

2/22/22

## Canines 4 Christ Crisis Response Guidelines

These guidelines have been approved by the Board of Directors and must be followed when Canines 4 Christ (C4C) volunteers have an opportunity to respond to a crisis.

In any crisis, C4C could have members impacted by it. If you are aware of a member in need, let's be the first to extend the hand of Christian fellowship and support to them. If it's you who is impacted, please remember your first responsibility is to your family and home. Let C4C be your extended family and help you if we can. You and your dog can provide wonderful care to your neighbors and family members, but if you are a Chaplain C4C team member please pass on a team assignment until you are no longer a victim and have discussed your situation with leadership.

Our program has 7 objectives which are woven into all processes and prayers.

1. Train members to participate in the organized CR management process.
2. Provide a safety mechanism for all members and their dogs.
3. Help decide if a request is a current or potentially approvable C4C mission.
4. Ensure proper documentation of deployment is being collected.
5. Provide an off-site contact when possible and appropriate with the requesting official so we can build future organizational relations.
6. Support members, if needed, while working a crisis.
7. Ensure C4C volunteers are in the right place, at the right time to share hope and peace and, if the Spirit leads, the plan of Salvation.

Definition of approved responses can probably best be articulated by a smaller list of what is not approved. **C4C volunteers are not First Responders.** We are not to be ministering in the field, streets, in or on the water of an ongoing crisis. If you are in the same areas where search and rescue personnel and their dogs are working, you are not where our core mission can best be achieved. We provide Support to victims, and we don't want you to become a victim. We hope and pray no one will accept a non-approved job that would put you and your dog into harm's way.

You and your dog should only be in controlled environments and working at the request, or with permission from the Incident Command Team in charge of the response or established assisting agencies like the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross. **You should never freelance within a crisis.** Our future opportunities are based on the familiarity and goodwill of local emergency managers and the coordinators of our partnering agencies. In other words, find out who is running the response operations and talk to them first. To make this easier, get to know your local and regional managers before a crisis happens and let them know what you and C4C can do for the victims.

Examples of where we should be ministering are in evacuation centers, gathering areas, staging areas, dispatch centers, press conferences, feeding areas, memorials, and hospitals. The Dispatch section below helps you and leadership gather crisis information to better understand if what you are being asked to do is an appropriate approved response. As always, your mission can change while on station but make sure you stay within guidelines.

We not only want to keep you safe and healthy, but also your dog. As we progress in this ministry, we don't know how the demands of this ministry will affect our dogs. We will be recommending 2 hour shifts with about 2 hours between them. This is where the institutional knowledge if captured, can help us set reasonable guidelines in the future.

If you choose to accept an assignment that does not fall into the above criteria, you are requested not to wear C4C insignias.

We are currently acknowledging 3 distinct types of crisis response opportunities (CRO). CRO #1. Spur of the Moment; this is serving your local area in opportunities lasting hours up to one day. CRO #2. Short-term; this lasts 2-4 days where you may or may not return home each night. CRO #3. Long-term; This lasts 4-7 days not including travel, where you stay at the crisis.

CRO #1, Spur of the moment. **This mission is for All current members.**

Remember we represent our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Canines 4 Christ, and the organization we are working for. We need to look neat in clothes that are not out of place for the situation. If you are working alone, you are our Chief-of-Party (COP), so to speak, and thus you need to ensure all applicable guidelines are followed.

In our daily lives we are sometimes presented with spur of the moment crisis opportunities, and we should continue to take advantage of them, as God lays them in our path. We highly recommend that anyone who feels they could be used by the Lord at CRO #1 only, that you take the Incident Management training we have put together to help you understand the incident management process and where you fit into the overall effort. The training consists of 2 power point presentations and review of the CR Guidelines. If you miss the Zoom trainings, you can access them on our website at your convince. We must track training to ensure your safety and ability to complete your assignment.

You are also highly recommended to incorporate our basic guidelines that are designed can keep you and your dog safe. These guidelines will ensure that you can participate in crisis response work within the expectations of emergency managers and provide C4C with a consistent and ever improving process for all.

Spur of the Moment deployment can put you in the most danger because you are alone without support, and you can also earn a bad reputation for C4C if you are not careful. We strongly urge you to only deploy if one of the two following cases apply: You are called by a local emergency contact or, after seeing the opportunity and BEFORE you begin to help, you seek out the person or organization in charge and ask them if you can be of assistance. Be ready to explain what our approved missions are. If they say no thanks, GO HOME!!!

Next, if you can, please call me, Fred Wetzel 208-830-3002 or other leadership first. Try to provide us with as much information as you can from (2 a-f) in the **Dispatch Section** below. We know that with these rapid CRO #1 responses you may not be successful in reaching one of us. Don't let that stop you, but please do the best you can to collect the requested information. This is so C4C knows you are on a response, we can help you if needed, and we can log in your work in to build institutional experience and awareness. Plus, we would like to know you get home safe. Please stay safe and do good work.

