

2023 National Preparedness Symposium

Engaging Faith Based Community Organizations (FBCO) in Emergency Preparedness and Management

May 24, 2023 | Dr. Robert A. Christensen, Chief of Training, Exercises & Development
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But, Separation of Church & State… Right?

- **Forget religion!** That's not what this is about.
- **This is about a "place of assembly"** where human beings gather and need protection against, response to, and recovery from human suffering.
- **It's no different** from the senior center at the edge of town, the shopping center on the other end of town, or the elementary school in the middle of it.

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What We're Doing in New Hampshire

- **Developed a Team of Key Stakeholders**
  - Partnered with Department of Homeland Security
  - Partnered with US Attorney's Office
  - Connected with State and Congressional Leadership
- **Built a database of roughly a thousand "hot" FBCO contacts** (those who have attended our events)
  - Denominational Groups
  - Individual religious organizations
  - FBCO leadership; clergy groups

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Emergency Preparedness Seminars

Crawl, Walk, Run, just like any other All-Hazards approach

- **Three-hour EP presentations that cover:**
  - Whole Community Emergency Preparedness
  - Building and Maintaining an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)
  - Active Threat Response
- **Hold at municipal facilities, first responder training rooms, religious organizations, schools, etc.**
- **Always have a regional approach**

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Tabletop Exercises (TTX)

Crawl, Walk, Run, just like any other All-Hazards approach

- **Regional TTXs held in an area where we have had at least one EP Seminar (assumes an awareness of EOPs)**
- **Multiple tables at which FBCOs and first responders sit and collaborate on scenario response**
- **Three scenarios include medical emergency, suspicious package and active threat**
- **First responder grant money may be used but is not necessary; FBCOs are glad to provide facilities and refreshments. OT/Backfill may be a challenge otherwise**



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FMCO Webinars

- **Three weeks in a row** (to build momentum)
- **Tuesdays nights** (or any weeknight) **from 6pm to 8pm**
- **6 presentations including current topics of above average to high interest to FBCOs**
  - COVID in-person best practices
  - Cybersecurity
  - Leveraging the security guidance resources of your insurance company
  - Hate crimes
  - Building relationships with your first responders
  - Building and maintaining a culture of preparedness
  - Basic first aid, stop-the-bleed, etc.

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Critical Ingredients for Success

- **Passionately Engaged Team**
- **Agency** (and above) **Leadership Buy-In**
- **Intentionality and Inclusivity in Planning**
- **Authenticity, Humbleness, Compassion, Empathy, and Subject Matter Expertise**
- **Without these, more harm than good may result! Why? This is ALL about TRUST.**

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Emergency Management Partnerships: Leveraging the Power of FBCOs

- **FBCOs "did not augment the government response. Rather, they took the lead, and the government augmented their efforts."**
  - US DHS Science and Technology Directory-commissioned report, *Heralding Unheard Voices*, on Hurricane Katrina response

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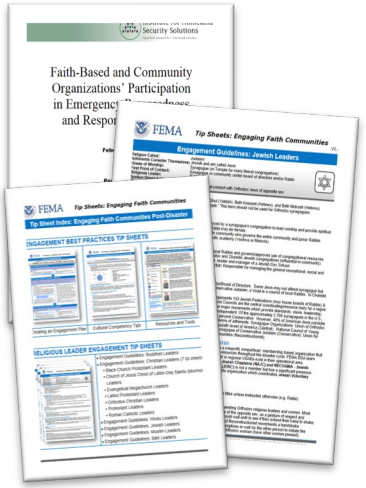
Starting from Scratch? Then Scratch Where They Itch!

