



Course: IS-505 Religious and Cultural Literacy and Competency in Disaster

Course Dates:

Course is now available online

Course Length:

This course can be completed in 5 hours.

Course Description:

In 2011, as FEMA Administrator, W. Craig Fugate began to promulgate the Whole Community Concept. Based on this concept, he stated that "When a disaster strikes, the initial services provided may not come from government, but rather from churches, synagogues, mosques and other faith-based and community organizations." "Improving the Nation's Response to Catastrophic Disasters: How to Minimize Costs and Streamline our Emergency Management Programs" – W. Craig Fugate, March 30, 2011.

Religious and cultural communities are part of the whole community, and the DHS Center for Faith-based & Neighborhood Partnerships works to form partnerships between the Federal Government and faith-based and neighborhood organizations to more effectively serve Americans in need.

As part of this effort, in partnership with the University of Southern California Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorist Events (CREATE), this course and its companion tip sheet resources have been developed with the University of Southern California Center for Religion and Civic Culture (CRCC) and the National Disaster Interfaiths Network. In addition, FEMA personnel assisted the development of the course by providing their relevant expertise

responding to disasters. The course provides emergency management professionals and faith and community leaders active in disaster with the religious literacy and competency tools needed to learn how to effectively engage religious and cultural groups and their leaders throughout the disaster lifecycle.

Course Goal:

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Explain why we engage religious and cultural communities in disaster, and how religious and cultural diversity and practice is not only protected by law but how it strengthens emergency management's capabilities.
- Define the meaning of religious and cultural literacy and competency in disaster management.
- Describe how religious and cultural language differs from government culture and language.
- Identify the skills needed to competently engage religious and cultural leaders and groups in the field.
- Describe each step in the six step "LEADER" process.

Prerequisites:

None.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Continuing Education Units (CEU's):

EMI awards 0.5 CEUs for completion of this course.

Target Audience:

This course is open to the general public.

To Apply:

FEMA Employees with access to the FEMA Network can access the course via the FEMA Employee Knowledge Center (FEKC) on the FEMA Intranet at <http://kc.fema.net/>

For further enrollment information, FEKC users may contact the FEKC System Administrator via email at FEKC@fema.dhs.gov or call 202-212-2089.

Independent Study Exams now require a FEMA Student Identification (SID) Number. If you do not yet have a SID, register for one today at: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid>. **Please do not contact the Independent Study program office as they are unable to provide assistance with these requests.**

This course is available on the FEMA Internet at <http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>. When you have completed the course, you may take the online test, fill out the student information and submit the test for scoring. FEMA's EMI Independent Study (IS) office will notify you via email of the results. If you successfully complete the test, a link will be included in the email for you to access and print your course certificate.

You may contact the IS office via email Independent.Study@fema.dhs.gov or contact the call center at (301) 447-1200 or toll free at 1-800-238-3358, extension 1200. IS office hours are **8:00am-6:00pm (ET) Monday-Friday, except Federal holidays.**

Points of Contact:

EMI: For additional information contact the course manager, Dianne Walbrecker, at (301) 447-1104 or by email at Dianne.walbrecker@fema.dhs.gov.

Center of Faith-based & Neighborhood Partnerships: partnerships@fema.dhs.gov

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TRAINING OPPORTUNITY