

# Preparing to Serve as First Responder Chaplains

## Oregon Chaplains Basics Academy



Academy instructors are experienced First Responder Chaplains and professional mental health clinicians. They provide you with up-to-date information and knowledge of policies and procedures. The skill-based practice in class prepares participants to face real world situations on scenes helping First Responders and members of the community. Training days are fast paced with variety each day. There is ample opportunity to have conversations and ask your unique questions over lunch or free time in the evenings.

As a basics academy, the class environment is a safe place to learn and try out new skills. Participants often develop deep friendships that may last over your chaplaincy career. We encourage an attitude of respect for one another and those whom we serve.

OCA Basics is held at the [Department of Public Safety Standards and Training](#), which is the home for training and licensing of First Responders. During the week, you will eat meals and sleep in dorms with new recruits going through their academy experience. It provides a rich environment for familiarizing yourself with First Responder culture.

### Dates:

**September 14-17, 2026**

Check into dorm evening before on Sunday, 9/13

### Place: DPSST

Department of Public Safety Standards and Training

[4190 Aumsville Highway SE, Salem, OR 97317](#)

**Cost: \$499**

Sample topics covered in the academy:

- Crisis Response
- Death Notifications
- Physiology of Trauma
- First Responder Families
- Moral Injury
- Suicide
- Line of Duty Death
- Grief & Loss
- Law Enforcement Chaplaincy
- Fire Chaplaincy
- Building Relationships with First Responders

Concluding the academy, participants will receive a certificate of completion. Whether you choose to serve as chaplain alongside police, fire, emergency medical services, dispatch, or medical examiners, you will discover the critical skills and tools needed to engage in First Responder Chaplaincy. Completion of the OCA Basics Academy also meets requirements for the Essentials of Fire Chaplaincy in cooperation with the FFC.

### Includes:

- Sessions
- Housing
- Meals
- Materials

### Registration:

Registration is now open.

Please register to reserve your place.

### Questions:

Contact: Kay Bruce, PsyD, Director  
Oregon Chaplains Basics Academy  
Email: [chaplainkaybruce@gmail.com](mailto:chaplainkaybruce@gmail.com)  
Phone: 360-910-2701

The Oregon Chaplains Academy partners with Public Safety Chaplaincy in equipping those who desire to support our First Responders, including police, fire, EMS, and dispatch through chaplaincy.

Oregon Chaplains Academy: [oregonchaplainsacademy.com](http://oregonchaplainsacademy.com)

Public Safety Chaplaincy: [publicsafetychaplaincy.com](http://publicsafetychaplaincy.com)

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