- **Remember the WIIFM Principle—"What's in it for Me?"**
- **Local Emergency Managers**
- **First Responders**
- **Local Faith Based Community Organizations (FBCOs)**
- **Your Agency Leadership**
- **State and Congressional Leadership**

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FEMA Tips on Engaging Religious Communities

- **FEMA has a wealth of information, easily accessible and downloadable.**
- **DHS Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnership** (https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/individuals-communities/faith)
- **Religious Literacy Tip Sheets** (https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/individuals-communities/faith/cultural-and-religious-literacy-tip-sheets)
- **Disaster Involvement Research and Guidance** (https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/fema_faith-communities_desk-study-final-report_1.pdf)

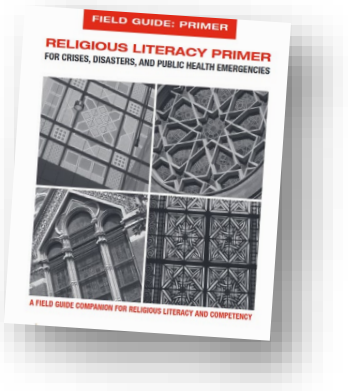


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USCDornsife Center for Religion and Civic Culture

- **USC Dornsife** Center for Religion and Civic Culture (https://crcc.usc.edu/)
- **Collaborated on FEMA Tip Sheets**
- **Field Guide for Religious Competency** (https://crcc.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/FieldGuide-HighRes.pdf)
- **The Religious Literacy Primer for Crises, Disasters and Public Health Emergencies** (https://crcc.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Primer-HighRes.pdf)





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National Disaster Interfaith Network (NDIN)

- **A treasure trove of FBCO resources developed in collaboration with USC Dornsife Center for Religion and Civic Culture** (https://n-din.org)
- **NDIN Field Guide Set & Trainings** (https://n-din.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/NDIN_Field_Guide_Set-Competency__Literacy_Trainings_v2.pdf)


National Disaster Interfaiths Network
USC Dornsife
RELIGIOUS LITERACY AND COMPETENCY
ENGAGING FAITH COMMUNITIES DURING CRISES, DISASTERS AND PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES
Field Guide Set & Trainings for Engaging Faith Communities
In March 2014, NDIN and the University of Southern California Center for Religion and Civic Culture published two new national tools, a *Field Guide* and a *Religious Literacy Primer* for crises, disasters and public health emergencies. The *Field Guide* is a how-to resource for engagement and partnerships, while its companion *Religious Literacy Primer* is an at-a-glance quick reference on twenty-four of the largest faith traditions in the United States. Using these tools, NDIN offers trainings to government and non-profit organizations seeking to enhance their religious literacy, competency and ability to engage faith communities as partners.
Reviewer Comments:
Working with U.S. Faith Communities During Crises, Disasters, and Public Health Emergencies: A Field Guide for Engagement, Partnerships, and Religious Competency is a guide for engaging and building sustainable and competent partnerships with faith communities throughout the entire disaster lifecycle. The American religious landscape of 2014 is more complex and diverse than it has ever been in the past. The *Field Guide* provides guidance and best practices on how to approach religious leaders, congregations and faith-based organizations that make up this landscape to build durable, institutional relationships, and develop sustainable, faith-based emergency preparedness and response programs.
RELIGIOUS LITERACY PRIMER
The Religious Literacy Primer for Crises, Disasters, and Public Health Emergencies is a quick reference tool providing at-a-glance information on basic religious literacy for 24 of the largest religious communities in the United States. It is geared toward enabling emergency managers, public health officials, first responders, voluntary agencies, and others involved in disaster response and recovery to understand how faith communities and emergency management intersect. The *Primer* can guide practitioners in their interactions within disaster-affected communities by moving beyond simplistic understandings of religious beliefs and practices to provide guidance for physical interactions/etiquette, religious symbols, information on holidays, dietary restrictions, and provision of post-disaster mass care including feeding, shelter, medical treatment, and mental health care and spiritual care.
To View or Download: http://www.n-din.org/ndin_resources/FieldGuideSet.php
National Disaster Interfaiths Network | 4 West 43rd Street - Suite 407, New York, NY 10036 | www.n-din.org | info@n-din.org | 212.659.5100
BUILDING DISASTER RESILIENT COMMUNITIES
Continued on reverse

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Mobilize FBCOs in Your Local Area

- **MGT 405 *Mobilizing Faith Based Community Organizations in Preparing for Disaster* Class**
  (https://ruraltraining.org/course/mgt-405/)
- **Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium (RDPC)**
- **In-Person and Virtual Delivery Formats**
- **Contact your State Training Officer (STO) to request**

The Center for Rural Development

RDPC
Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium



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- **Questions / Additions?**
- **For further information, contact:**

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