

The Ohio Federation of Fire Chaplains

“Serving those who serve”

The Ohio Federation of Fire Chaplains support the ministries of volunteer and paid fire departments chaplains, and assists fire service agencies in developing their chaplaincy programs.

The OFFC is affiliated with and supports the Federation of Fire Chaplains on the national level, providing automatic membership and networking with the addition of a statewide certification and accountability system for fire and EMS chaplains.

The OFFC offers programs that provide its members with educational opportunities in training conferences and materials.

Assistance is given to fire service organizations seeking to start or improve their chaplaincy programs.

The OFFC provides a standard of care and training for chaplains.

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- OFFC has Members all across the state
 - OFFC is non-denominational, non-sectarian, with no compromise on individual convictions.

Benefits to Members

- Written materials designed to help chaplains implement and sustain effective programs
- Updates each year to keep chaplains current in their field
- Educational opportunities are offered in annual conferences, regional meetings, and within the state
- A Chaplain Directory is provided to all members to provide a network of mutual support and informational sharing
- Provides a standing in a professional organization
- Certificates for completed training are provided
- Chaplain identification is provided through identification cards, membership certificates, arm patches, and automobile decals
- Outlines and programs for annual Memorial Services are provided

Benefits to Department

- Provides information on establishing a chaplaincy program
- Gives chaplain training through conferences, lesson materials, and articles
- Gives support and encouragement to the chaplain
- Keeps the chaplain abreast of the latest programs and developments in the field
- Provides a standard of care and training

Membership

Membership is open to all who are involved with the fire service chaplaincy. Some of our members are full-time career chaplains; the majority are volunteers. Others are firefighters or EMS or paramedics who have religious training, denominational officials, laypersons, or seminary students.

Membership Qualifications

Members are...

- Appointed to the chaplaincy by a Fire/EMS service agency
- Endorsed by their religious body for the ministry as a chaplain
- Currently serving as a Fire Department/EMS chaplain
- Appointed to serve as a chaplain by a Fire service/EMS agency but lack the ecclesiastical endorsement
- Former Fire Department/EMS chaplains who are not currently serving in that capacity
- Fire/EMS chaplains who are retired, and who want to still be a part of the network

Affiliate Members are...

- Individuals or groups that have a interest in and are supportive of the objects and the goals of the Ohio Federation of Fire Chaplains

What Emergency Service Chaplains Do

Fire service chaplains may perform some or all of the following duties:

- ❖ Counsel firefighters and EMS personnel
- ❖ Counsel other fire department members
- ❖ Counsel family members of firefighters and other department personnel
- ❖ Visit sick and injured emergency service workers at home or in the hospital
- ❖ Make death notifications
- ❖ Provide assistances to victims of crisis situations
- ❖ Teach emergency service workers in areas such as stress management, ethics, family life, and victim response
- ❖ Serve as part of a Critical Incident Stress Team (where available)
- ❖ Assist at the emergency scene
- ❖ Serve as liaison with other clergy in the community
- ❖ Provide for the spiritual needs of department members and their families
- ❖ Offer prayers at special occasions such as recruit graduations and award ceremonies
- ❖ Provide a listening ear
- ❖ Coordinate and provide family services in the event of a serious injury or death or an emergency service worker
- ❖ Serve as a ready resource for the chief or agency director

For Further Information Contact:

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A Fireman's Prayer

*When I am called to duty, Lord
Wherever flames may rage.
Give me strength to save some life
Whatever be its age.
Help me embrace a little child
Before it is too late,
Or save an older person from the
Horror of that fate.
Enable me to be alert
And hear the weakest shout,
And quickly and efficiently
To put out fire out.
I want to fill my calling
And give the best in me.
To guard my every neighbor
And protect his property.
And if I am to lose my life
According to my fate,
Please bless with you protecting hand
My children and my mate. Amen*

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*He has sent me to bind up the broken
hearted...
To give unto them beauty for ashes...
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.*
Isaiah 61

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