Resources and Tools for Religious Literacy and Competency

Building religious literacy and competency is an ongoing process, with a wealth of self-directed study resources as well as classroom training available. A good starting point is taking a religious literacy self-assessment quiz and then proceeding to self-study with a focus on the religious traditions you work with. Smartphone apps are available for use in the field when scheduling meetings and for locating culturally-appropriate food vendors.

Starting Points:

Religious Holiday Calendar

Religious Holiday Calendar

General Religion Info

Religions

Religion-Specific

Find Gurdwara

Kosher Restaurants

Kosher Near Me

Zabihah: Halal Restaurants & Mosques

Veg Travel Guide for Vegans & Vegetarians by HappyCow

Assess Your Own Level of Religious Literacy

U.S. Religious Knowledge Quiz
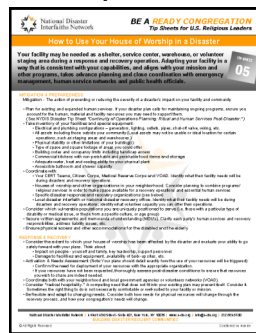http://www.pewforum.org/quiz/u-s-religious-knowledge/

15 Question Quiz (Appendix) in Stephen Prothero's Book: *Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know—and Doesn't*

NATIONAL DISASTER INTERFAITHS NETWORK AND USC CRCC RESOURCES
Available for download from:
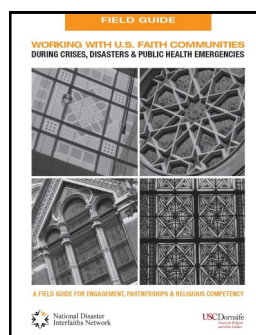**http://www.n-din.org** and **http://crcc.usc.edu/resources/publications**

Tip Sheets

The *Disaster Tip Sheets for U.S. Religious Leaders* have been developed to assist religious leaders in any community. Appropriate for any faith tradition, they address all-hazards planning and cover topics from across the entire disaster lifecycle, such as how they and/or their house of worship can respond to crises, including how to coordinate volunteers, manage donations, provide mass care, attend to spiritual and mental health needs, and continue their many services post-disaster.
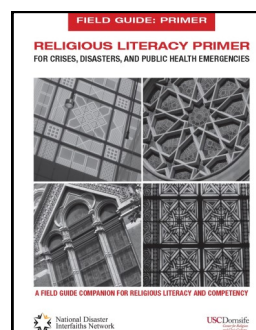
The *Disaster Tip Sheets for Faith Community Partners* are provided to inform religious literacy, cultural competency and reasonable religious accommodation mandates for U.S. Mass Care providers, and to assist staff and volunteers in competently meeting the needs of several major religious groups during sheltering.

Field Guide

Working with U.S. Faith Communities During Crises, Disasters and Public Health Emergencies. A Field Guide for Engagement, Partnership and Religious Competency is a detailed guide for engaging and building sustainable and competent partnerships with faith communities throughout the entire disaster lifecycle. The *Field Guide* provides suggestions, best practices, and guidance on how to approach the faith communities, religious leaders, and faith-based non-profits that make up this landscape to build durable, institutional relationships, and develop sustainable, faith-based emergency preparedness and response programs.

Primer

Religious Literacy Primer: For Crises, Disasters, and Public Health Emergencies is a quick-reference document which provides information on basic religious literacy for 24 of the largest religious communities in the United States. It is geared toward enabling emergency managers, public health officials, first responders, volunteers, voluntary agencies, and anyone involved in disaster response and recovery to understand how faith communities and emergency management intersect. The *Primer* provides guidance for physical interaction/etiquette, drawings of religious symbols, information on holidays, dietary restrictions, and provision of post-disaster mass care including shelter, medical treatment, and mental health care.

WEB RESOURCES FOR RELIGIOUS LITERACY AND COMPETENCY

Pew Research, Religion and Public Life Project
Research and extensive U.S. religious landscape survey data.
http://religions.pewforum.org/reports

Religious Congregations & Membership Study
Data files on hundreds of religion surveys and provides the ability to map U.S. congregation data for individual cities, states, and zipcodes.
http://www.thearda.com/rcms2010/

Gallup Poll Topics and Trends
Provides survey data and reports on a number of religion trends in the United States.
http://www.gallup.com/poll/1690/Religion.aspx

Hartford Institute for Religion Research
Comprehensive list of online religion data resources .
http://hirr.hartsem.edu/sociology/research_datasets.html

The Tanenbaum Center
Resources including etiquette guides for addressing religious leaders and entering houses of worship.
http://www.tanenbaum.org

University of Southern California Center for Religion and Civic Culture
Research / publications on religious trends in the U.S.
http://crcc.usc.edu

REPORTS

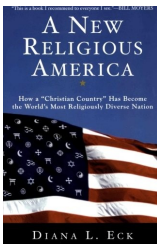*A Local Official's Guide to Working with Clergy and Congregations.* Sacramento, CA: Institute for Local Government, 2010.

Farrag, Hebah, Brie Loskota, and Richard Flory. *Faithful Action: Working with Religious Groups in Disaster Planning, Response and Recovery.* Rep. Los Angeles: Center for Religion and Civic Culture, USC, 2012.

Guide to Developing High-Quality Emergency Operations Plans for Houses of Worship
www.fema.gov/faith-resources

Hull, Pete. *Heralding Unheard Voices: The Role of Faith-Based Organization and Nongovernmental Organizations during Disaster* (final report), Homeland Security Institute, Prepared for the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate, 2006.
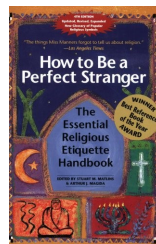
Bridges, Dr. Diane. *Culturally Sensitive Religious & Spiritual Care: Creating Resources* (2004)
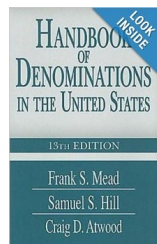
BOOKS

Eck, Diana L. *A New Religious America: How a "Christian Country" Has Now Become the World's Most Religiously Diverse Nation*.
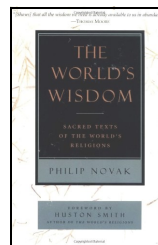
Harper San Francisco; 2002

Matlins, Stuart M. and Arthur J. Magida, editors, *How to Be a Perfect Stranger, 4th Edition: The Essential Religious Etiquette Handbook.*

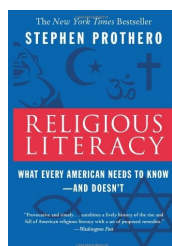SkyLight Paths; 5th edition, 2010

Mead, Frank S., Samuel S. Hill, and Craig D. Atwood. *Handbook of Denominations in the United States.*
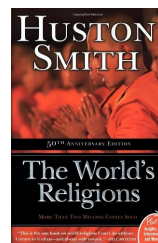
Abingdon Press; 13th edition, 2010

Novak, Philip. *The World's Wisdom: Sacred Texts of the World's Religions*.

HarperOne; 1995

Prothero, Stephen R. *Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know--and Doesn't*.

HarperOne; 2008

Smith, Huston. *The World's Religions: Our Great Wisdom Traditions.*

HarperOne; 50th anniversary edition, 2009