



**Jewish Federation of Broward County (JFBC), in collaboration with EVP and the City of Neshar, is assembling a TEAM of first responders to be trained and ready to deploy to Israel during a crisis**

**FIREFIGHTER VOLUNTEERS**

**About EVP**

The Emergency Volunteers Project (EVP) was established to support and protect the citizens and the Land of Israel, regardless of their religious, cultural or political persuasion. Our mission is to recruit, train and deploy dedicated individuals who will serve as a backup force of emergency responders in Israel. Once training is complete, volunteers partner with Israel's emergency services (firefighters, medical and community services), providing essential life-saving aid to Israel's civilian population during times of emergency.

During an emergency in the State of Israel the majority of available manpower resources may be allocated to the military, which results in a critical need to significantly reinforce depleted resources available at the home front. These reinforcements are provided by EVP through volunteers from outside of Israel who have undergone specific and targeted training, and have been certified by EVP and the of Israeli government as community responders.

**Volunteer Teams**

The JFBC Emergency Response TEAM will consist of firefighters, medical personnel and Community Service Responders (CSR). Every Member of the TEAM is chosen to join only after a vetting process is conducted, verifying the volunteer's ability to perform safely and provide emergency support during a crisis in Israel. Upon activation, all of the volunteer's deployment costs will be provided for. In return, the volunteer complies with the Membership Requirements as detailed herein.

The firefighting and rescue units consist of individuals from around the US who come together as active emergency volunteers in Israel's firefighting and rescue services.

The Israeli Fire and Rescue Services consists of a handful of highly trained professionals working full time in firefighting and search and rescue operations. The 2,000 Israeli firefighters, spread over a population of 7.5 million, are barely sufficient to save lives and property during peacetime, and with the best will in the world they cannot provide the extent of fire and rescue services expected during the next outbreak of violence.

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Our TEAM will provide the additional, professional manpower to close this gap and enable crews to respond to all emergencies in an efficient response time that will result in saving lives.

The actions you will be required to take include:

- Fighting fires
- Extrication of wounded and dead
- Searching damaged and adjacent buildings for injured persons
- Disconnecting and stabilizing utilities such as gas, water, and power
- Removal of debris resulting from missile explosions
- Assisting "disaster victim identification" teams
- Disaster and missile scene clean up
- Rescue missions and searching for survivors

Volunteer teams are deployed and work with existing Israeli firefighting stations in those areas of Israel where the need is greatest.

#### **Deployment Costs**

All firefighter costs of deployment, including roundtrip airfare to Israel, lodging, transportation, insurance, and food in Israel will be paid for by a combination of JFBC and Israeli governmental agencies.

Volunteers who successfully complete the training will be certified and acknowledged to volunteer in Israel with EVP throughout the year *and also* in the event of an emergency.

EVP volunteers will be assigned to a local/regional deployment team, and the team will be assigned to a fire station that is located in Neshet or nearby. If Neshet has not requested deployment, then the volunteers will be assigned to Israeli fire stations that are determined to be in need of such support.

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EVP volunteers will be available for deployment to Israel with their team or as individuals if whole teams cannot deploy, for the following scenarios:

- Natural disasters (earthquake, floods, tsunami, major wildfire, etc.)
- Mass casualty incidents (major incident or accident at a power plant, fires, etc.)
- War (regional conflict, war on all fronts, major terror attack with mass casualties)

**NOTE: If there is any possibility of chemical or biological agents used against Israel, responders will either not deploy to Israel, or if they already there, will immediately be evacuated.**

Deployments are initiated at the request of the Israeli government or by the relevant emergency services. However, in extreme scenarios (e.g. earthquake) when normal communications may be disrupted, deployment will be initiated and facilitated according to a pre-planned emergency program.

Activation and deployment of the first group of responders in any emergency will be completed within a predefined time frame after activation, with additional teams deployed in phases as dictated by the situation. Subsequent teams will deploy to Israel according to a pre-determined rotation schedule upon authorization by the relevant emergency authorities in Israel. Responders will be rotated every 10-14 days and then replaced by the next volunteer team. Should a volunteer desire to stay longer than a 10-14 rotation, they may do so with EVP approval.

Upon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, firefighter volunteers will be met by EVP personnel and immediately taken to their assigned fire station. They will then be introduced to the station staff, who will give them their instructions moving forward. The volunteers will likely be sleeping and eating at the station throughout their deployment. Language is rarely a problem for the American volunteer in an Israeli fire station, as the local personnel have more than sufficient ability to communicate in English.

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### **EVP Volunteer Certification**

All responders who deploy to Israel must be certified by the Israeli Fire Services and EVP, which means they have completed all required training, hold valid certification(s) according to their professional status, and are ready for deployment. A certified responder is defined as one who has, over the period of one year, completed the following requirements:

- a. Meets all EVP volunteer requirements for their area of service
- b. Completes any annual training requirements in the United States
- c. Passed EVP's annual volunteer review
- d. Meets EVP's standards of conduct

### **Insurance**

During any non-emergency deployment, emergency deployment, or formal EVP training in Israel, volunteers will be covered through the State of Israel for the period of their deployment with and as part of EVP volunteers.

