other. The front of the brain begins to shut down.

Because of the above, people lose the ability to think clearly, communicate complex thoughts, and solve problems. They become impulsive (response chemicals prompt people to do something – anything) and tend to lose the ability to understand the consequences of their behavior. They may also lose the ability to function appropriately.

Disaster-Related Stress

A crisis is a temporary state during which a person's usual methods of coping do not seem to be working. People tend to feel anxious and upset because of their apparent helplessness in dealing with the situation. A crisis may erupt when a person is faced with a problem that calls on resources or problem-solving abilities that have not been needed before. In other words, they lack experience in dealing with the situation.

Disaster-related stress is different. Survivors perceive disasters as highly dangerous and life-threatening to themselves and their families. They may fear the recurrence of a similar situation. Family members often jointly experience the terror-filled moments of the impact and extended recovery. Disasters cause a sense of helplessness and powerlessness over the forces that caused the crisis. Disasters cause a community-wide perception of destruction and disruption. Disasters result in a sense of loss of great magnitude and diversity.

Volunteers who provide direct ministry to the people affected by disaster can provide valuable assistance when they understand something of the stress caused by a crisis. Affected individuals suffer maximum stress when the crisis comes suddenly, causes widespread destruction, results in death or injury, occurs at night, and creates mountains of uncertainty.

Stress is minimized when the event is a natural disaster that can be blamed on unavoidable circumstances. If the disaster requires an immediate response, many times the stress is lessened. The stress caused by a disaster strengthens a community's identity. Disasters reduce societal differences within a community and create a "here and now" mentality.

Psychologically, a disaster will absorb peoples' attention (survivors, relief workers, and the public) but the types of reactions to disaster may vary. People tend to underestimate a disaster's scope and to personalize the event. Disasters often provide an emotional release because other stresses subside and can provide a sense of renewal due to a break with the past. Personal and community milestones can also be developed.

What Disaster Relief Volunteers Can Do

1. **Be present.** Your being with the survivor could mean more to them than you immediately see. In the aftermath of disaster, people often feel abandoned by family, by community, by systems and government, even by God. Remember Christ, the hope of glory, is in you. Grasp that you may not only be representing Christ, but that the people you help may actually see Christ in you.
2. **Listen.** Let the individual tell his or her story. Use good listening skills such as:
 - Look at the person and give them your complete attention. A good listener is always trying to understand, not trying to think of the next thing to say.
 - Give occasional responses—nodding your head, changing expressions, making verbal responses, and asking questions. This lets the person know you are with them.
 - Paraphrase and ask for clarification. This often helps the person see a different viewpoint. However, do not put words in their mouth.
 - Avoid interrupting unless there is real confusion that jeopardizes your ability to help.
 - Tolerate and accept new ideas. Do not condemn.
 - Pay attention to your own body language. Convey that you care. Be relaxed.
3. **Speak with sensitivity.**
 - Use simple sentences
 - Be patient
 - Avoid continually bringing the conversation back to your own experiences
 - Help with problem solving
 - Leave written information when possible
 - Be an agent of hope.

Do not say:

"I know how you feel"

"Remember Romans 8:28"

"It is only stuff and you can buy more stuff"

"It could be worse"

"You'll get over it"

Rather, say things like:

"I am sorry"

"How can we be helpful to you?"

"How can I pray for you?"

"Would you mind telling me about that/him/her?"

"It's OK to be angry/confused/desperate, etc."

4. **Pray.** Ask permission, then voice your prayer. This is a powerful moment too often missed because of the fear of the volunteer. Keep it short, simple and appropriate to the information and emotions shared by the survivor. Remember that you are speaking to the Ever-Present Lord who has just witnessed your entire conversation - who knows us better than we know ourselves.
5. **Refer.** Be honest with yourself and the one to whom you are ministering about your inability to help. Try to find someone who can help. Call upon a Disaster Relief Chaplain.

Appendices

(Appendices 1-5 are samples of documents that state conventions may have customized for their own use.)

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Appendix One: Personal and Medical Information Form



Southern Baptist Disaster Relief MEDICAL RELEASE FORM FOR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are requested to provide the following information to their unit director upon arrival at the disaster work location.

