

## 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. It is acknowledged here that the rules and regulations we have established are strict but must be followed. They are here for three very good reasons: protect you and your dog, to protect C4C, and the requesting organization.

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 have been approved to respond with us on Crisis assignments please pass on an 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 members decide if a request is a current or potentially approvable C4C assignment.
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 an assignment.
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. First and foremost, **C4C volunteers are not First Responders**. We are not to be ministering in the field, streets, in or on the water where ongoing rescues are taking place. 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 and Care to victims, and we don't want you to become a victim. We hope and pray no one will accept a non-approved assignment that would put you and your dog into harm's way.

You and your dog should only be in controlled environments, working at the request of, or permission from an Incident Command Team, person in charge of the response or event, or established assisting agencies like the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross. Again, **you should never freelance within a crisis, or event**. Our future opportunities are based on the familiarity and goodwill of local emergency managers and the coordinators of our partnering agencies who know our work. In other words, find out who is running the response or event 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, hospitals, and funeral homes. The Dispatch section below helps you and leadership gather information to better understand if what you are being asked to do is an appropriate approved assignment. As always, your mission can change while on assignment but make sure you stay within the 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 have experienced on 4 events that depending on the age and health of the dog, on average about 2 hours is a good shift. So, until more experiences prove otherwise, we continue to recommend 2 hour shifts with about 2 hours between them.

If you choose to accept an assignment that does not fall into the approved criteria, you are not allowed to wear C4C logos. Also, you cannot mix logos on you or your dog. Either you are working for C4C, or someone else, not both, and not at the same time. However, if another Christian group asks you to come alongside them and serve and it's ok for you to wear C4C logs, then you can. NOTE make sure they are not freelancing.

Caution: You will see grief in a form that will shake you to your very core, and not just from one person, but from almost everyone you encounter.

Even a Memorial, could stir old, deep, suppressed feelings from past loss.

You will see devastation and sometimes complete devastation in lives as well as infrastructure.

You must be able to compartmentalize your feelings, stay focused and if you are not a person who can control intense feelings in your life, it is best to pass on this opportunity NOW.

This is a hard ministry, physically and mentally, and not just on you but your dog also. It can be the most rewarding ministry you have ever experienced, or it can damage you.

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.

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. **All members who feel they could be used by the Lord in this way must 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.**

**Mandatory training consists of a power point presentation, review of the CR Guidelines dated 7/4/22, and C4C Handbook. On the website you must fill in the requested information, and before dispatch, download and read both the Crisis Response Guidelines and C4C Handbook, and attest to the following: You have taken the training, agree with the guidelines and handbook, and will follow the proper dispatch protocol for the complexity of the assignment.** If you missed the original Zoom trainings, we may schedule one for chapters or other member groups, or you can always access them on our website at your convenience. [K9forchrist.org/serve/crisis](https://k9forchrist.org/serve/crisis) response teams. We must track all training to ensure your knowledge level, safety, and ability to complete your assignment. 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.

**Your dog must have a minimum of 25 visits to be taken on this assignment level. Otherwise, one of the following exceptions must be secured and documented: 1. Your chapter leader vouches for your dog's demeanor and record. 2. One of the C4C Board members vouches for your dog's demeanor and record. 3. Two local C4C members, familiar with the dog, vouch for dog's demeanor and record.**

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. You can only deploy if one of the two following cases apply: You are called by a local emergency contact or C4C, 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 or text Fred Wetzel Director of Crisis Response at 208-830-3002, your chapter leader, or other leadership first. Try to provide us with as much information as you can from lines (2 a-f) in the **Dispatch Section** that follows. We know that with these CRO #1 responses are quick and 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 through a debriefing process. Plus, we would like to know you get home safely. 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 a vest or scarf. You will also need water and water bowl, C4C and Crisis Contact 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 a person, or logo of the service organizations such as Fire, Rescue and Police.

**No posting to any social media while on assignment. All posting of pictures and content must be approved by C4C.**

**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 your C4C contact needs 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. Eventually assignments could require CR uniforms. We will add those specifications as they are finalized.

All potential CRO #2 and #3 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. There is within our organization, members and dogs who are blessed with many applicable skills and a subset of that group already have advanced emergency training. We need to know these specific details so we can organize responses around them better. **All dogs must have at least 50 visits for levels #2 and #3.**

**All members who desire to be a part of this ministry at these two levels, are required to take our incident management training, download and read the Crisis Response Guidelines and C4C Handbook, and attest to the following. You have taken the training, agree with the guidelines and Handbook, and will 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 more likely to be organized on a TEAM 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 these efforts are our early steps to get a more formalized crisis ministry set up and running. We strive to ensure that we begin safely, learn from our experiences, and most importantly, forge a path to teach and bring other members alongside us. This ministry will be hard work, stressful, and entail long hours. It will require both the member and their dog to 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, based on the information in #2 a-f below. **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. If you are a member of a chapter, try to get them involved for dispatching and member care.

CRO #2 or CRO #3.

Dispatch requests. Note, If anyone is contacted by someone other than leadership for one of these responses, you, 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 group 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 leaders before you begin your deployment. Start with Fred Wetzel 208-830-3002; your Chapter Leader; if no answer, contact Steve Kesler 512-650-6820; or if no answer call Larry Randolph 813-601-4937. Text us to get our attention for a call back.

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

a. Name and location of crisis or event.

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 any help is needed.

4. 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 work together become a team to be more effective, 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 for a group closeout meeting (before leaving for home) and 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 type 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 experienced members and dogs 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, 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 wear for 7 days. The reason for the 7 workdays is that one of the hardest jobs on an assignment like these 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 about 2 hours 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. Don't plug in your phone or other device to generator power without a surge protector, so take one with you.

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 and enough to last the entire assignment. Although you may not need it, you should plan to take enough food and water 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)**

Doggy boots or special spray on products to keep their feet off hot surfaces

Hand sanitizer, cleaner

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- If uniform clothing is developed take them.

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/food 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!!!

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