## Oceanside Emergency Support Services Needs Volunteers

PARKSVILLE, BC: Oceanside Emergency Support Services (OESS) needs volunteers. 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. **An information session will be held on Monday, October 28 at 7.30 pm at the Qualicum Beach Fire Hall.**

OESS provides services for residents living in the Oceanside community defined as the geographical region of School District #69 which includes Parksville, Qualicum Beach, Nanoose Bay, French Creek, Deep Bay, Bowser, Whiskey Creek, Coombs and Errington.

The provincial emergency support services program provides short term disaster relief across British Columbia in the event of fires, floods, earthquakes or other emergencies. OESS 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. OESS volunteers inform community businesses of the program, identify and maintain reception centres and group lodging sites, recruit and train volunteers, maintain contact lists, exercise the emergency plan and inform the public of available help following a disaster.

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

Please consider attending an information session on Monday, October 28 at 7.30 pm at the Qualicum Beach Fire Hall, upstairs meeting room.

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**For information about the Oceanside Emergency Support Services program contact:**
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**About Parksville** — Located on Vancouver Island's sheltered east coast, 12,000 residents call Parksville their home. Parksville offers a quality lifestyle with many activities. We are committed to being the city of choice for ourselves and future generations in a clean, safe, friendly, economically viable and sustainable environment.