So that you are always ready, you should keep a "to go bag". You must be in your C4C shirt, and dog in vest. You will also need water and water bowl, my phone number, a copy of these guidelines, and several C4C photo release forms in your vehicle. Yes, we need a signed photo release form when showing the face of the public.

**Don't accept any assignment you or your dog can't physically complete.**

I can foresee the situation where a member is close to home and is asked to return tomorrow to continue work. This begins to fall into a CRO #2, Short-Term assignment and leadership would appreciate a call to be a part of the decision making.

CRO #2 and CRO #3

Be sure to check your personal schedule before committing to one of these assignments. Team assignments require uniform cloths. We will wear light blue guide shirts embroidered with the C4C CRT logo, light tan cargo pocket pants, and if a hat is worn, khaki broad brim or C4C baseball hat.

Members who desire to participate in type CRO #2 and CRO #3 and are not currently Chaplains and or their dogs do not have 25 visits can be evaluated for inclusion on a case-by-case basis. There are, within our organization, members and dogs who are blessed with many applicable skills and a subset of that group who have advanced emergency training.

All potential CRO #2 and #3 team members will be interviewed by the Director of Crisis Response to ensure that the member understands the physical and logistical demands of CRO #2 and #3. **With no exceptions, and before dispatch, all members who desire to be a part of this ministry at these two levels are required to take our incident management training, read and agree with the Crisis Response Guidelines, and follow the proper dispatch protocol for the complexity of the assignment. Note the training is the same as outlined in CRO#1 above.**

On Short- and Long-Term assignments you are a TEAM player so “you are your brothers or sister’s keeper”. Help to ensure no team member slips through the cracks at any time.

At this point all should remember this effort is our first baby steps to get a more formalized crisis ministry set up and running. We needed a starting point that was designed to ensure we begin safely, learn from our experiences and, most importantly, forge a path to teach and bring others alongside us. This ministry will be hard work, stressful, and entail long hours. It will require both the member and their dog be in relatively good physical condition.

The Dispatch:

COR#1

Obviously, this dispatch is not as formal as #2 and #3 but you should gather as much information as you can, as soon as you can. **This is not just another trip to a nursing home.** Your family needs to know where you are going even if you can’t get word to leadership. Please take notes and photos and pass along to leadership.

CRO #2 or CRO #3.

Dispatch requests. Note, If anyone is contacted by someone other than leadership for one of these responses, you then, as original point of contact, must gather and provide leadership with the following information before deployment. If you are the first point of contact for a team assignment, then get redundant call back information for leadership to secure all required dispatch information from your requestor. If you are called by leadership to go or join a group, you will be provided this information.

1. Upon receiving a request, verbal contact must be made with one of the following 3 leaders before you begin your deployment. Start with Fred Wetzel 208-830-3002; if no answer, contact Steve Kesler 512-650-6820; if no answer call Larry Randolph 813-601-4937.

2 You will need to provide or be provided by leadership the following mission information.

- a. Name and location of crisis
- b. Requesting organization
- c. **A clear definition of your requested mission and mission duration estimate.**
- d. Name and cell phone # of your onsite contact.
- e. Your cell # and a home contact # if we need it.
- f. Your travel arraignments (things like when will you be leaving, how long will it take, will you be returning home each night).

3. COP will check-in as often as possible to leadership and let them know how things are going and if the team needs help in anyway.

4. All team members, please take plenty of photos and have someone take pictures of you and your dog working. Make sure we get closeups to see the C4C logo on you and your dog.

\*\*\*\*\*Caution and needed action\*\*\*\*\* If you or anyone else take a picture that we could use in our documents, we MUST get written permission from the person, parent, or organization for us to use it. C4C Photo Release Form can be found on the website or upon request from the Director of Crisis Response.

5. If there is more than one volunteer on a response, we recommend face-to-face meetings on-site before you start, before and after shifts, and before you start home. Take notes and lessons-learned experiences during each shift to be shared at your meetings. The COP will use this information a team close out meeting (before leaving for home) and also with leadership, later to help C4C get better at these deployments.

6. Serve the Lord with gladness!!!!!!

### **Words of wisdom and personal supplies needed for Long Term, Large Scale, Summer Deployment.**

All other assignments are less demanding when you are off-duty and you can find power and sleeping arrangements, but you still need to be self-sufficient during the day.

This section is for the most difficult type of deployment that Canines 4 Christ (C4C) will participate in. It addresses supplying a Chaplain or a team of Chaplains to support an ongoing, regional, long-term crisis by an incident management team or partnering agency.

