

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

*The American Psychological
Association*

and

*The American National
Red Cross*



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION



**American
Red Cross**

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is to continue and define a working relationship between The American National Red Cross (the "Red Cross") and the American Psychological Association (the "APA") in preparing for and responding to certain disaster situations with a focus on meeting the mental health needs of disaster victims and Red Cross workers. This MOU provides the broad framework for cooperation between the two organizations in rendering assistance and service to victims of disaster, as well as other services for which cooperation may be mutually beneficial.

II. Independence of Operations and Application

Each party to this MOU will maintain its own identity. Each organization is separately responsible for establishing its own policies and financing its own activities. For APA, this MOU applies to members of its Disaster Response Network (licensed psychologists with training in disaster mental health who volunteer through ARC's disaster mental health activity). The MOU does not apply to non-DRN members, who via other sources, are recruited into ARC service, and it does not apply to any non-APA psychologists.

III. "Disasters" Covered by the MOU

The authority of the American Red Cross to provide disaster services was established in 1905 in its Congressional charter, 36 U.S.C. Sec. 300101 *et seq.* Congress authorized the Red Cross "to carry out a system of national and international relief in time of peace, and apply that system in mitigating the suffering caused by pestilence, famine, fire, floods, and other great national calamities, and to devise and carry out measures for preventing those calamities." The Red Cross role was reaffirmed in the 1974 Disaster Relief Act (Public Law 93- 288), the 1988 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Public Law 100-707), and the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390).

The Federal law governing disaster relief, found in Title 42, Chapter 68 of the United States Code defines "emergencies" and "major disasters" as follows:

"Emergency" means any occasion or instance for which, in the determination of the President, Federal assistance is needed to supplement State and local efforts and capabilities to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in any part of the United States.

"Major disaster" means any natural catastrophe (including any hurricane, tornado, storm, high water, wind driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, or drought), or, regardless of cause, any fire, flood, or explosion, in any part of the United States, which in the determination of the President causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant major disaster assistance under this chapter to supplement the efforts and available resources of States, local governments, and disaster relief organizations in alleviating the damage, loss, hardship, or suffering caused thereby.

On a local level, the Red Cross responds to all kinds of disasters, whether or not they are the subject of a presidential declaration. These include any threatening or occurring event of such destructive magnitude and force as to: dislocate people, separate family members, damage or destroy homes and injure or kill people. A disaster produces a range and level of immediate suffering and basic human needs that often cannot be promptly or adequately addressed by the

affected people, and impedes them from initiating and proceeding with their recovery efforts. Human-caused disasters -- whether intentional or unintentional -- include: residential fires, building collapses, transportation accidents, hazardous materials releases, explosions and domestic acts of terrorism. All of these disasters are within the mission of the Red Cross.

IV. Organization of the American Red Cross

The national headquarters of the American Red Cross is located in Washington, DC. National headquarters is responsible for: a) implementing policies and regulations that govern the Red Cross activities; and b) giving administrative and technical supervision and guidance to the chartered units. Chartered units include Chapters and Blood Services Regions. Each chapter has certain authority and responsibility for carrying out the disaster relief activities of the Red Cross, delivering local Red Cross services, and meeting corporate obligations within the territorial jurisdiction assigned in conformity with corporate regulations. Each chapter is responsible for providing disaster planning, preparedness, education and response. Each chapter develops a disaster leadership team or committee composed of the best qualified paid and volunteer staff available. The chapter disaster leadership team or committee studies the hazards of the locality and surveys local resources for personnel, equipment, supplies, transportation, emergency communications and facilities available for disaster relief. The chapter disaster leadership also formulates cooperative plans and procedures with local government agencies and private organizations in order to carry on relief operations should a disaster occur. Through its nationwide organization, the Red Cross coordinates its total resources for use in large disasters. Services are provided to those in need regardless of citizenship, race, religion, age, sex or political affiliation.

