

## **When help is needed most... we can't do it alone**

### **Oceanside Emergency Program Needs Volunteers**

**PARKSVILLE, BC:** The Oceanside emergency program needs volunteers to join one of two specialized teams – Emergency Support Services or the Emergency Communications Team.

Are you interested in helping your community when help is needed most? Are you interested in playing a critical role during emergencies and disasters? The task of planning for disasters requires energy and creativity and depends on the commitment and dedication of many volunteers. *We can't do it alone.* We hope you will consider applying your interests and experience to one of our emergency response teams.

Oceanside residents are invited to attend an information session on September 23 to learn how your interests, skills and experience may be used in an emergency. This one-hour session will include an overview of the work of the two teams; general emergency preparedness information, a raffle for an emergency preparedness kit as well as ample opportunity to ask questions.

**Oceanside Emergency Program - Information Session**

**Tuesday, September 23, 7 to 8 pm**

Parksville Community and Conference Centre (132 Jensen Avenue East)

The Oceanside emergency support services and communications teams are based in Parksville and represent our three local governments. The City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach and the Regional District of Nanaimo will lead the initial response to emergencies and disasters 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.

**How can you help?**

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.

Oceanside Emergency Support Services depend on community volunteers to plan and provide for the essential needs of individuals, families, and response workers. Assistance may include food, lodging, clothing, emotional support and family reunification. The Emergency Communications Team of volunteers is an integral component to this region's emergency program. In an emergency, lines of communication may be interrupted. The ECT relies heavily on the back up communication link which members of the team are trained to provide for an emergency incident in our community.

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**For more information, please contact:**

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