

## THE CRITICAL ROLE OF VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are at the heart of emergency response. There are more than 13,000 volunteers in communities across the province. They do everything from leading air and ground searches and helping the victims of serious car accidents to setting up networks of volunteer teams and coordinating services for victims of natural disasters.

Emergency Social Services provides short-term assistance to British Columbians who are forced to leave their homes because of fire, floods, earthquakes or other emergencies. Assistance may include food, lodging, clothing, emotional support and family reunification services. To find out more about ESS volunteers [click here](#)



There are almost 4,700 registered Search and Rescue (SAR) volunteers in B.C. On average there are over 900 SAR ground or inland water searches required each year, helping thousands of people who are lost or in distress. To find out more about SAR volunteers [click here](#)



Air search volunteers may also be involved in these activities, as well as providing assistance in finding downed aircraft.

Trained highway rescue volunteers provide support to highway accident victims, particularly in remote areas.

Amateur radio operators volunteer their services when needed, to provide emergency communication services for remote areas, or when vital communications links are down.



Volunteers are men and women from all walks of life, spanning generations. To find out more, [click here](#)