



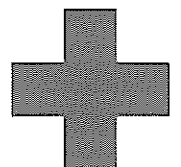
Statement of Understanding

Between

*The American
National
Red Cross*

and The North American Mission Board,

Southern Baptist Convention



**American
Red Cross**

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I. Purpose

The purpose of this Statement of Understanding (SOU) is to affirm a spirit of cooperation between the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention (NAMB) and The American National Red Cross (hereinafter referred to as the American Red Cross or the Red Cross) and its chapters in order that both may continue to render maximum effective service in time of disaster.

II. Concept of Operations

Each party to this SOU is a separate and independent organization. As such, each organization retains its own identity in providing service, and each organization is responsible for establishing its own policies and financing its own activities.

III. Definition of Disaster

A disaster is an occurrence such as a hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, earthquake, volcanic eruption, drought, blizzard, pestilence, famine, fire, explosion, building collapse, transportation accident, or other situation that causes human suffering or creates human needs that the victims cannot alleviate without assistance.

IV. Authority of the American Red Cross

In providing disaster relief, the American Red Cross has both a legal and a moral mandate that it has neither the authority nor the right to surrender. The American Red Cross has both the power and the duty to act in disaster, and our prompt action is clearly expected and supported by the public.

The American Red Cross authority to perform disaster services was formalized when the organization was chartered by the Congress of the United States in 1905. Among other provisions, this charter charged the Red Cross—

to continue and carry on a system of national and international relief in time of peace and apply the same in mitigating the sufferings caused by pestilence, famine, fire, floods, and other great national calamities, and to devise and carry on measures for preventing the same.
-U.S. Congress, act of January 5, 1905, as amended, 36 U.S.C.

The authority of the American Red Cross to provide disaster services was reaffirmed by federal law in the 1974 Disaster Relief Act (Public Law 93-288) and in the 1988 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

V. Organization of the American Red Cross

The national headquarters of the American Red Cross is located in Washington, D.C. National headquarters is responsible for implementing policies and regulations that govern American Red Cross activities, and for giving administrative and technical supervision and guidance to the chartered units. Chartered units include chapters and Blood Services regions. The Board of Governors has delegated to the duly-constituted volunteer governing board of each chartered unit the authority and responsibility for: (a) governance of the chartered unit, (b) delivery of authorized services in the territorial jurisdiction of the chartered unit, and (c) meeting corporate obligations in conformance with and subject to the limitations stated in corporate regulations.

The American Red Cross provides the following five (5) services: Service to the Armed Forces, Biomedical Services, Disaster Services, Preparedness and Health and Safety Services, and International Services.

Each chartered unit has the authority and responsibility for carrying out the purposes of the American Red Cross, for delivering local American Red Cross services, and for meeting corporate obligations within the territorial jurisdiction assigned in conformity with corporate regulations. The chartered units ("Chapters") coordinate their work through voluntary state councils. There are more than 750 chapters across the United States

Each chapter is responsible for providing disaster planning, preparedness, education, and response. Each chapter has a disaster leadership team or committee. This team or committee studies the hazards of the locality and surveys local resources for personnel, equipment, supplies, transportation, emergency communications, and facilities available for disaster relief. The chapter disaster leadership also formulates cooperative plans and procedures with local government agencies and private organizations for carrying on relief operations should a disaster occur. Through its nationwide organization, the American Red Cross coordinates its total resources for use in large disasters.

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Services will be provided to those in need regardless of citizenship, race, religion, age, sex, or political affiliation.

VI. Authority of North American Mission Board (NAMB)

The Southern Baptist Convention was organized May 8, 1845 in Augusta, Georgia. The purpose of the Convention—

is to provide general organization for Baptist in the United States and its territories for the promotion of Christian missions at home and abroad and any other objects such as Christian education, benevolent enterprises and social services which it may deem proper and advisable for the furtherance of the Kingdom of God.

From the Southern Baptist Convention's beginning, benevolence and social services have been part of the life of the Convention. During the period June 17-19, 1997, in Dallas, Texas, the Southern Baptist Convention reorganized and the North American Mission Board was created. One of the Ministry Assignments of the North American Mission Board is "to assist churches in the United States and Canada in relief ministries to victims of disaster."

