



## **COMMUNITY SERVICE 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**

A Community Service Responder (CSR) is a volunteer who might not have any certified skills or licenses to perform first responder services during a crisis. Any basic certifications that the CSR may have, though, are welcomed and only enhance the volunteer's effectiveness in the field. During a crisis in Israel, both emergency and non-emergency providers are needed as many Israeli providers have been called up as military reserves.

During a crisis in Israel, the women, children and elderly are ordered to spend extended periods of time in shelters. It will be the responsibility of the CSR Team to provide services to those in the shelter: food and water distribution, light first aid, as well as miscellaneous support that could range from playing with the children, attending to the needs of the elderly. CSRs provide emergency and emotional support to civilians who find themselves temporarily displaced and in enormously stressful conditions.

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As part of their EVP certification process, CSR's will be trained by Israeli professional first responders trained and experienced in Firefighting, Urban Search & Rescue (USAR), EMS, Terror Response, water distribution, and more. EVP will conduct skills trainings, classroom lectures, and emergency scenario drills. This EVP Training will teach standards of readiness and acquaint the CSR with the protocols and procedures of topics which may include:

- Fire Safety
- Deployment Preparation and Protocols
- Psychological First Aid
- Terrorism – General Awareness
- Operating Water Distribution Centers
- Disaster Medical Operations, and Light Search and Rescue, and Disaster Simulation Drills

The volunteers will be available for deployment to Israel with their team or as individuals if whole teams cannot deploy, for the following types of 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).

Activation and deployment of the first group of responders in any emergency will be accomplished 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 replaced by the next volunteer team. Should a volunteer desire to stay longer than a 10-14 rotation, he or she may do so with the approval of EVP's team leaders.

Upon arrival at Ben-Gurion Airport volunteers will be met by EVP personnel, and immediately taken to their assigned location. They will then be introduced and turned over to the local emergency managers who will give them their instructions moving forward. The volunteers will likely be sleeping and eating in the shelters throughout their deployment. Language is rarely a problem for the American volunteer in Israel, as the local emergency staff have personnel with more than sufficient ability to communicate and coordinate activity in English, even with those Israeli's that do not speak English.

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### **EVP Volunteer Certification**

All responders who deploy to Israel must be certified by EVP, meaning they have completed all required training and hold valid certification, and are ready for deployment. There is a \$60 registration fees for the training.

### **Insurance**

During any non-emergency deployment, emergency deployment or formal EVP training in Israel, volunteers will be covered through the State of Israel and/or a commercial insurance company according a pre-arranged policy. Policy details and coverage will be provided to responders prior to deployment. Volunteers are also encouraged to have their own medical insurance coverage, just as if they were traveling to Israel as a tourist.

### **Age**

All deployed volunteers (responders) must be between the ages of 20 and 67. 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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