

Meaning. Purpose. Hope.

Due to the cumulative nature of traumatic events, communities and states that have been impacted multiple times by disasters have emotional and spiritual care needs that cannot be clearly tied to one single event. We are so very thankful for those who provide funding for our program and recognize the importance of emotional and spiritual care efforts far beyond the most immediately visible needs.

Vital Partnerships

Some of our greatest accomplishments have emerged as a result of our strong cross-agency relationships with governmental and non-profit partners such as the Oklahoma National Guard, the Mental Health Association Oklahoma, Tinker Air Force Base, the Oklahoma Medical Reserve Corp (particularly their Stress Response Team), the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the Salvation Army, the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Red Cross, and our valued faith-based partners. Numerous multi-agency initiatives continue to bear fruit through shared deployments and cross-agency trainings.

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Oklahoma Conference
of Churches



Disaster Emotional & Spiritual Care

The Oklahoma Conference of Churches' Disaster Emotional and Spiritual Care ministry prepares, trains, and deploys faith communities and faith leaders to provide healing and hope following disasters.



OKChurches.org/emotional-and-spiritual-care

Who We Are...



As a national benchmark program in disaster spiritual care, the Oklahoma Conference of Churches continues to respond to disasters across the state. Our disaster emotional and spiritual care program, launched in response to the Central Oklahoma 2013 tornadoes, has now expanded state-wide thanks to the financial support of local, state, and national faith-based partners. Our disaster spiritual care team now includes more than **208 trained disaster spiritual care providers** representing **32 denominations**.

Serving Disaster-Affected Oklahomans



In addition to numerous preparedness events, trainings, and presentations, OCC has responded to an exceptionally large number of Oklahoma disasters over the past few years.

We have responded to 16 recent Oklahoma disasters:

- 2015 March: Moore EF-2 Tornado; Sand Springs/Sapulpa Tornado
- May: Moore & Bridge Creek Tornado; Flooding in 45 Counties
- October: OSU Homecoming Parade crash
- December: NE OK Flooding
- 2016 March: Tulsa, Claremore, Verdigris Tornado
- May: Central OK Tornado; SE OK Tornado
- June: Lawton & Maysville area Flooding
- September: 5.8 Earthquake, Pawnee
- November: 5.0 Earthquake, Cushing
- 2017 March: Northwest OK Wildfires
- May: Elk City Tornado



What We Do...



Tinker Air Force Base Memorandum of Understanding

In February of 2016, OCC signed a first-of-its-kind Memorandum of Understanding with the Tinker Air Force Base Chaplain's Office. As a part of our ongoing relationship with the Tinker Air Force Base, OCC "Blue Tags" have begun assisting with civilian needs through the base chaplain's office. Several of our team leaders and members have received official base access credentials.

Training

OCC's Disaster Spiritual Care Academy training format trains three categories for credentialed Disaster Spiritual Care Providers, each with specific training courses, qualifications, and accountability requirements. Participants work toward credentialing as "**Local Spiritual Care Responders**," "**Deployed Spiritual Care Responders**," and "**Disaster Spiritual Care Team Leaders**." Training is consistent with National VOAD training competency and ethical standards.

To view our training calendar and credentialing requirements, visit our webpage provided on the back!



Disasters bring to the surface our deepest questions about meaning, hope, and our very existence – questions that are, by definition, spiritual in nature. Through our ongoing work, OCC stands ready to reassure, encourage, and help in very practical ways.