Southern Baptists function within four autonomous bodies. There are some 45,000 churches and missions located throughout the United States and its territories. These churches are organized into approximately 1,200 local associations (frequently along county lines) and 42 state Baptist conventions and associations, including all 50 states. The North American Mission Board provides assistance to these churches, associations, and state conventions. While there is a strong sense of cooperation among these bodies, there is no hierarchical line of authority between them.

"Disaster relief" refers to assistance to persons and/or churches deprived of the essential needs of life because of widespread disasters resulting from flood, fire, earthquake, hurricane, or similar catastrophes, including the effects of war or public disorder causing physical or economic deprivation.

The objective in providing relief is to provide immediate, temporary and long-term help to persons and/or churches suffering from the effects of a widespread disaster.

Responsibility for initiating the Ministry Assignment for Southern Baptist disaster relief lies with

NAMB.

State Baptist Conventions administer disaster relief operations within normal fiscal provisions and time limits within their respective states. Since each state Baptist convention is autonomous, there may be significant differences in definitions related to disaster relief, including financial aid, volunteer services, and channels through which they are administered. All equipment owned by individual state Baptist Conventions, associations, and churches are subject to that state's policies and guidelines. In state Conventions, the responsibility for enlisting, training, and involving volunteers is assigned to the department that works with the organization of Southern Baptist Men and other volunteers.

The National Disaster Relief Director of the North American Mission Board coordinates relief efforts in times of multi-state response or when requested by an affected state Baptist convention.

Types of service Southern Baptists provide include—

- Feeding (mobile kitchens and fixed feeding sites).
- Temporary emergency child care.
- Cleanup (mud-out following floods, chain-saw/debris removal following storms).
- Reconstruction/rebuilding.
- Casework.
- Communications.
- Chaplains.
- Shower and laundry units.
- Interpreters.
- Bulk distribution of goods and supplies.
- Shelters.
- Aviation incident response.

VII. Service support

Care shall be taken to enlist the cooperation of the local state Baptist convention, associations and churches in the disaster area.

While maintaining the identity of the state Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention, every possible effort shall be made to cooperate fully with all official welfare and disaster agencies and volunteer groups, public or private.

VIII. Methods of Cooperation

In order that the resources of the American Red Cross and the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief may be coordinated and used to the fullest advantage in

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rendering disaster relief, both organizations have agreed to the following:

1. Close liaison will be maintained between American Red Cross national headquarters and NAMB, through the national disaster relief director at NAMB in Alpharetta, Georgia, by conferences, meetings, telephone, facsimile, e-mail and other means. Each organization will share current data regarding disasters, disaster declarations, and changes in legislation. The same interaction and liaison will be encouraged at all levels of both organizations.
2. Each organization, through its chapters and other administrative units of each organization with general guidance and assistance from their national units, will determine the need for joint training and exercises. Also these units may perform other cooperative efforts such as disaster preparedness and planning, first aid, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR), health courses and community disaster education.
3. Southern Baptist Disaster Relief may provide volunteers to assist families who have special needs with disaster-related repair and rebuilding of their homes or with clean up of property. Red Cross may refer clients with these type needs to Southern Baptist Disaster Relief; however, this activity will not be under the supervision, direction or control of the American Red Cross.
4. The NAMB may provide volunteers to assist the American Red Cross in disaster relief roles such as casework, translation and interpreter services, damage assessment (broadly classifying as "no damage, minor damage, major damage, or destroyed with no dollar values assigned), shelter management, mass feeding, mental health care, child care, bulk/direct distribution or other disaster services, as mutually agreed upon. Except as set forth below, all such personnel shall be at all times considered a Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteer. The American Red Cross and the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief personnel may serve on each other's local disaster committees and/or boards as mutually agreed upon.
5. Upon successful completion of training as an American Red Cross volunteer, and when under the direct supervision and control of the American Red Cross, personnel from Southern Baptist Disaster Relief as mutually agreed upon, shall be treated as an American Red Cross volunteer for a mutually agreed upon task or function, and shall have all the responsibilities and be entitled to all the privileges of an American Red Cross volunteer for the designated period in accordance with, and subject to, all American Red Cross standards and regulations. As appropriate, the American Red Cross will provide identifying apparel or badges to wear in any activities performed in accordance with this SOU.
6. Southern Baptist Disaster Relief will support Red Cross, where appropriate, to carry out taskings under the National Response Plan, Emergency Support Function #6, Mass Care and in aviation incidents.
7. The Red Cross and Southern Baptist Disaster Relief will encourage their leaders in chapters, disaster service centers, and units to share damage assessment surveys, appropriate referral information, and other vital statistical data with each other on the local level.
8. On disaster operations, the designated Southern Baptist Disaster Relief operations coordinator will work closely with the Red Cross operation management to ensure coordination of efforts. Functions with which activities should be coordinated include Mass Care, Material Support Services, Staff Services, Partner Services, Organizational Support Services, and Operations Management.
9. Recognizing the need for advising the public of the work of both organizations, the American Red Cross and SBDR and the state Baptist Convention will make every effort, through their public information offices during the time of disaster, to keep the public informed of their cooperative efforts and assist each other in obtaining proper recognition of their roles in disaster operations.
10. The Red Cross will provide food and other supplies for Southern Baptist Disaster relief feeding units when they are working in cooperation with the Red Cross. These units will remain in the disaster area until both organizations mutually agree that they are no longer needed.
11. Each organization will recognize the capability of the other to give assistance to disaster victims. The Red Cross and Southern Baptist Disaster Relief may refer clients to each other for disaster assistance. During disaster operations, liaison will be maintained between the two organizations to ensure

