

# Engaging Faith Communities In Disasters Curriculum

This curriculum provides an overview of why and how to engage faith communities during disasters and public health emergencies. The modules demonstrate how diverse religious and cultural practice increases partner capabilities and builds whole community resilience. The course offers tools (tip sheets & a field guide set) and foundational skills to competently engage religious leaders and congregations in the field.

## Audience

- CERT and MRC Teams
- Disaster Responders and Volunteers
- Faith-based Liaisons
- Faith-based Organizations
- Faith Communities' Partners
- First Responders and Law Enforcement
- Public Health Professionals
- Religious Leaders
- State and Local Emergency Managers
- VOAD Members

*Course duration and included modules can be customized to meet participants' needs*

## Available Course Modules

- 1 Faith Communities as a Cornerstone of Whole Communities
- 2 The Value, Landscape, and Language of Faith Communities in Disasters
- 3 Ten Field Skills for Successful Engagement
- 4 Engaging Faith Communities through the LEADER Process
- 5 Tools & Resources for Engaging Faith Communities throughout the Disaster
- 6 Building a Databank of Local Faith Communities

## Learning Objectives

- Frame the importance of engaging faith communities in disasters, and how diverse religious and cultural practice is protected by law and builds whole community resilience.
- Define the value and assets of faith communities and congregations in disaster operations.
- Understand the key aspects and structures of the diverse U.S. religious landscape.
- Build broader religious literacy and competency.
- Implement each step in the six step "LEADER" process for successfully engaging faith communities.
- Practice new field skills, including Dos and Don'ts around clothing, etiquette, food, footwear, greetings, head coverings, meetings, and physical interaction.
- Successfully engage faith communities, religious leaders, and congregations in the field.

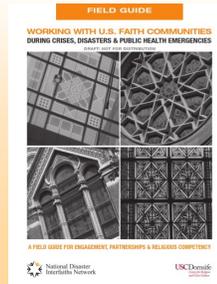
*Includes  
Supplemental  
Resources*



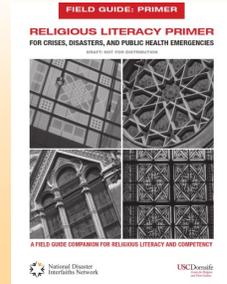
[5 Mass Care Tip Sheets](#)



[26 Tip Sheets For U.S. Religious Leaders](#)



[Field Guide](#)



[Religious Literacy Primer](#)

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## Sample Course Options

<p><b>Workshop (Up to 90 minutes)</b></p>	<p><b>Includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Module 1: Faith Communities as a Cornerstone of Whole Communities</li> <li>Module 2: The Value, Landscape, and Language of Faith Communities in Disasters</li> </ul>	<p><b>Description:</b></p> <p>In Modules 1 and 2, frame the importance of engaging faith communities in disaster and how religious and cultural diversity builds whole community resilience. Participants will learn the value and assets of faith communities and congregations in disaster operations and be exposed to some of the key aspects of the diverse U.S. religious landscape.</p>
<p><b>Half-Day Course</b></p>	<p><b>Includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modules 1 and 2</li> </ul> <p><b>Plus:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Module 3: Ten Field Skills for Successful Engagement</li> </ul>	<p><b>Description:</b></p> <p>Includes Modules 1 and 2, plus Module 3: “Ten Field Skills for Successful Engagement”.</p> <p>In Module 3, participants will receive step-by-step coaching and practice in the “Dos and Don’ts” around clothing, etiquette, food, footwear, greetings, head coverings, meetings, and physical interaction.</p>
<p><b>Full-Day Course</b></p>	<p><b>Includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modules 1, 2, and 3</li> </ul> <p><b>Plus:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Module 4: Engaging Faith Communities Through the LEADER Process</li> <li>Module 5: Tools &amp; Resources for Engaging Faith Communities throughout the Disaster</li> </ul>	<p><b>Description:</b></p> <p>Includes Modules 1, 2, and 3, plus Module 4: “Engaging Faith Communities Through the LEADER Process” and Module 5: “Tools and Resources”.</p> <p>In Modules 4 and 5, those responsible for engaging faith communities will learn a cohesive, six-step process for successful engagement, utilizing real-world examples from several response and recovery efforts throughout the United States. A Field Guide, Tip Sheets, and other resources are also provided.</p>

*A Databanking Module is offered separately or may be added to any of the above:*

<p><b>Workshop or Half-Day Course</b></p>	<p><b>Includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Module 6: Creating a Databank of Local Faith Communities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Description:</b></p> <p>In Module 6, participants will be exposed to a comprehensive strategy for developing a databank of all faith communities in a disaster-affected area. This module utilizes a hands-on, step-by-step approach for participants to gain experience using the best available web-based resources.</p>
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