

Emergency Social Services

Emergency Social Services (ESS) provides short-term assistance to British Columbians who are forced to leave their homes because of fire, floods, earthquakes or other emergencies. This assistance includes food, lodging, clothing, emotional support and family reunification.

In British Columbia (BC), [local authorities](#) are responsible for planning and operating emergency responses within their jurisdictional areas, including Emergency Social Services (ESS).



A Helping Hand Can Make a World of Difference ...

Emergency Social Services is Looking for Volunteers!

Focus On Volunteers: ESS

Emergency Social Service volunteers assist in managing evacuation centres and providing short term disaster relief to evacuees in the event of fires, floods and other emergencies. If you are interested in volunteering in your community contact the Emergency Program Coordinator at (250) 284-3391 or the ESS Director, Helen Haney at (250) 284-3488.

Volunteers assist their communities in many ways, including:

- Working on behalf of local government
- Providing for the essential needs of people affected by disaster
- Linkage to first responder agencies
- Informing local businesses of the program
- Identifying potential Reception Centre and Group Lodging sites
- Recruiting and training more volunteers



What are the rewards of ESS?

Making a difference as part of a team that provides assistance and a shoulder to lean on when disaster forces people from their homes.

Networking & Experience: Volunteers gain valuable experience and contacts in the field of emergency management.

Training: Offered through the Justice Institute and support organizations, training includes Reception centre Operations, Family Reunification and more.

Recognition & Thanks: Volunteers form the backbone of ESS and are recognized by local government as part of a network of emergency responders.

How can YOU make a difference?

Volunteer 1 hour a month to the PRRD ESS team and provide on-call assistance when required (typically 1-2 times per year). This time commitment isn't much, while the rewards are great!

Contact the Emergency Program Coordinator at (250) 284-3391 for more information.

Emergency Social Services Courses Now Online!

- [ESS 100: Introduction to Emergency Social Services](#)
- [ESS 107: Level One Emergency Social Services](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada Course Listings](#)

Links & News

[Emergency Social Services Association](#)

[Provincial Emergency Program - Emergency Social Services](#)