



Disaster Spiritual Care Training Courses

NDIN Disaster Spiritual Care Curricula are compliant with NIMS (National Incident Management System) and include FEMA Incident Command System IS 100 training and certification. The courses also conform to the National VOAD* Points of Consensus for Disaster Spiritual Care.

*National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

NDIN trains and credentials faith leaders, spiritual care providers and institutional chaplains to volunteer as disaster chaplains or spiritual care workers in mass-care settings, or to serve their house of worship or local community during times of crisis.

TRAINING FOCUSES ON:

- How to work as members of an interdisciplinary team within the Incident Command System
- What to expect at disaster sites
- How to provide Spiritual First Aid and Psychological First Aid
- How to make appropriate assessments and referrals to Mental Health and other services
- How to develop and maintain holistic self-care practices

NDIN trainings utilize a comprehensive interfaith curriculum developed by NYDIS (New York Disaster Interfaith Services) in collaboration with Episcopal Relief and Development, and endorsed by an editorial review board of chaplains and religious leaders from major faith traditions. Our trainers teach these courses both in the metro-New York City area and anywhere in the U.S. by request.

EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL CARE IN DISASTERS

NDIN recognizes that all religions and faith traditions contain elements that promote healing of the human spirit, and that effective spiritual care at a disaster site requires non-faith-specific interventions. It upholds national standards of disaster care as set forth by National VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency).

NDIN trainings prepare providers of all faith traditions to offer spiritual and emotional support to persons of any faith or no faith impacted by disaster—rescue workers, families and friends of victims and rescue workers, volunteers and staff of relief organizations or agencies, and the larger community.

GUIDELINES FOR DISASTER CHAPLAINS & SPIRITUAL CARE WORKERS:

- Follow the Incident Command System structure, respecting the chain of command
- Respond sensitively to the needs of ALL who are affected, regardless of nationality, race, religion, belief, class, or sexual orientation
- Refrain from proselytizing, sermonizing, or promoting a particular religion or world view
- Recognize their personal and professional limits, working closely with other disciplines such as Mental Health

NATIONAL DISASTER INTERFAITHS NETWORK

4 West 43rd Street, Suite 604 • New York, NY • 10036

Phone: 212-669-6100 | Fax: 347-284-0054 | Email: info@n-din.org | Website: www.n-din.org

BUILDING DISASTER-RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

TRAININGS LEADING TO CERTIFICATION

Credentialing and deployment protocols for disaster chaplains or spiritual care workers vary from locality to locality. Most formal deployments require a federal background check and/or a local credential issued by a disaster interfaith network, a disaster chaplain network or a local government emergency management or mental health agency.

Emergency managers and disaster mental health professionals may take either the chaplain or spiritual care worker course to develop their knowledge of spiritual care best practices.

DISASTER CHAPLAIN CERTIFICATION (16 Hours)

This program trains chaplains and credentialed religious leaders to provide spiritual and emotional care during deployment to disaster sites as well as within their own communities. The curriculum comprises four 4-hour sessions offered over two days, covering disaster operations, disaster spiritual care, disaster mental health, and self-care for caregivers. (FEMA's on-line IS 100 course on the Incident Command System must be completed prior to this training.)

COURSE OUTLINE

Operations & Spiritual Care: General Principles; Trajectory of Interventions; Sites and Specifics

- Emotional and spiritual phases of the disaster "life cycle"
- Spiritual First Aid: PCAID (Presence, Connect, Assessment, Intervention, Develop Plan of Care) as an intervention appropriate in any phase of a disaster
- Disaster human services operations and disaster site operations
- Practice in applying principles of spiritual and emotional care in various disaster scenarios

Mental Health: Introduction; Impact of Disaster; Response and Reaction

- Phases of psychological reaction to disaster and impact on behaviors, thoughts, and feelings
- Psychological First Aid as a basic intervention that does not require professional training
- Indicators that referrals for professional mental health care may be appropriate

Self-Care: The Need and Techniques; Individual and Community Resilience

- The need for caregivers to develop effective self-care practices
- Practices that minimize compassion fatigue ("the cost of caring") and other stresses related to providing care in times of crisis
- Strategies to promote recovery and resiliency, especially through support systems that monitor, nourish and maintain self-care for individuals and communities

Pre-requisites: **1)** Written endorsement by a judicatory official and/or currently serve as a professional chaplain or licensed pastoral counselor and/or credentialed faith leader. **2)** Completion of the on-line FEMA IS 100 course on the Incident Command System.

SPIRITUAL CARE WORKER CERTIFICATION (4 Hours)

This course prepares "lay" leaders and caregivers to provide basic spiritual and emotional care during deployment in emergency settings such as mass-care facilities, evacuation centers, and Point of Distribution (POD) sites, as well as within their own house of worship or religious institution. Designed as a half-day or evening session, this training provides a basic introduction to Disaster Spiritual Care, Disaster Mental Health, and Self-Care, in an interactive format.

Pre-requisite: **1)** Endorsement, in writing, by the senior religious leader in your house of worship or religious institution. **2)** Completion of the on-line FEMA IS 100 course on the Incident Command System.

TRAINING FOR TRAINERS CERTIFICATION (16 Hours)

This program equips participants to train others in NDIN's Disaster Spiritual Care Curriculum. In addition to content review, this two-day training examines the characteristics of adult learners and models cooperative learning. **Pre-requisite:** Two-day NDIN Disaster Chaplain Training.

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