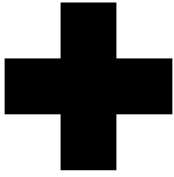


## BLUEGRASS CHAPTER



**American  
Red Cross**

# Disaster Services Training Guide

BASIC TRAINING REQUIREMENTS	PRIMARY DISASTER COURSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Orientation to the American Red Cross</b> (1 hour)</li><li>• <b>Disaster Services: An Overview</b> (3 hours)</li><li>• <b>CPR &amp; First Aid certification</b> CPR and First Aid certifications are good for two yaers. This class is free after you've completed 10 hours of volunteer service – this includes time spent in training.</li></ul>	<p><i>(If you are a mental health or health services professional, see pages 3 &amp; 4)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Disaster Assessment</b> (approximately 3 hours online + 3 hours classroom)</li><li>• <b>Client Casework</b> (6 hours)</li><li>• <b>Shelter Operations &amp; Simulation</b> (3 hours each)</li></ul>

*For all volunteer positions, there are **three** primary requirements:*

- (1) **You must attend at least two Disaster Services meetings per year.** These meetings provide continuing education and an opportunity to socialize with other disaster volunteers with whom you may be working in the future. The meeting also provides a way for our staff to ask for help on short or long term projects.
- (2) **You must respond to all quarterly call downs.** This is a disaster simulation where the chapter will call you requesting your availability for the next two days. This allows us to have a snap shot view of how many volunteers we have at any given time and also keeps our contact information up to date.
- (3) **You must make a good faith effort to complete all your training requirements within one year.**

# Disaster Volunteer Options

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You can choose **one or more** of the seven options below.

## **OPTION #1:**

### **LOCAL DISASTER VOLUNTEER**

Once you've completed the courses listed above, you are qualified to act as a local disaster volunteer. We will call you in the event of a local, large scale disaster to help in the shelters, serve on a damage assessment team, or assist with client casework.

## **OPTION #2:**

### **AFTER HOURS VOLUNTEER**

If you would like to provide immediate assistance to disaster victims on a regular basis by being on-call for single family fires, consider joining our Disaster Action Team. After Hours Volunteers are on-call after our normal business hours to respond to any small scale disasters. In addition to the courses above, you will need hands-on training with an experienced volunteer. This can be obtained by "shadowing" on a disaster call.

## **OPTION #3:**

### **DAYTIME ON-CALL VOLUNTEER**

If you would prefer not to volunteer after normal business hours, you can join our daytime on-call schedule. This will allow you to provide for the emergency needs of disaster clients when they occur Monday through Friday 8:00 AM-4:30 PM. Your schedule can be arranged by day or week, according to your preferences and availability. You will need hands-on training with an experienced volunteer. This can be obtained by "shadowing" on a disaster call.

## **OPTION #4:**

### **DSHR VOLUNTEER**

If you would like to be registered in our national database of disaster volunteers, the classes above are not all necessarily required, but will help you determine your area of interest (or activity, as it is commonly referred to). In order to be assigned, you will need the basic course in a minimum of three activities. By taking all of the courses listed above, you will have met this requirement. We recommend taking all of the above classes. Specific requirements for enrollment are listed on the DSHR Volunteer Description. Life experience is taken into consideration when placing you in an assignment, although Red Cross training is very important. Speak to Kerry Graul to explore all the possible activities on a disaster relief operation and to schedule the appropriate classes to reach your volunteer career goals.

## **OPTION #5:**

### **COMMUNITY DISASTER EDUCATION PRESENTER**

If you would like to present information on disaster preparedness to the general public, this opportunity does not require that you have all of the training listed above, but it is helpful. You will need to take the Community Disaster Education workshop (a 4 hour class) and co-teach with an experienced instructor until you are comfortable.

## **OPTION #6:**

### **DISASTER MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES VOLUNTEER\***

If you are licensed or certified to provide mental health services, you can serve in this capacity during a Red Cross disaster relief operation both locally and/or nationally. Disaster Mental Health Services provides emergency and preventative mental health services to people affected by disaster and to Red Cross workers assigned to a disaster relief operation. In addition, mental health professionals provide crisis counseling to single family disaster clients, as the need arises. You will need the following courses:

- Disaster Services: Overview
- Disaster Mental Health Services

## OPTION #7:

### DISASTER HEALTH SERVICES VOLUNTEER\*

Disaster Health Services (DHS) provides emergency and preventative health services to people affected by disaster and to Red Cross staff providing disaster relief. It also cooperates in approved appropriate research to mitigate disaster-related illness, injury, and death. Locally, Disaster Health Services Volunteers can opt to join the on-call schedule as a medical reference for our disaster caseworkers. You can serve in the Health Services capacity during a Red Cross disaster relief operation both locally and/or nationally, if you are in one of the following health disciplines:

- Physicians (M.D.s/D.O.s) with a current license
- Registered Nurses (R.N.s) with a current license
- Licensed Practical or Vocational Nurses (L.P.N.s/L.V.N.s) with a current license will work under the supervision or direction of an RN or physician
- Emergency Medical Technician (E.M.T.s/Paramedics) with a current license will work under the supervision or direction of an RN or physician
- Physician Assistants or Associates (P.A.s) with a current license will work under the supervision or direction of an RN or a physician
- Allied Health Workers (Nurses aides, orderlies, home health aides, and Red Cross “first aiders”) must have current certification in Red Cross First Aid and CPR to accept an assignment and must work under the supervision of an RN or physician
- Student nurses may work within the DHS function only if they have Red Cross First Aid training and work under the supervision and direction of a currently registered RN or a physician. Both the student and the RN or physician must agree to work within the Red Cross Disaster Health Services Protocols.

You will need the following courses:

- Disaster Services: Overview
- Disaster Health Services

**\*PLEASE NOTE:** For both mental health and health services volunteers, you are only required to take the courses listed under “Basic Training Requirements” and the courses specific to your area of expertise. However, the Bluegrass Chapter always encourages our volunteers to take all of the general classes. This enables you to have a comprehensive perspective on the entire disaster relief operation.