

Questions and Answers about MABAS Fire Chaplains

What is a MABAS Fire Chaplain?

Fire Chaplains provide necessary and effective ongoing spiritual and emotional support to firefighters, their families and fire department staff as well as on-scene support for community residents during and after an incident. A MABAS Fire Chaplain shall be a person officially designated as a member of a fire department or emergency management agency.

What are the ideal qualities of a MABAS Fire Chaplain?

Fire Chaplains are clergy, religious professionals, or specially trained persons who are capable of providing emotional and spiritual support in emergency situations both on and off scene. Fire Chaplains are reliable, ethical, and professional; dedicated to serving both the fire service and community.

What level of personal commitment is needed to be a MABAS Fire Chaplain?

Beginning with a calling to serve those within the fire service and their local community, fire chaplains are initially trained in:

Fire Department Culture and Operations

Psychological First Aid

National Incident Management System (NIMS) 100,200,700,800

Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Group, Individual and Grief Following Trauma

CPR and First Aid

Ongoing training is expected and available through organizations such as the Federation of Fire Chaplains (FFC), the Illinois Corps of Fire Chaplains (ICFC) and MABAS. This makes MABAS chaplains uniquely suited to meet additional needs that are beyond the general scope of what other first responders are able to provide.

MABAS Chaplains need to be equipped and ready to respond when needed according to the agreements made within their department and Division. Fire Chaplains are committed to ongoing training pertinent to their professional and personal development. MABAS Chaplains are willing to put in the time needed to establish ongoing and effective relationships with personnel, their families and the community in times of need.