V. Statutory Authority for the American Psychological Association

The American Psychological Association was incorporated by the District of Columbia in 1923 and is a designated 501(c)(3) non-profit organization per the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code.

VI. Organization of the American Psychological Association

Overview

The American Psychological Association (APA), in Washington, DC, is the largest scientific and professional organization representing psychology in the United States and is the world's largest association of psychologists. APA's membership includes more than 148,000 researchers, educators, clinicians, consultants and students. Through its divisions in 54 subfields of psychology and affiliations with 60 state, territorial and Canadian provincial associations, APA works to advance psychology as a science, as a profession and as a means of promoting human welfare.

About the APA's Disaster Response Network

Established in 1991, APA's Disaster Response Network (DRN) is a national network of approximately 2,500 psychologists with training in disaster response who offer volunteer assistance to relief workers and persons affected by disaster through response organizations such as ARC.

APA was among the first organizations to enter into partnership with the Red Cross for the purposes of helping Red Cross develop a mental health capability to supplement its existing disaster response resources. As a part of this partnership, the APA established a state-based network of psychologists in an effort to aid the Red Cross' system that relies heavily on recruiting local volunteers to respond to disasters. In this regard, the network has helped the Red Cross to recruit licensed psychologists around the country. On ARC disaster relief operations, DRN members volunteer as disaster mental health workers. They offer ARC-approved DMH interventions in order to alleviate emotional distress, screen for service priority, support resiliency, foster the use of positive coping skills, teach common emotional reactions to disaster, ensure that needed services are provided, and make referrals for further assessment and/or treatment.

In addition to their work as disaster responders, several DRN members also are ARC instructors, serve on chapter boards, and participate in the development of new materials.

VII. Cooperative Actions

The APA and the Red Cross will coordinate in rendering disaster relief activities in the following manner:

1. Both organizations will maintain close liaisons via conferences, meetings, telephone, e-mail and other means. When possible, Red Cross will inform APA of the number of psychologists who have participated on disaster relief operations.
2. The APA will continue to assist the Red Cross in developing and implementing a national disaster preparedness program that targets the mental health needs of disaster - survivors and Red Cross workers.
3. The APA will facilitate the development of a national network of trained, licensed psychologists to be mobilized in times of disaster. Once mobilized by local Red Cross chapters, these psychologists become Red Cross volunteers and follow appropriate Red Cross disaster services protocol. The Red Cross will provide appropriate identification for participating psychologists to wear when working with the Red Cross upon completion of Red Cross training courses and applicable background checks.
4. Red Cross is responsible for and will conduct background checks for psychologists who wish to be deployed as Red Cross volunteers. The background checks include a verification of an individual's social security number and a search of the National Criminal File for the past 7 years.
5. As a condition of being deployed as a Red Cross volunteer, a participating psychologist is required to complete the Red Cross Foundations of Disaster Mental Health course, among other courses as necessary, which enable them to work as Red Cross volunteers on disaster relief operations. The Red Cross will encourage local chapters to make this training course available. APA will support Red Cross by encouraging its members to become Red Cross instructors.

