

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CHAPLAINCY SPECIALIST

RESOURCE CATEGORY	Medical and Public Health
RESOURCE KIND	Personnel
OVERALL FUNCTION	The Behavioral Health Chaplaincy Specialist provides spiritual and emotional support to staff, emergency responders, and the public during times of stress
COMPOSITION AND ORDERING SPECIFICATIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This position can be ordered as a single resource or in conjunction with a NIMS typed team (Behavioral Health Community Services Team). 2. Discuss logistics for deploying this position, such as security, lodging, transportation, and meals, prior to deployment 3. This position typically works 12 hours per shift, is self-sustainable for 72 hours, and is deployable for up to 14 days

Each type of resource builds on the qualifications of the type below it. For example, Type 1 qualifications include the qualifications in Type 2, plus an increase in capability. Type 1 is the highest qualification level.

COMPONENT	SINGLE TYPE	NOTES
DESCRIPTION	<p>The Behavioral Health Chaplaincy Specialist:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinates information and liaises on family support service options with other appropriate agencies 2. Meets with families and individuals who experience emotional or spiritual difficulties during disasters and emergency incidents 3. Offers guidance to staff, emergency personnel, and the public during times of stress 4. Works to coordinate activities and events for after-work hours for responders to ease the stresses of long work cycles 5. Advocates for periods of respite and self-care, for responders and behavioral health caregivers, to ease the stresses of long work cycles 6. Provides discretion and confidentiality of all verbal and written documentation concerning the deceased, next-of-kin (NOK), and family members 7. Provides referral to other specialized resources, including behavioral health 8. Delivers or accompanies law enforcement during death notifications 9. Coordinates the inclusion of diverse cultural and religious values and traditions, as indicated by the spiritual and emotional needs of the impacted population 	Not Specified
EDUCATION	Completion of a Master's degree in theology, mental health, substance abuse counseling, or equivalent from an accredited college or university	Not Specified
TRAINING	<p>Completion of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IS-100: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS-100 2. IS-200: Incident Command System for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents 3. IS-368: Including People with Disabilities and Others with Access and Functional Needs in Disaster Operations 4. IS-505: Religious and Cultural Literacy and Competency in Disaster 5. IS-700: National Incident Management System, An Introduction 6. IS-800: National Response Framework, An Introduction 7. Psychological First Aid (PFA) Training (minimum four hours) 	Not Specified

Superseded

COMPONENT	SINGLE TYPE	NOTES
EXPERIENCE	Two years of experience as a cleric or chaplain that is compatible and relevant to the settings of disaster chaplaincy	Not Specified
PHYSICAL/MEDICAL FITNESS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Performs duties under moderate circumstances characterized by working consecutive 12-hour days under physical and emotional stress for sustained periods of time 2. Is able to work while wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) during shift 3. Maintains immunizations in accordance with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommended adult immunization schedule for the United States of America 	PPE is mission-specific and may vary by working environment, including protective footwear, protective clothing for skin exposures, eye and hearing protection, respirators, gloves, and masks.
CURRENCY	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Functions in this position during an operational incident, exercise, drill, or simulation at least once every five years 2. Ongoing, active participation with an established health care related providing entity such as a hospital, health system, agency, service, National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD), or private practice providing crisis intervention or disaster behavioral health expertise 3. Immunizations up-to-date commensurate with mission assignment 4. Background checks as applicable law permits or requires 	Provider must carry out and use any background checks as applicable law specifies. This may include a background check completed within past 12 months, sex offender registry check, and a local, state, and national criminal history.
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Professional certification in Mental Health or Substance Abuse Counseling, or ordination, commission, or certification from a recognized religious body 2. Current certification, licensure, ordination, or commission as Behavioral Health/Chaplaincy Specialist 	Not Specified

Superseded



Position Qualification for Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Medical Services
Medical and Public Health

NOTES

Nationally typed resources represent the minimum criteria for the associated category.

REFERENCES

1. FEMA, NIMS 508: Behavioral Health Community Services Team
2. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Immunization Recommendations for Disaster Responders
3. National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, Disaster Spiritual Care Guidelines, 2014
4. National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG), National Incident Management System Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide, PMS 310-1, Physical Fitness Levels, October 2016

Superseded