

News Release

Help Make a Difference in our Region, Join Today!

Sechelt, BC—January 9, 2023— The Sunshine Coast Emergency Program is seeking Emergency Support Services (ESS) volunteers from all areas in the region. ESS is a critical component of assisting residents displaced by fire, flood, earthquakes and other emergencies.

"When floods, fires or other emergencies cause people to evacuate, our local Emergency Support Services volunteers are there to provide support and short-term assistance to anyone on the Sunshine Coast," says Matt Treit, Manager of Protective Services. "Our ESS teams are made up of local volunteers who have a desire to help when our communities need them most."

ESS is a provincial program that has in-person and online training, provided by the Justice Institute of BC, and a wide network and community of volunteers throughout BC.

The regional ESS team is supported by the Sunshine Coast Emergency Program and will help guide and assist volunteers on how to safely provide vital services to people affected by an emergency or a disaster – from a house fire to an evacuation. As well, volunteers will learn how to provide practical and emotional support to people when they need it most.

"If you want to help in your community and are a compassionate, team-oriented individual, we would love to hear from you," says Nancy Hughes, Sunshine Coast Emergency Program Coordinator. "Volunteers will receive training and guidance on how to safely provide vital services to people affected by an emergency or a disaster – large or small."

Anyone interested in learning more about the local ESS program, or how to become an ESS volunteer can contact 604-885-6887, ess@scrd.ca or visit <u>www.scrd.ca/ESS</u>.

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