

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Volunteering with Oceanside Emergency Support Services**

When disaster strikes, do you want to help?
Would you like to help in a reception centre?
Are you interested in volunteering in community?

The provincial emergency support services program provides short term disaster relief across British Columbia in the event of fires, floods, earthquakes or other emergencies. Oceanside Emergency Social Services depends on community volunteers to plan and provide for the essential needs of individuals, families, and response workers. This may include food, lodging, clothing, emotional support and finding loved ones. The task of planning for disasters requires energy and creativity and depends on the commitment and dedication of many volunteers.

How can you help? The Oceanside area needs your help to prepare for emergencies. Oceanside ESS volunteers inform community businesses of the program, identify and maintain reception centres and group lodging sites, recruit and train volunteers, complete contact lists and exercise the emergency plan and inform the public of help available following a disaster.

More volunteers are always needed and welcomed. Disaster work offers a unique opportunity to help others when help is needed most. Working in this field challenges volunteers to stretch their own limits and potential. No specific skills are required to become a volunteer; training and experience is provided.

Please consider attending an information session on Tuesday, December 4:

1.30 pm Parksville Fire Hall (upstairs)7 pm Qualicum Beach Firehall (upstairs)

For information about the Oceanside Emergency Support Services program contact:

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