

NEEST – April 2022

Lyn Arikado (lynaess2008@gmail.com) input for panel

Panel discussion : Deployment to Other Communities

1st Topic: When to Call – I am to start this portion

Before starting: I would like to thank volunteers who deployed to Kamloops to assisted us in 2021 and previously. We are grateful for your help.

When to Call: when you have factual information to base need on, such as:

1. Where are evacuees coming from?
2. How many are be expected?
3. How soon they might arrive?
4. What is the reason for the evacuation (a nearby fire vs. flooding which is currently occurring but could be weeks/months before evacuees can re-inhabit)?
5. Will the evacuees be staying in your community or transitioning through to another community. If staying they are with you – can anyone (EOC) guess how long your team’s services be needed.
6. Are there evacuees with specialized needs (vulnerable, homeless, group home or Assisted Living residences) – CAN YOU provide for them?
7. Will specialized cultural services be needed - that you community is unable to Provide?

NEXT:

Compare the evacuee information to the capacity of your team, your community facilities, and the likelihood of you and your team being able to meet the needs of those arriving. How long is your team support sustainable for?

IF you are about to ASK for help – do you have what is needed to support incoming volunteers such as safe travel options, suitable lodging, appropriate food, ability to offer mentoring. Actual on-site training especially early in an event is often not possible, but aware that mentoring can be very taxing on your volunteers.

Please keep in mind that DEPLOYMENT of ESS from afar can take time to organize - so are you able to ask for help (through the EOC) from nearby teams as mutual aid. Perhaps even ones you have shared training and processes with them in the past, this can be a huge advantage! Neighboring volunteers who have an affiliation to your volunteers may have feelings of friendship, loyalty and/or respect that can go a long way to increasing capacity.

Of PARAMOUNT importance is knowing what you NEED volunteers to do!! Positions needing help may be Registration and Referral (is it ERA or paper), Supervision (for ERA or paper, or Group Lodging each require different training and experience.

2nd Topic: When to go?

If Audrey does not mention any of these points add in at end.

1. volunteers considering going on the deployment list. If you have the TIME, ENERGY and the REQUESTED TRAINING then do offer your services, but be factual about abilities when talking to deployment branch.
2. Please think about: are you able to look after yourself, do you have special needs that host communities may not be able to accommodate. If you are asked to Sleep in Group Lodging on a cot, share washrooms and shower on a schedule, and not have specialized dietary requirements, will you be OK.

Example: in 2017 in Kamloops. There were many out of town St. John Ambulance volunteers who came to help. I think they used two room nights in commercial lodging during the entire 71 days of response as everyone agreed to billet with fellow SA volunteers. The demand for commercial lodging is always huge and we work hard to provide the vulnerable with decent lodging, but sadly some volunteers wanted single occupancy rooms!!!

If the ask is for ERA Supervisors and you have not trained on ERA – PLEASE let those deploying you know.

Topic # 2 continued: One of my favorite volunteers – walked in and asked me what washroom I needed cleaned! She explained, as my shock was obvious that it was her way of saying she would do what was needed, if she had the training!

3rd Topic: Why does it feel different?

Coming into another teams RC or GL can be very disconcerting. Some volunteers may very tired, have no energy for a high energy welcome and are probably wondering if they will be asked to teach or mentor.

Vetted deployment is wonderful but please - NEVER self-deploy or just drop into any other teams response. We have had over the years some folks who self-deployed. This is not something we encourage. There is often a staffing plan, with arrangements already being made that are mindful of what we need and IF we can provide lodging!

I will admit there is often a need, but will say that training, mentoring, and sometimes even dealing with hero complexes is very time consuming and draining on our volunteers, and slows our processes. That is why intake has to be planned and managed.

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4th Topic: The details – talking about the process

Requesting outside Volunteers : the RC Manager or Management Team needs to have an idea of the skillsets and abilities required. The requests then through the EOC who requests through PREOC, (be very clear about what is needed)! PREOC in recent years has passed the requests on to the ESS Deployment folks in Victoria, or through the DPS system. They have also reached out to specific Teams who may have volunteers with specific Skill Sets.

Sometimes for other types of volunteers needed within the RC – make inquiries through your contacts – THEN follow the process to have the Ask passed up to the PREOC with you providing the needed contact information so expenses, travel etc are organized and approved.