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- cooperation, to expedite services to those in need, and to minimize duplication of services.
12. Each organization will maintain its own separate identity.
 13. The American Red Cross and the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief will inform their chapters, other units or departments, and administrative offices of, and otherwise widely distribute, this agreement and will urge full cooperation with each other.
 14. The Southern Baptist Disaster Relief will encourage participation and coordination of services between its departments and the American Red Cross for mutual service to the community.
 15. The American Red Cross and the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief will actively seek to determine other areas/services within their respective organizations where cooperation and support will be mutually beneficial and to amend this Statement of Understanding accordingly to include such agreements.
 16. The two organizations agree that any expenses incurred as a result of cooperation or collaboration under the terms of this Statement of Understanding will be apportioned as agreed to in writing by both parties prior to incurring such expenses.
 17. The use of the name and emblem of the American Red Cross by the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief shall be allowed only in the case of particular projects undertaken pursuant to the prior express written consent of the American Red Cross and when such projects are in conformity with American Red Cross regulations.
 18. The NAMB recognizes that the American Red Cross is dependent primarily upon voluntary public financial support to carry out its programs. The Southern Baptist Disaster Relief will be sympathetic with the position of the American Red Cross in conducting special appeals and campaigns for funds during times of disaster, and will help interpret the need for such to its membership.

IX. Periodic Review

Representatives of the American Red Cross Disaster Services and the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief staff will, on an annual basis, on or around the anniversary date of this agreement, jointly evaluate progress in the implementation of the Statement of Understanding and revise and develop new plans or goals as appropriate.

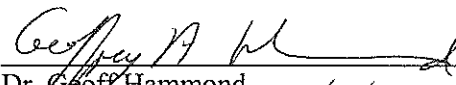
X. Term of Statement of Understanding

This SOU shall be effective on September 1, 2007 and terminate on December 31, 2011. Six months prior to termination, the parties shall meet to review the progress and success of the SOU and determine whether it shall be extended for an additional five years. In no event shall any extension of this SOU be for a period exceeding five years.


It is understood by both parties that at any time this Statement of Understanding may be terminated by written notification from either party to the other.

XI. Miscellaneous

This Statement of Understanding does not create a partnership or a joint venture, and neither party has the authority to bind the other. Detailed Operating Procedures are included with the initial distribution of this Statement of Understanding. They include Responsibilities of the American Red Cross when activating the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Feeding Units, Responsibilities of the Southern Baptist Feeding units when activated by the American Red Cross, Financial Procedures, Travel and Maintenance Costs, and Requests for Reimbursement. Due to the frequency of possible changes, these procedures will be maintained separately from the Statement of Understanding. They will be reviewed on an annual basis, on or around the anniversary date of this agreement, and revised and new procedures developed as appropriate. Personnel of both organizations should contact their national offices to ensure they have the most current versions of the procedures before activation.



Dr. Geoff Hammond 2/4/08
President,
North American Mission Board, SBC



Joseph Becker
Senior Vice President
Preparedness and Response
The American National Red Cross

Date: 1/22/08