Personal Information:

Name:		DOB:	
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
Home #:		Occupation:	
Cell #:		Email:	
Church:		Association:	

Whom to notify in case of an emergency: (please provide 2 contacts)

Primary Contact:	
Relationship:	Phone #:
Secondary Contact:	
Relationship:	Phone #:

Allergies:

Are you allergic to any medication or other substances?	NO	YES	If so, what?
Other allergies:			

Health Information:

Health Care Insurance Provider:	
Group/Policy #:	Phone #:
List Current Medications:	
List any Medical Conditions:	
Other:	

In the event of an emergency or necessary medical treatment, I authorize this information be provided to the health care provider and appropriate treatment be administered. I also understand that every attempt will be made to contact my emergency contact person.

Signature _____

Date _____

Appendix Two: Volunteer Skills Survey

Skills List																																															
Volunteer Name	Date																																														
Please check all skills that apply																																															
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Volunteer Agreement with State Disaster Relief Director

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

1. Be a team player, serving with a Christ-like servant mindset and willingness to follow directions of Team, Unit, and IMT leadership.
2. Complete a disaster relief skill checklist, and keep current my (1) address and phone number, (2) availability status, (3) skills and abilities.
3. 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.
4. Take responsibility for my spiritual and mental preparation as a disaster relief volunteer, as well as my work skills needed at the disaster site.
5. Represent my Lord and Savior, church, fellow Christians and team as Christ would want, in my attitude, behavior, speech, dress and work.
6. Wear official disaster relief apparel and display the SBC Disaster Relief logo only as prescribed and only while engaging in a relief event.
7. 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; abide by the travel guidelines set forth by the state director (Appendix Six); inform on-site team leaders of any physical limitations to be considered in my work assignments.
8. Inform the state director or association disaster relief coordinator of my availability for a disaster response.
9. 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.
10. Pay my own expenses, arrange my own transportation and bring clothing, bedding and personal items I'll need at the disaster site.
11. Provide proof of insurance and health information to appropriate persons at the disaster site.
12. Assist with unit preparation, training events and non-emergency use of the unit, as my availability and ability allow.
13. Sign a release and indemnity document, if requested.

Therefore I _____, volunteer to do my best to help carry
Print Name

out the purposes of SBC Disaster Relief in the manner stated above.

Date _____

Signature _____

Appendix Four: Release and Indemnity Agreement

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Release and Indemnity Agreement

Having fully read the Release and Indemnity Agreement below, this waiver, release and indemnity agreement is fully understood by me and I enter the same willingly for the purposes herein stated.

Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Witness: _____

I do hereby represent and acknowledge I am entering a missionary venture with others; as a volunteer I am paying my own expenses, including insurance ¹, for the purpose of helping in times of disaster for the glory of God and to demonstrate my faith in Christ; that the work may at times be hazardous and somewhat arduous and will be performed by concerned volunteers and qualified professionals trained in disaster relief work; that vehicles transporting these volunteers will be operated by licensed volunteers, who may or may not be professional drivers.

I recognize and acknowledge potential accidents at the disaster site, involving motor vehicles, in or about the living, sleeping and eating areas, or during activities of the disaster relief team; am fully aware of possible injuries to members of the disaster relief team, including myself.

Therefore, I desire to protect, release, acquit, indemnify and hold harmless from any and all claims, injuries, damages, losses, expenses or attorney fees incurred by me, my heirs, administrators, executors or assigns.

For and on behalf of myself, my heirs, administrators, executors, assigns and all other persons, firms, or corporations, I do hereby release and discharge from liability all other persons on the disaster relief team with me, those who notified, selected or assigned me to said team, the Baptist State Convention and/or its Associations, state disaster relief director or department, the Southern Baptist Convention, their employees and representatives, successors or assigns, from any claims, demands, damages, actions, causes of actions which I, the undersigned, have or may hereafter, and on account of, or any way growing out of injuries or damages both to persons or property resulting or that may hereafter result from the voluntary venture.

¹ Each Volunteer is expected to have insurance in case of accident, injury or illness. Personal liability is the responsibility of the volunteer.

