



## **FIREFIGHTERS RESPONDERS**

### **About EVP**

The Emergency Volunteers Project (EVP) was established to support and protect the citizens and the Land of Israel, regardless of their religious, cultural or political persuasion. Our mission is to recruit, train and deploy dedicated individuals who will serve as a backup force of Emergency Responders in Israel. Once training has been completed, volunteers partner with Israel's emergency services (Firefighters, Medical and Community Services), providing essential life-saving aid to Israel's civilian population during times of emergency.

During an emergency in the State of Israel the majority of available manpower resources may be allocated to the military, resulting in a compelling need to significantly reinforce depleted resources available for the home front. These reinforcements will be provided by EVP through volunteers from outside of Israel who have undergone specific and targeted training and have been certified with EVP accordingly.

### **Volunteer Teams**

The firefighting and rescue units consist of individuals from northern New Jersey who come together as active emergency volunteers in Israel's firefighting and rescue services. Upon activation the volunteer's deployment costs will be provided for by the Jewish Federation. The Israeli Fire and Rescue Services consists of a handful of highly trained professionals working full time in firefighting and search and rescue operations. The 2,000 Israeli firefighters, spread over a population of 7.5 million, are barely sufficient to save lives and property during peacetime, and with the best will in the world they cannot provide the extent of fire and rescue services expected during the next outbreak of violence. Volunteer teams are deployed and work with existing Israeli firefighting stations in those areas of Israel where the need is greatest.

The actions you will be required to take include:

- Fighting fires
- Extrication of wounded and dead
- Searching damaged and adjacent buildings for injured persons
- Disconnecting and stabilizing utilities such as gas, water, and power
- Removal of debris resulting from missile explosions
- Assisting "disaster victim identification" teams
- Disaster and missile scene clean up
- Rescue missions and searching for survivors

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Volunteers who successfully complete the training will be certified and acknowledged to volunteer in Israel with EVP throughout the year *and also* in the event of an emergency.

EVP volunteers will be assigned to a local/regional deployment team, and the team will be assigned to a fire station in Israel.

EVP volunteers will be available for deployment to Israel with their team or as individuals if whole teams cannot deploy, for the following scenarios:

- 🕒 Natural disasters (earthquake, floods, tsunami, major wildfire, etc.)
- 🕒 Mass casualty incidents (major incident or accident at a power plant, fires, etc.)
- 🕒 War (regional conflict, war on all fronts, major terror attack with mass casualties)

**NOTE: If there is any possibility of chemical or biological agents used against Israel, responders will either not deploy to Israel, or if they already there, will immediately be evacuated.**

Deployments are initiated at the request of the Israeli government or by the relevant emergency services. However, in extreme scenarios (e.g. earthquake) when normal communications may be disrupted, deployment will be initiated and facilitated according to a pre-planned emergency program.

Activation and deployment of the first group of responders in any emergency will be completed within a predefined time frame after activation, with additional teams deployed in phases as dictated by the situation. Subsequent teams will deploy to Israel according to a pre-determined rotation schedule upon authorization by the relevant emergency authorities in Israel. Responders will be rotated every 10-14 days and then replaced by the next volunteer team. Should a volunteer desire to stay longer than a 10-14 rotation, they may do so with EVP approval.

Upon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, firefighter volunteers will be met by EVP personnel and immediately taken to their assigned fire station. They will then be introduced to the station staff, who will give them their instructions moving forward. The volunteers will likely be sleeping and eating at the station throughout their deployment.

Language is rarely a problem for the American volunteer in an Israeli fire station, as the local personnel have more than sufficient ability to communicate in English.

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### **EVP Volunteer Certification**

All responders who deploy to Israel must be certified by the Israeli Fire Services and EVP, which means they have completed all required training, hold valid certification(s) according to their professional status, and are ready for deployment.

A certified responder is defined as one who has, over the period of one year, completed the following requirements:

1. Meets all EVP volunteer requirements for their area of service
2. Completes any annual training requirements in the United States
3. Passed EVP's annual volunteer review
4. Meets EVP's standards of conduct

### **Insurance**

During any non-emergency deployment, emergency deployment, or formal EVP training in Israel, volunteers will be covered through the State of Israel for the period of their deployment with and as part of EVP volunteers.

### **Age**

All deployed volunteers (responders) must be between the ages of 20 and 55. Exceptions are possible upon presentation of a special request in writing and supporting documentation as required by EVP.

### **Health**

Due to the physical nature of most of the work in Israel and the stress that can be experienced while deployed under difficult and possibly dangerous conditions, all responders must be in good health and be able to operate effectively in an emergency environment involving potentially disturbing sights and events. Responders must be capable of operating under pressure for extended periods of time, be able to perform the duties for which they have been trained, and work, if necessary, under difficult physical conditions. Responders will be required to complete, sign and submit a medical evaluation form and provide a medical doctor's statement that the responder is able to meet the physical demands of a deployed environment.

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### **Activation System**

Emergency alert or activation will occur at the direction of the appropriate Israeli agency. Once an alert notification or activation order is received, senior EVP staff will authorize an increase of the EVP alert level. Senior EVP officials also have the authority to order the initiation of the predefined procedures and actions required and to activate the US Situation Room. When a nationwide alert has been issued, senior EVP staff will determine the appropriate alert level and which service teams will be notified. All activation procedures will follow the predefined protocols and procedures.

### **Deployment Waves**

EVP Leadership will determine the number of deployment waves needed based on the specific incident encountered. For example, in an earthquake scenario, all required waves will likely be activated at the same time due to the extreme and widespread nature of the incident. In a war or large terror incident, deployments may be separated into up to four waves that will cover the first two months. If succeeding waves are needed, EVP will make this determination in conjunction with the appropriate Israeli government organization.

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