

Notes

1. A Congregational Emergency Plan addresses:

Your facilities

- Fire equipment • First Aid Cabinet • Safety • Security
- Emergency Telephone lists. • Evacuation procedure • etc. etc.

Your Community Involvement

Decide how the congregation can best meet the request for participation in the Recovery Plan run by your Municipal Emergency Manager. The VCC role is printed in the Victorian Emergency Manual.

2. Review the volunteer list.

The list needs to be kept up to date. The Annual General Meeting of your congregation could include a report and a reminder of the need to be prepared.

3 VCC Coordinators

Coords are local people who volunteer to be the point of contact between the Municipal Recovery Manager and the faith communities of an area. They contact congregational representatives if an event needs the help of volunteers.

For further information and support contact:

State Coordinator

Canon Graeme Winterton

Phone 9370 2137 M: 0427 002 264

E-mail: winterton@datafast.net.au

VCC Office

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The Victorian Council of Churches



Faith Communities and the State Emergency Plan

The 5 Point Plan for Congregations

Faith Communities in Disaster & Emergency

Committed to assist the process of recovery

The State Emergency Plan

The Emergency Plan is threefold: Prevention - Response - Recovery

Recovery Arrangements are the responsibility of the Department of Human Services. Response agencies need to know who are affected. VCC congregational support and outreach workers can supply vital information.

Personal contact with people affected by a crisis is of critical importance. Needs may be material, financial or emotional and beyond the reach and capacity of personal resources. People need support and information.

VCC Agency

All faith communities participating in Emergency Recovery Arrangements are administered and coordinated by the Victorian Council of Churches.

The Department of Human Services has contracted the VCC to provide personal support services as it is the largest representative body of any faith tradition, is present throughout the State, and possesses the capacity to link resources and to coordinate the functions of the faith communities within the State Emergency Plan.

Our Mission

VCC Outreach Visiting Teams

In the event of an emergency visiting teams are mobilised and resourced by the local municipal authority through VCC Area Coordinators. All people affected by an event in designated areas are visited. Visitors provide information, identify needs and report findings to enable appropriate measures to be taken. People in crisis value the opportunity to express their concerns and appreciate the involvement of VCC visitors.

VCC Recovery Centre Support Workers

VCC volunteers also staff emergency centres to provide personal support to affected people and emergency personnel. Information and referrals are collated at recovery centres and passed on to agencies such as Red Cross, Salvation Army and suitable specialised services.

VCC Trained Community Chaplains

Community Chaplains are local clergy trained to provide a link between the Response and Recovery arrangements. They provide early personal support and psychological first aid interventions at an emergency site. Municipal Recovery Managers can call upon them for post event services. A register of trained and authorised Community Chaplains is maintained by the VCC.

The 5 Point Plan

1. Governing Body – EMPOWER

1. Establish an emergency plan for your congregation.¹
2. Appoint a Congregational Representative.
3. Identify your resources [people, buildings etc.]
4. Register your participation with the VCC Area Coordinator
5. Promote member participation.

2. Faith Community Leader – ENABLE

1. Ensure your emergency plan is always in a state of readiness.
2. Encourage member participation.
3. Review volunteer list with VCC Congregational Representative.
4. Monitor local events & ensure action.
5. Liaise with VCC Coordinators

3. Congregational Representative – ORGANISE

1. Draw up and maintain the congregational emergency plan.
2. Compile a volunteer list of appropriate people.
3. Review the list in consultation with the Faith Leader.²
4. Liaise with the VCC Area Coord for training and action.³
5. Where possible attend a VCC training session when offered.

4. Members – ACT

Volunteer to act in any of the following ways:

- Outreach visitor
- Team supporter
- Recovery Centre support worker
- Personal support provider
- Where possible attend a VCC training session when offered

5. Everyone – PROMOTE

1. Maintain contact with VCC Coordinators
2. Seek the involvement of others.
3. Encourage training
4. Cooperate with other faith communities in your location.
5. Build cooperation with Emergency Services.

Notes ^{1. 2. 3.} See back page