

A statement following the tragic events of the Boston Marathon explosions

From the leaders of the Secular Coalition for Massachusetts and the Boston Atheists—

“We know that we’re not alone among atheists and other secular people in wanting to show sympathy and support in response to today’s tragedy. Although prayer isn’t for us an option, we are ready to help by working with the Red Cross and other emergency and community organizations in any way possible.

“Leaders of local secular organizations like the Boston Atheists and the Secular Coalition for Massachusetts have been diligently monitoring communications for any opportunity to respond constructively to the tragic events of the day. We may have a different religious perspective, but on days like today, those differences pale in comparison to what brings us all together as members of the community.

“Our thanks go to the first responders and other support staff who came to the aid of the victims in Copley Square today, and who have been working since then to protect our safety. Above all, our thoughts and compassion are with the victims and their families.”

Signed –

Zachary Bos

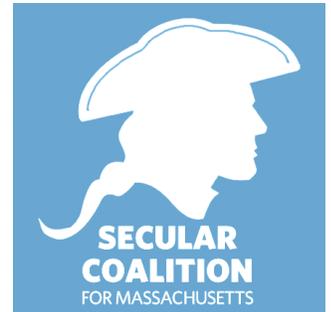
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HOW TO HELP

In response to inquiries from our members as to how to respond constructively when events like this happen in our community, we offer the following suggestions:

- Offer to babysit for friends or neighbors who because of today’s events would be helped by such support.
- Sign up for aid appeals from the Red Cross: <https://www.redcross.org/accounthelp/createAccount.jsp>.
- As requested by the Boston Police Department, call 1-800-494-TIPS if you have relevant information.
- Prepare yourself and your family for unexpected crises. Be informed, make a plan, build a kit: www.ready.gov.
- Train to help yourself and others. CERT training and First Aid/CPR Training are a great way to build up your tool kit to make sure you can productively contribute when an emergency, large or small, arises.

If you have more time, talent, or resources to contribute, you can find a national-level organization to volunteer with that compliments your situation: www.ready.gov/citizen-corps | www.medicalreservecorps.gov | www.nvoad.org | www.gocivilairpatrol.com | www.redcross.org/support/volunteer | www.teameubiconusa.org | www.sgaus.org.

Check with your state and local volunteer fire department, law enforcement, or emergency management office for more opportunities. *Thanks to emergency response professional Edward Bos for his advice in compiling these suggestions.*

*About the BA: The **Boston Atheists** is the largest atheist membership organization in New England, and one of the most active secular organizations in the Boston area. We provide opportunities for friendship, education, and community for hundreds of local atheists and, as a local affiliate of American Atheists, advocate for the advancement of reality-based worldviews. @bostonatheists | meetup.com/bostonatheists | bostonatheists.org*

*About the SC-MA: The mission of the **Secular Coalition for Massachusetts**, a state chapter of the Secular Coalition for America, is to increase visibility of and respect for nontheistic viewpoints, and to strengthen the secular character of our government as the best guarantee of freedom for all Americans. facebook.com/pages/Secular-Coalition-for-Massachusetts | @secularmass | secular.org/states/chapters/Massachusetts*