



## **MEDICAL VOLUNTEERS**

### **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**

During a crisis, both emergency and non-emergency medical providers are needed as many Israeli providers have been called up as military reserves. Additionally, EVP Medical volunteers are needed with a wide variety of background and skills to work alongside the Israeli partners in the ER, OR, ICU, Operating Theater, Delivery Rooms and other hospital departments.

EVP is recruiting certified and active medical service personnel - doctors, PA's, nurses and paramedics with the following specializations:

- Doctors and PA's in emergency fields: orthopods, anesthesiologists, ICU, trauma, surgery (especially thoracic), ophthalmologists, plastic surgery, ER, internal medicine  
Nurses: ER, OR, ICU, pediatric and NICU, recovery room, and maternity
- Doctors and PA's in non-emergency fields: generally all medical fields to "backfill" for Israelis temporarily called up out of the medical system for reserve duty
- Paramedics: active paramedics with a minimum of 2 years of field experience.

Since emergency practices are different in Israel, EVP provides orientation programs for the medical teams both at local regional training centers and in Israel. EVP, along with the Israeli emergency service organizations, will prepare foreign medical teams to deploy to Israel in an emergency.

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

EVP medical volunteers will be assigned to a local/regional deployment team and the team will be assigned to a hospital or medical facility.

EVP 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).

Deployments are initiated at the request of the hospitals, however, in extreme scenarios (earthquake or war) 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 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 may do so with the hospital's approval and EVP's team leaders must be informed in advance.

Upon arrival at Ben-Gurion Airport medical volunteers will be met by EVP personnel, and immediately taken to their assigned hospital. They will then be introduced and turned over to hospital staff, who will give them their instructions moving forward. The volunteers will likely be sleeping and eating at the hospital throughout their deployment. Language is rarely a problem for the American volunteer in Israeli hospitals, 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 hospitals, Health Ministry and EVP, which means they have completed all required training, hold valid certification(s) according to their professional status, and are ready for deployment. There is a \$60 registration fee.

### **Insurance**

During any non-emergency deployment, emergency deployment or formal EVP training in Israel, volunteers will be covered through the State of Israel and will receive a temporary medical license in Israel.

### **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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### **Skill Certification**

Any responder who desires to function in a capacity related to a professional certification or training will need to provide a copy of all current, active and applicable certifications necessary to operate in that discipline. This includes medical personnel, firefighters, technical rescue personnel, social and psychological professionals and any volunteer with professional skills or training certifications required for their profession.

Volunteers must also certify that their qualifications are current and active and they have the authority and ability to practice in their specific profession. Any change in certification validity must be reported to EVP within 72 hours of receipt of notification.

### **Activation System**

Emergency alert or activation will occur at the direction of the appropriate Israeli hospital. 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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