

Job Description – Chaplain

Responsibilities:

The Chaplain offers spiritual support to Walsh Ambulance Service staff, patients and their families. This ministry is manifested most clearly in times of crisis. The Chaplains are committed to respect the dignity and faith tradition of each individual, and to guide and direct the spiritual climate of the organization. They base their pastoral care ministry on an inclusive basis, open to persons of all faiths or no faith. The Chaplains also facilitate communication between patients and their faith communities. The Walsh Ambulance Chaplain is selected and appointed by written order of the EMS Chief.

- Provide spiritual guidance to members of the ambulance service and their families in times of crisis and to help them with their spiritual needs.
- Provide spiritual guidance to patients and family members of the patient when a disabling injury or a death occurs. The Chaplain should respond as often as possible to all major fire incidents and critical calls including fatalities.
- The Chaplain should frequently visit local hospitals and medical clinics to build rapport with medical personnel.
- Conducting and Assisting at Funerals. The Chaplain can assist a family in funeral arrangements for both active and retired ambulance service members and their family.
- Weddings. The Chaplain may be called upon to perform weddings for ambulance service personnel.
- Counseling of members of the Walsh Ambulance Service when requested.
- Be a member of the Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team.
- Attend functions of the Walsh Ambulance Service

In Emergency Situations the Chaplain will respond when contacted by dispatch or ambulance service personnel or at his/her own discretion, and will report at the scene to the incident commander. The Chaplain will respond as follows:

A. To the Scene when:

1. A working structure fire is in progress
2. A critical incident is in progress
3. Critical injury or death to a member of the Ambulance Service is reported.
4. The incident involves a victim that is a member of a department members' family
5. Whenever the incident commander determines that the services of the Chaplain may be of value in the ongoing emergency operations.

This may include situations where:

- (a) The victim or family is highly emotional or unstable
- (b) Care is needed for the family of the victim while treatment is underway
- (c) The victim or family requests the services of a Chaplain or clergy.
- (d) Incident Command feels the presence of the Chaplain would be of benefit to the victim or to department personnel.

B. To the Hospital when:

1. The incident commander or care provider determines that the victim or family may need support or counsel
2. The victim's family needs to be located and notified
3. A member of the service is the victim

Any communication a person makes to the Chaplain is on a strictly confidential basis and will not be released to any members or the public. Any member may go to the Chaplain without having to notify his or her supervisor or anyone else.

The Chaplain does not replace the home church pastor, but seeks to support the concern of every church for its members who may be in professions with special risks and needs.

Reporting:

The Chaplain will report to the EMS Chief.

Qualifications:

- 18 years of age or older
- Complete and successfully pass a background check
- Complete and successfully pass a driving history check
- Master of Divinity or equivalent
- Board Certified Chaplain, by Association of Professional Chaplains preferred
- 2 years of pastoral experience preferred
- A valid driver's license

Physical Requirements:

Must be able to read, speak, and hear. The Chaplain must be able to effectively communicate in English both orally and in writing. While performing the duties of the job, the Chaplain is regularly required to sit, talk, hear, walk, bend, kneel, reach and lift. The Chaplain may frequently be required to use stairs. The Chaplain may occasionally lift and carry items that can weigh 25 pounds or more for short distances.

EEOC/ADA:

The Walsh Ambulance Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer and will not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, age, religion, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, national origin, physical or mental disability or sexual orientation.