



Volunteer Travel Handbook



2010

During the past 7 years the SBCV's Disaster Relief ministry has grown and matured beyond any of our expectations. Except God's. I believe that by putting Him first in all aspects of this ministry and because what you are allowing Him to do through you, we have been blessed. We have been privileged to serve in two foreign countries and at least 14 different states, bringing God's love and compassion to hurting people.

The traits we talked about during your training, following directions and leading when called for, being flexible ... no, make that fluid, and possessing spiritual, moral and physical strength are all important. But none are more important than being ready, willing and able (trained) to share His story and Love. What sets us apart from other Disaster Relief organizations is God, and our purpose for going is to share the Love of Jesus with a lost and dying world. While we are doing that, through word and deed, we will meet the physical needs of the victims. We have an opportunity to make an eternal difference in people's lives and we must be bold in sharing our faith.

We must also recognize that this is not a time to share *our* story, but a time for listening. Only by being good listeners can we develop a relationship that will allow us the opportunity to share the Gospel.

As you prepare to go remember to lift each other up in prayer regularly and continue your personal devotion and quiet time so that you will be ready for the task set before you. Many will be praying for your safety and for your families as you go.

May God richly bless you for your willingness to serve Him.

Thank you.

Mark Gauthier, State Disaster Relief Director
SBC of Virginia

Upon Your Return

Rarely does a volunteer return from a disaster site unchanged. What you have seen and experienced will affect you. Debriefing should be provided by your home church. Each team member should make arrangements to meet with your pastor to spend time discussing the trip and its impact.

It is also important that you provide feedback through your team leader to your Ministry Area Disaster Relief Coordinator. This will allow us to review how the trips went and to discuss any needed modifications to policies or procedures.

Ensure any equipment taken on the trip is inventoried and inspected for proper working order. Nothing is more frustrating for a team to arrive at a DR site and discover broken or missing equipment.

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Upon Your Return

Overview of Disaster Relief

National Level – The North American Mission Board

NAMB oversees the Disaster Relief program of the Southern Baptist Convention. All state conventions with DR programs work in conjunction with NAMB.

All out-of-state requests for response are organized by NAMB as they act as liaison to the State Director of the affected state. We do not decide when we are dispatched to an out-of-state event, but rather wait for a call-out from NAMB.

Disaster Alert System (the status used by NAMB when activating units)

- **Alert** – there is a possibility a response will be needed
- **Standby** – there is a probability a response will be needed
- **Go** – a response is definite, move within six hours or less & check in every four hours with the NAMB DOC (Disaster Operations Center)
- **No Go** – may be diverted to Standby or Alert status or may be taken off the response plan.
- **Closing** – unit is no longer needed

On-Site on the Mission Field

Disaster Relief responses are different from other mission trips. It is NOT the time to tell your story, it is a time to listen to the victims story! It is important for them to be able to tell what happened to them – it is part of the healing process. You demean what they just experienced when you try to “one up them” with a similar story. Be a good listener and offer them your hand or a friendly shoulder to cry on instead.

Good Listener Skills

- Give complete attention
- Give occasional responses
- Ask for clarification if needed
- Avoid interrupting
- Be tolerant of new ideas
- Do not condemn
- Do not talk
- Do not tell your story
- Do not tell other’s story

On-Site on the Mission Field

Upon Arrival

The team leader will check in at the Incident Command Post. The team leader will be provided with the details concerning your stay, i.e., meals and snacks, sleeping arrangements, showers, team assignments. In some instances the team as a whole will receive an orientation from a member of the IC team. All volunteers will fill out a Personal Information Form that is kept on file while you are on-site working.

Do's and Do Not's

Do:

- Represent Jesus Christ
- Be prepared to share your faith
- Listen to victims
- Keep in confidence victim's information
- Respect the victim's property
- Ask permission before photographing
- Be sure of your information
- Refer to qualified person if necessary
- Make adjustments as needed
- Understand your limitations

Do Not:

- Tell Your Story!
- Use careless words or actions
- Spread rumors
- Accept contributions
- Exceed your training
- Expect favors
- Expect to work with only your group

Overview of Disaster Relief

State Level – The SBC of Virginia

Responses in-state are acted upon by the State Director. NAMB will act as a liaison if the state cannot handle the event on their own and requires additional assistance from other state DR programs.

The SBCV DR program began in November 2002 with a shower unit and has grown to 25 units and over 2400 trained volunteers.

Current Fleet:

3 Feeding units
2 Shower units
1 Water Closet
1 Power Generator
2 Bunkhouses
1 IC Post
11 Recovery units (chainsaw and mud-out)

State Leadership

State Director: Mark Gauthier – disasterrelief@sbcv.org

State Training Coordinator: Bob Williams – robertwilliams@prodigy.net

East Regional Coordinator: Eddie Urbine – eurbine@sbcv.org

West Regional Coordinator: Wayne Sink - drwaynesink@msn.com

Regional Coordinators:

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| South East (west) | Stan Owens | stowens03@yahoo.com |
| South East (east) | Ron Earley | ron.earley@cox.net |
| Central East | Bonnie Perry Dempsey Jones | bonnie@bonnieperry.com dempseyjones@remax.net |
| North/DC | Dwayne Reynolds | reynoldsjd@comcast.net |
| Central West | Cynthia Griffin | cynthia@reclaimlife.org |
| South West | Trish Herndon | pherndon@embarqmail.com |

Preparing To Go

Prior to making a commitment to 'Go'

- Discuss plans with your family and work
- Make arrangements to cover your obligations with: family, work, church, etc.
- Secure your "What to Take" items

When packing keep in mind that space is limited, however there are still items that will make your time in the affected area easier. Here are some suggestions...

What to Take Checklist

Devotional Materials

Bible, devotional, witnessing tracts

Identification

DR ID Badge, Driver's License, Vehicle Registration,
Phone numbers (family, physician, employer, church,
emergency contact)

Insurance Information

Health, Vehicle

Miscellaneous Items

Money (\$20-200) Cell Phone
Notebook, pencils or pens DR Travel Handbook

Clothing (4-7 day supply)

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| DR caps, shirts, jackets | Work Shoes | Coat/Jacket |
| Waterproof footwear | Jeans/Work Pants | Socks (2/day) |
| Shirts | Work Gloves | Underwear |
| Rain Suit/Poncho | Sleepwear | Sneakers |
| Bandanas/Handkerchief | Laundry Bag | |

Preparing To Go

What to Take Checklist – cont'd

Health, Safety, and Hygiene

Medicine – Prescription and Non-prescription

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Allergy Kit: bees, etc. | Sunblock SPF 15+ | Deodorant |
| Soap/Shampoo | Personal Needs | Dental Floss |
| Mouthwash | Chapstick | Towels |
| Toothbrush, Toothpaste | Washcloth | Comb/Brush |
| Hairspray | Shaving Cream | Razor |
| Diarrhea/Laxative Cures | Antacids | Insect Spray |
| Skin Lotion | Blister Kit | Foot Powder |
| Antifungal Ointment/Spray | Healing Ointment (Neosporin) | |

Food

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|--------|
| Personal Drinking Water | Diet Food | Snacks |
|-------------------------|-----------|--------|

Supplies/Equipment

| | | |
|--|-------------|------|
| Flashlight/Lantern | Watch/Clock | Tent |
| Canteen/Water Bottle | | |
| Bedding (air or foam mattress, cot, and covers) | | |
| Special personal items you need for health, safety, or comfort | | |

Remember to leave behind any info regarding where you are and how to contact you in case of emergency.