Appendix Five: Deployment Checklist (What to Take)

Deployment Checklist (*What to Take*)

(The following list is not a requirement, only suggestions. Coordinate with your Team Leader for any special requirements)

Devotional Material:

___ Bible and devotionals

Identification: ___ SBDR I.D. ___ Driver's License ___ Vehicle Registration (*vehicle you are driving*)
___ Completed Medical Release Form

Miscellaneous Items:

___ Cash ___ Credit Card ___ Notebook and pen or pencils

Clothing:

___ Disaster Relief Shirts and caps ___ Coats or Jackets (warm and cool) ___ Sleepwear
___ Jeans or work pants ___ Work shoes (Steel toe) ___ Waterproof footwear ___ Sneakers
___ Socks ___ Work gloves ___ Rain suit or poncho ___ Bandanas and handkerchief
___ Laundry bag

Health, Safety and Hygiene:

___ Medications (prescription and non-Prescription) ___ Allergy kit: bees etc. ___ Sunblock (15+)
___ Chapstick ___ Insect spray ___ Personal toiletries ___ Towels/washcloths
___ Diarrhea cure ___ Antacids ___ Laxative ___ A&D ointment ___ Foot powder
___ Antifungal ointment/spray

Food:

___ Special dietary food ___ Snacks ___ Drinking water

Supplies and Equipment:

___ Flashlight ___ Watch or clock ___ Canteen or water bottle
___ Bedding (twin size air or foam mattress, cot, covers and pillow) ___ Tent (optional, inquire first)
___ Special personal items you need for health, safety or comfort

Responding SBDR Team Standard Operating Procedures – Activation, Deployment and Travel

The following is policy adopted by SBDR State Directors in January, 2015

It is understood that emergencies arise that may impact the ability or appropriateness of following these procedures. Team leaders will be expected to communicate with the IMT when circumstances prevent adherence to the SOPs. It is expected that the IMT and Team Leader will work out an agreed upon course of action in these instances.

1. **Upon Activation** the Unit Leader will prepare a team roster and send it to the IMT using their convention's reporting protocols.
2. **Upon departure** for the response deployment location the Unit leader will report their departure to the IMT using their convention's reporting protocols. (This one report is for all team members. Unit leader is responsible for keeping track of team members traveling separately)
3. Team Leaders will contact the IMT when they are 20 minutes from their assigned deployment location.
4. Additional contact with the IMT is not required unless team arrival will be delayed by more than 1 hour from the reported ETA.
5. If the IMT needs to change an assigned traveling team's deployment location they will notify both the team's SBDR director and the traveling team.
6. Teams will plan their arrival for **not later than 9 pm** at the response deployment location. To allow time to bed down before lights out.
7. Teams will make every effort to arrive **in time for the evening meal**. To allow time for orientation and settling in before lights out.
8. Teams will plan their departure time to allow the team at least 10 hours of rest. Departures before breakfast must be planned in agreement with the IMT and the team's convention SBDR director.
9. **Teams will not travel more than 14 hours** (11 driving) without at least 10 hours of rest. (The Host Churches for Traveling Teams project will work diligently to provide safe, overnight housing for teams.)

Significant Events in Southern Baptist Disaster Relief History

1966	The Southern Baptist Convention authorized \$50,000 for the Home Mission Board to use in relief efforts.
1967	Hurricane Beulah ravaged the Rio Grande Valley and northern Mexico. Robert E. (Bob) Dixon had just moved from the First Baptist Church of Memphis, Tenn., to work with Royal Ambassadors and Texas Baptist Men. Following the devastation of Hurricane Beulah, Dixon used camp craft skills and turned one-gallon cans into miniature stoves called “buddy burners,” which were used to prepare hot food for survivors and volunteer workers. Texas Baptist Men responded to subsequent disasters and provided hot meals and the love of God in response to a tornado that cut a deadly swath through Lubbock and to Hurricane Celia’s devastation of Corpus Christi.
1971	Mary Hill Davis Texas State Mission Offering allotted \$25,000 for a disaster relief mobile feeding unit for Texas Baptist Men. With these funds Dr. John LaNoue and other volunteers purchased and converted a used 18-wheeler into the first mobile feeding unit.
1972	The mobile feeding unit made its maiden voyage after a flash flood struck the Seguin/New Braunfels area of central Texas. The unit prepared and served more than 2,500 hot meals to residents and disaster relief workers.
1973	SBDR volunteers responded to the first international disaster. An earthquake affected Managua, Nicaragua, and volunteers constructed buildings to house seven congregations. Oklahoma became the 2 nd convention to begin a disaster relief ministry.
1974	The 18-wheel mobile feeding unit and volunteers responded to Hurricane Fifi in Honduras.
1976	Louisiana and Kansas/Nebraska established disaster relief mobile units and joined Texas in this new area of ministry.
1977	North Carolina added disaster relief ministry.
1978	Mississippi added disaster relief ministry.
1979	Tennessee added disaster relief ministry.
1981	Alabama and Arkansas added disaster relief ministry.
1982-1988	Illinois, Kentucky, Florida added disaster relief ministry. **By 1988 there were 17 mobile units operated by 14 Baptist conventions, and they had responded to more than 200 disasters (domestic and international) and met the needs of thousands of victims.
1986	SBDR signed the American Red Cross Agreement of Understanding and the leadership structure of SBDR was formalized to include unit leaders (blue hats) to give proper direction to each unit. Ohio and Missouri begin disaster relief ministry.
1992	Following the response to Hurricane Andrew in August, there was a three-day debrief of the SBDR response, resulting in the creation of the Disaster Relief Operational Procedures (DROP) Manual to formalize training & establish protocols.
1994	The DROP (Disaster Relief Operations Procedure) Manual was officially adopted by the

