

Department Chaplain

CHAPTER 18.1

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**Submitted by:
Operations/Elmore**

Approved by: Chief of Fire Rescue

Objective

To provide for the full range of Department personnel needs through the establishment of a comprehensive chaplaincy program within Alachua County Department Fire Rescue.

Appointment

Because of the major risks and constant stressors faced by fire and EMS personnel in the line of duty, a chaplain will be appointed to function within Alachua County Fire Rescue.

The Chaplain will be appointed by written order of the Director.

General Guidelines for the Chaplain

The Chaplain does not replace the home church pastor, but seeks to support the concern of every church for its members who may be in professions with special risks or needs. Moreover, the Chaplain must be for the advantage of every member of the department, regardless of his or her nationality, race, sex, or religion.

Any communication a person makes to the Chaplain is on a strictly confidential basis and will not be released to department members or any other person. Any personnel may go to the Chaplain without having to notify his or her supervisor or anyone else.

Any Department officer or member (including administrative staff) who is made or becomes aware of any situation which may need the response of the Chaplain may contact the Chaplain directly. Department administration will keep current telephone numbers for the Chaplain. The Chaplain may also be contacted through Department administration if desirable. Examples of situations where the Chaplain may be contacted include, but are not limited to:

- Death, injury to, or hospitalization of a department member.
- Death, injury to, or hospitalization of a department member's spouse or child.
- Death in a department member's immediate family (i.e. any family member covered under the department's bereavement leave provisions).

Duties of the Chaplain

The below listed duties constitute a brief summary of what may actually be required in any situation that may be encountered.

Emergency Situation

- The Chaplain may respond when contacted by CCC at the request of a Chief Officer or IC. The Chaplain will report to the ICP and will be under the IC's authority. Chaplain response is as follows:
 - Critical injury or death of member of the department or members spouse or children.
 - Whenever the IC determines that the services of the Chaplain may be of value in the ongoing operations. This may include situations where:
 - The victim or the family requests the services of a chaplain or clergy.

Hospital

- The Incident Commander or Officer determines that the employee or their immediate family may need support or counsel not provided by the hospital.
- The employee's family needs to be located and notified.

Follow up Actions

- Provide appropriate employee assistance to free operational personnel for on scene duties.
- Comfort and counsel.
- Referral to appropriate agencies for assistance.
- Help contact persons, insurance agents, family members, etc. in all cases, the Chaplain will find out the victim's church or religious preference and attempt to notify the pastor or church.
- Provide appropriate assistance to on scene personnel.
- Watch for signs of emotional and physical stress.
- Assist in providing personnel needs (CISM, Rehab, etc.)
- Work closely with Rehab officers to monitor personnel.

Post B Emergency Duties

- Conduct follow-up to insure personnel are receiving necessary assistance.
- Insure personnel needs are met in the areas of on the job injuries, CISM, etc.

Routine Duties

- Visit with personnel.
- Visit hospitalized department members and members of their immediate family.
- Be available for helping or counseling members of the department when requested.
- Attend Department functions when requested.
- Conduct funeral/memorial services as needed and requested.
- Be an active member of the CISM team.
- Represent the Department goals and concerns to the churches and religious institutions of the community.