6. The APA will encourage the state psychological associations to form local disaster response programs and coordinate efforts with local Red Cross chapters. Agreements between APA affiliates and Red Cross chapters can be drafted as deemed appropriate by the local organizations.
7. The APA will encourage state psychological associations to work closely with other appropriate associations of licensed mental health professionals. Where other such networks exist, state psychological associations shall be encouraged to collaborate with those networks.
8. The public relations offices of both organizations will collaborate in ways that are mutually beneficial. APA's Practice Directorate's public relations office will identify DRN members on ARC Disaster Relief Operation (DRO) assignment to be interviewed by reporters about the psychological affect of the disaster, but not to discuss ARC operations. DRN members on DRO assignments must obtain prior approval from Red Cross Public Affairs staff prior to engaging in interviews with the media. During a disaster, the public information offices will share information on ways the organizations are collaborating. APA will inform ARC about resources developed and posted to the APA Help Center (www.apahelpcenter.org) for disaster survivors and the public. APA also grants ARC permission to link to material on www.apahelpcenter.org and list APA Help Center as a resource on psychological information for the general public.
9. Approximately October 1st of each year, the APA's Disaster Response Network office will provide the National Red Cross Disaster Mental Health office with a current roster of the APA's Disaster Response Network coordinators. The National Red Cross Disaster Mental Health Office will share this roster with its regional and chapter offices. Each coordinator on the roster maintains a list of psychologists from their state that are ARC trained who could be called upon as necessary by chapters for disaster assignment or to conduct post-assignment exit or follow-up interviews.
10. APA's DRN program will encourage its members with prior ARC disaster relief operations experience to informally mentor new Red Cross Disaster Mental Health volunteers when out on disaster assignment. The objective of the mentoring is to help disaster relief operations run as smoothly as possible by promoting workers' knowledge and understanding of ARC policies and procedures.
11. Red Cross reporting and documentation procedures for Red Cross Disaster Mental Health Services will comply with the ethical requirements of the APA and with local, state and federal requirements pertaining to mandatory reporting and safeguarding of confidential information.
12. As Red Cross volunteers, DRN members who deploy on a disaster relief operation are required to abide by the ARC Code of Conduct which they sign prior to deployment. In the event that DRN members create books and other literary works relating to their volunteer service to and/or employment with the American Red Cross ("Authors"), they are reminded that Authors are bound by the American Red Cross Code of Conduct.

Under the Code of Conduct all Authors are prohibited from (a) accepting or seeking financial gain as a result of the Author's affiliation with the American Red Cross, (b) disclosing any confidential information that is available as a result of the Author's affiliation with the American Red Cross and (c) engaging in any activity that is contrary to the best interests of the American Red Cross. (See attached Appendix 1, "Books and Other Literary Works by Red Cross Volunteers and Employees") This MOU applies only to APA DRN members and is not applicable to non-DRN members who, via other sources, are recruited into ARC service. Additionally, this MOU does not apply to any non-APA psychologists.

13. Both organizations will only allocate the responsibility for shared expenses in writing and in advance of any commitment.
14. Both organizations will only use or display the name, emblem or trademarks of the other organization in the case of defined projects and with the prior express written consent of the other organization.
15. Both organizations will actively seek to determine other areas and services within their respective organizations where cooperation and support will be mutually beneficial.
16. Both organizations will widely distribute this MOU within the respective departments and administrative offices of each organization and urge full cooperation.

VIII. Periodic Review

Representatives of the American Psychological Association and the American Red Cross will, on an annual basis on or around the anniversary date of this MOU, jointly evaluate progress in the implementation of the MOU and revise and develop new plans or goals as appropriate.

IX. Term and Termination

This MOU is effective as of February 26th, 2009. It expires on February 26th, 2014. Six months prior to the expiration of the MOU, the parties shall meet to review the progress and success of the cooperative effort. In connection with the review, the parties may decide to extend this MOU for an additional period not to exceed five years, and if so shall confirm this in a signed writing document. This MOU may be terminated upon 30 day written notification from either party to the other at any time and for any reason or for no reason.

X. Miscellaneous

This MOU does not create a partnership or a joint venture. Neither party has the authority to bind the other to any obligation. It is not intended that this MOU be enforceable as a matter of law in any court or dispute resolution forum. The sole ramification for non-performance under this MOU shall be termination, with no damages or penalty.

XI. Signatures**The American Psychological Association**By: Katherine Nordal, Ph.D.

(Signature)

Name: Katherine Nordal, Ph.D.Title: Executive Director for
Professional PracticeDate: 2/26/2009**The American Red Cross**By: Joseph C. Becker

(Signature)

Name: Joseph C. BeckerTitle: Senior Vice President,
Disaster ServicesDate: 2/26/09