convention SBDR directors, and an annual DR Roundtable meeting was established to review policies, provide training, network, and evaluate the year's activities. The white hat position was developed to provide overall coordination to the response in an area affected by disaster and to coordinate multiple ministry units.

Why is this important?

As more and more state conventions became involved in SBDR it became apparent that we needed, not only a way to review our policies but to apply new procedures learned and to communicate those changes effectively through an official, written document. The DROP Manual is a guide for joint efforts across the SBDR network providing a common language and outlining agreed upon role definitions and minimum standards. It is a living manual that is periodically updated.

1995	A Statement of Understanding was signed between the International Mission Board (IMB) and the Home Mission Board (HMB) to set up a process for Southern Baptists to respond to international disasters. New England, New York, Pennsylvania/South Jersey, and Maryland/Delaware create the Northeast Disaster Consortium.
1997	The Southern Baptist Convention adopted the <i>Covenant for the New Century</i> . The Brotherhood Commission, Radio & Television Commission, and the Home Mission Board were consolidated into one national agency – The North American Mission Board (NAMB). One of the ministry assignments given to NAMB was “to assist churches in the United States and Canada in relief ministries to victims of disaster.”
2001	Steps were taken to develop an incident command system (ICS) following the challenge of coordinating 32 conventions and more than 4,000 volunteers in response to the attacks of September 11. ICS is a disaster management process that has proven to be an effective and valuable tool. It is the model tool for command, control, and coordination of a response.
2002	Hurricane Lili (LA) brought the implementation of the Incident Command System (ICS) to coordinate 30 different disaster relief units from 15 conventions. A Statement of Understanding was signed with the Salvation Army following close partnership in feeding ministries during the September 11 response.
2003	Hurricane Isabel (NC, VA, MD, DE) involved 168 units from 24 conventions and included more than 2,245 volunteers.
2004	A Statement of Understanding was signed with Mercy Medical Airlift to provide transportation for SBDR and small cargo if the air transportation system was grounded by the Department of Homeland Security or Federal Aviation Administration as in 2001. SBDR documented 497 mobile units and more than 28,500 trained volunteers from 39 conventions.
2005	A Statement of Understanding was signed with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of the Department of Homeland Security. Hurricane Katrina becomes the costliest storm to date in U.S. history. Among the many records set: SBDR engaged 21,000 volunteers to assist 17,000 resident with chainsaw/mudout needs and prepared 14.6 million meals. The 4-year rebuild effort called Operation NOAH saw 26,000 more volunteers rebuild 460 homes, churches, and schools and complete an additional 1,300 recovery jobs.
2006	Arizona establishes its disaster relief ministry.
2008	Hurricanes Gustav and Ike ravage Texas and Louisiana. SBDR volunteers assisted nearly 4300 residents with cleanup and prepared over 5 million meals resulting in 194

	professions of faith.
2011	SBDJR documented 1552 mobile units and more than 82,000 trained volunteers from 43 conventions.
2012	Super Storm Sandy makes landfall in southern NJ, becoming the 3 rd costliest storm to date in US history. 7500 volunteers completed 2,100 recovery jobs and prepared 1.8 million meals. As a result, SBDJR established a working relationship with the state of NJ, an MOU with New York City, and a 3-year Rebuild project on Long Island, NY and Seaside Heights, NJ that saw 6,500 volunteers rebuild 287 homes and complete 636 more recovery jobs.
2017	Hurricanes Irma, Harvey, and Maria combine to become our largest simultaneous response to date . . . NAMB launches Send Relief Crisis Response.
2018	Hurricanes Florence and Michael impact Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. In North Carolina alone, 24 conventions respond to support 10 mobile feeding sites and 24 recovery sites. Overall, 7,200 recovery jobs were completed, nearly 2.3 million meals prepared, and 562 people made professions of faith.