

<b>TITLE</b> O P E R A T I O N S   M A N U A L	<b>STANDARD</b> <b>INSTRUCTION 10</b>		<b>DEPARTMENT</b> F I R E-RESCUE
<b>SUBJECT</b> CHAPLAIN PROGRAM: PURPOSE	<b>SECTION</b> 01	<b>PAGE</b> 1 of 1	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b> 05/15/2013

**I.     PURPOSE**

To establish guidelines for a volunteer Chaplain Program within the Fire-Rescue Department to provide physical, emotional and spiritual care services to department members and their families, members of the community and the regional fire service.

**II.    SCOPE**

This policy shall apply to all SDFD Personnel.

**III.   AUTHORITY**

The Fire Chief authorizes the information within this policy.

**IV.    POLICY**

- A.     The provision of chaplain services within the Fire-Rescue Department serves three important purposes.
  1.       To provide critical incident stress management support to assist individuals in coping with inordinate levels of stress they may encounter related to emergency responses. This support is provided in an effort to mitigate negative pressures which can produce disintegrating tendencies and adversely affect an employee's effectiveness on the job as well as at home.
  2.       To provide incident scene chaplain services to members of the community who have experienced a traumatic event.
  3.       To provide chaplain services at department memorial and ceremonial functions.
- B.     The program will not be used as a forum for proselytizing (recruitment to a new faith) and is not meant to replace an individual's clergy and/or other counseling programs available through the City. The chaplain service does not exist to compete with, but rather to complement these existing resources. In addition, all chaplain services are rendered free of charge as the chaplains serve the department as volunteers.