

FCCFA Mass Fatality Disaster Training

March 1, 2023

Blount-Curry Terrace Oaks Funeral Home

12690 N 56th St., Temple Terrace FL 33617

Overview and Agenda

Unfortunately, Floridians are well familiar with havoc natural disasters can wreak and have increasingly been exposed to the peril of man-made events such as the Pulse Nightclub Shooting and the Surfside building collapse. If one of these events were to happen in your community, would your location be prepared? This one-day training will provide a substantive overview of the situations funeral professionals should be prepared to address during and after a mass fatality event and a toolkit attendees can use to ensure their funeral home and community are prepared, should the unthinkable occur.

8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Check-In and Registration

8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Welcome Tom Hanneken & Janis Perry

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Mass Fatality Events: Introduction and Operations
Presenters: Tommy Ralph and Russell Chisholm

Key topics covered:

1. The characteristics of a mass fatalities incident.
2. Identify the roles and responsibilities of key players in a mass fatalities incident.
3. Describe the steps required to respond to a mass fatalities incident, including catastrophic numbers of fatalities and contaminated remains.

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. BREAK

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Mass Fatality Events: Planning before and operations during an incident
Presenters: Tommy Ralph and Russell Chisholm

Key topics covered:

1. Incident management.
2. Establishing the morgue; family assistance support and operations
3. Assistance from the State and Federal government.

11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. BREAK

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Mass Fatality Events: Responder care, identifying resources, and recap
Presenters: Tommy Ralph and Russell Chisholm

Key topics covered:

1. Recognize the importance of responders' mental health
2. Identify the resources that are available during a mass fatalities incident and describe their roles and responsibilities.
3. Discussion on materials covered and final thoughts

12:15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m. LUNCH

12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. Lessons Learned: Mass Shooting Events

As one of the first “last responders” on scene at the Pulse Night Club shooting in June of 2016, Liam Smith will share his first-hand experience and provide insights into the some of the primary items that funeral professionals need to be prepared for, should a similar event occur in their community.

Presenter: Liam Smith, Manager, Dignity Memorial Personal Care Center and Crematory

Key topics covered:

- 1) An overview of the circumstances that occur on-scene.
- 2) An understanding the challenges responders are likely to encounter.
- 3) Lessons learned and best practices/recommendations for improving response and preparedness for similar situations

1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Lessons Learned: Natural and Manmade Disaster Response

This session will address the principal issues that funeral professionals are likely to encounter, such as lack of power and needed refrigeration, inoperable communication networks, and lack of coordination with emergency management officials at the local and state level. Information will be provided on measures that funeral professionals can make knowing that after a disaster mortuary assistance may be days away from on-site arrival.

Presenter: Jason Byrd, Ph.D., FEMORS Commander & Program Co-Director of the William R. Maples Center for Forensic Medicine

Key topics covered:

- 1). Planning for the operational logistics needed during a disaster event.
- 2). Requesting the needed equipment and personnel resources.
- 3). Deployment of resources into the disaster area.

2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Travel To Hillsborough County Emergency Operations Center

3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Tour Hillsborough County Emergency Operations Center