### **Annual Membership**

All volunteers will be required to register and certify themselves as members of the EVP by renewing their membership annually. Membership dues will be determined annually and must be paid by the volunteer prior to their EVP membership anniversary date. The annual EVP membership dues are \$60. This cost covers the issuance of recertification(s) and/or licensing in Israel.

### **Volunteer Benefits**

1. All costs of deployment will be paid by JFBC and Israeli governmental agencies
2. A Personnel Profile Page, which can be used as a tool to raise volunteer funds
3. An EVP training certificate, a volunteer identification badge, operational instructions, and a guidelines manual
4. Free access to the EVP online training site and related materials
5. Up to a 35% discount on EVP volunteer programs in Israel
6. Access to a web-based news agent for relevant stories of importance to Israel
7. Near real-time updates on the current situation in Israel
8. Emergency deployment accommodations and meals while in Israel
9. Assignment to a local team of volunteers or an emergency services organization
10. Official recognition as an Emergency Responder, and assignment to an Israeli responder team

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**Israel Emergency Aid Fund, 15 Disraeli St., P.O.Box 4730, Jerusalem 91046, Israel**

**American Friends of IEAF, P.O.BOX 456 SHARON MA 02067-0456, U.S.A, E-mail: [office@ieaf.co.il](mailto:office@ieaf.co.il), Tel: 972-2-5631117**



## **Membership Requirements**

All volunteers must meet/complete the following requirements in order to become and remain an active EVP member:

1. Meet the age requirements as set forth by EVP, or obtain a written waiver for service beyond the age requirements
2. Successfully complete a background check
3. Pass a medical examination and provide all the required and relevant medical documents signed by your doctor
4. Obtain and maintain any required skill certifications necessary to function in the chosen area of service
5. Successfully complete annual EVP training requirements (either in Israel or at a regional training center)
6. Sign and abide by the EVP code of conduct and confidentiality agreement
7. Pay annual membership dues

Every volunteer will be assigned a personal portal on the website which they will populate with at least minimal content. At the time of deployment, each volunteer shall reach out via the portal to friends and family seeking donations to offset deployment expense.

While generally there are minimal time requirements of the volunteer until a deployment, there may be an activity or two during the year. Participation is expected as it is part of “team building” and critical to the TEAM’s effectiveness and cohesion during a deployment.

## **Age**

All deployed volunteers (responders) must be between the ages of 20 and 55. Exceptions are possible upon presentation of a special request in writing along with supporting documentation as required by EVP.

## **Health**

Due to the physical nature of most of the work in Israel and the stress that can be experienced while deployed under difficult and possibly dangerous conditions, all responders must be in good health and be able to operate effectively in an emergency environment involving potentially disturbing sights and events. Responders must be capable of operating under pressure for extended periods of time, be able to perform the duties for which they have been trained, and work, if necessary, under difficult physical conditions.

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Responders will be required to complete, sign, and submit a medical evaluation form and provide a medical doctor's statement affirming the responder is able to meet the physical demands of a deployed environment.

### **Background Check**

All volunteers must agree to a thorough background check that includes criminal history. This background check will be repeated annually throughout the duration of one's EVP membership. Any history of criminal arrest or conviction will be reviewed by EVP leadership and may result in denial of EVP membership. It is incumbent on each volunteer to notify their chapter lead if ever arrested for any criminal activity, whether considered a misdemeanor or a felony. In addition, volunteers should have received no more than one traffic citation for a moving violation within the past twelve months.

### **Skill Certification**

Any responder who desires to function in a capacity related to a professional certification or training will need to provide a copy of all current, active, and applicable certifications necessary to operate in that discipline. This includes medical personnel, firefighters, technical rescue personnel, social and psychological professionals, and any volunteer with professional skills or training certifications required for their profession.

Volunteers must also certify that their qualifications are current and active and they have the authority and ability to practice in their specific profession. Any change in certification validity must be reported to EVP within 72 hours of receipt of notification.

### **Activation System**

Emergency alert or activation will occur at the direction of the appropriate Israeli hospital. Once an alert notification or activation order is received, senior EVP staff will authorize an increase of the EVP alert level. Senior EVP officials also have the authority to order the initiation of the predefined procedures and actions required, and to activate the US Situation Room. When a nationwide alert has been issued, senior EVP staff will determine the appropriate alert level and which service teams will be notified. All activation procedures will follow the predefined protocols and procedures.

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### **Deployment Waves**

EVP Leadership will determine the number of deployment waves needed based on the specific incident encountered. For example, in an earthquake scenario, all required waves will likely be activated at the same time due to the extreme and widespread nature of the occasion. In a war or large terror incident, deployments may be separated into up to four waves that will cover the first two months. If succeeding waves are deemed necessary, EVP will make this determination in conjunction with the appropriate Israeli government organization.

Please direct questions to the following:

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EVP office: [office@evp.org.il](mailto:office@evp.org.il)

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