We represent our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Canines 4 Christ, and the organization we are requested by, each time we go on assignment. We need to look neat, all look the same, blue and tan, wear clothes that protect us, and, even more importantly, be appropriate for the weather conditions.

The opportunity to accept new on-site jobs that are not approved will be frequent so only the Chief-of-Party (COP) will address new opportunities

Communications with your COP is very important. This person is responsible for your wellbeing, don't leave them in the dark on anything. The COP will represent C4C leadership and will deal with all deployment business. Traveling to and from the crisis is the most dangerous part of the assignment. Keep in constant contact with your COP, especially if your travel plans change. Also, we may not know the exact location to report to when we start on travel so until you have assembled with the team stay in contact.

Washing cloths may not be possible. You will need to take what you need to work for 7 days. The reason for the 7 workdays is that one of the hardest jobs on an assignment like this is ordering personnel, keeping track of them, and ordering replacements. At this point we don't know how long our dogs will last and what is best for them. We will be recommending 2 hour shifts with a bout 2hours between them. It's also possible the 7 days is more than they can handle so we will be having this discussion with our ordering agency before and during deployment.

A power supply on site is as problematic as showers. If your vehicle can't run it or charge it, you may lose it. I always carry a small solar charger in case I'm not around a generator.

As COP I carry Satellite communication device (text only). Other COP's may not have that capability.

Be aware that many times all cell phone towers are down or without power. Make sure your family knows this. Your family representative needs to call the C4C emergency contact number that will be established and given to you before each deployment so in case you must be reached for an emergency. Note, as much as I wish and pray this works flawlessly it doesn't, so make sure your family knows they may not reach you as quick as they would like. It is like we are serving the Lord in a war zone or back country Africa. The COP, if possible, will make arrangements to be contacted for incoming emergency calls. Please note, contact may ONLY be possible through the requesting agency and be person-to-person delivery of the message. Keep cell phones off to save battery life. Breaks and after hours are OK times to make family connect, if we are lucky.

Gas is like gold, make sure you fill up as close as possible to the incident and take extra if possible.

Any special food you and your dog need, must be in a nonperishable form. Although you may not need it, you should plan to take enough food for 3 days.

Things get stolen, so cut down on what you take. Most stores inside the impact zone if open, can't take credit cards until the power comes back. If you are not being provided food by our requesting agency (hopefully we will know this at dispatch) you may find that you must have cash to buy anything. I carry 1 card and \$300 and always keep them on my person.

**If you or your dog begins to struggle for ANY reason let your COP know and they will help you in any way you need!!! If you are COP, confide in a team member or requesting agency to get you help.**

**Supplies you need to carry: (Note these are minimum quantities)**

Hand sanitizer and disposable face masks

Enough medication you and your dog to last 2 weeks.

Make sure you have your dog's vet records.

Note: If you feed moist food to your dog, I suggest the one serving size container. Between the heat and the ants open containers of anything are a pain.

A minimum of 3 cases of bottled water. If you don't need them the victims will!

Extra pair of prescription glasses.

1- pair sunglasses. If sunglasses are prescription, extra pair also

1- Khaki broad brim hat with a strap. Our black C4C Chaplain's hat is OK, but it will direct the heat of the sun right to the top of your head if you are outside.

4- C4C embroidered light blue polyester guide shirts

4- Light tan/ Kaki zip-off leg cargo pants. You may have the opportunity to zip off the legs and work in shorts but trust me, you will need the pockets!

Off duty clothes and shoe types are your preference.

2- Pair closed-toed walking shoes. Boots are good but hot. Closed-toed sandals are possible but are assignment dependent. Your feet will make you miserable so take care of them.

Several bandanas

Sunscreen

Chapstick, (Bag Balm is best all-round antiseptic and moistener.)

2 Containers of Insect spray, believe me you will need it.

1- Lightweight rain/wind jacket

7- Pair socks

Toothbrush and other toiletries. Towels are only provided if a national shower contractor is on site. Don't expect a shower but miracles do happen. Come prepared to bath in a bucket if all else fails. I like the packages of body whips.

1 doz. toilet seat covers. Port-A-Toilets are the norm.

1-Pair shower shoes

7- Sets of underwear

1- Refillable water bottle you can clip on your belt.

A fannie pack or small backpack are good options.

1- Personal first aid kit for you and your dog.

1- Collapsible water bowl for your dog.

1- Flashlight and extra batteries. Headlights work best and free up your hands.

1- Earplugs. You may be sleeping near a snorer or a generator.

1- Tent and what you need to get off the ground or floor to sleep. Lightweight cotton sheets and a pillow. A sleeping bag will be hot!!!

If this hasn't scared you off let's get the incident management training, watch the tropics, and let's serve the Lord together with gladness!!!!!!