

READINESS CHECKLIST

Surviving the first 72 hours

During weather emergencies, most major injuries and deaths occur in the 72 hours that follow an extreme event. Often water and power supplies are down, fresh food is scarce, and medical staff and hospitals are stretched to the max. So it's important to plan ahead.

Protect your home and school

This includes having a plan for severe weather and an emergency supply kit.

Protect your pets

Have you planned for the welfare of your pets in an emergency?

Protect your neighbourhood

Do you know your neighbours? Don't wait until Know Your Neighbour Day on March 23rd to find out who you need to help in an emergency.

Build your core emergency skills

If you want to help support communities through the impacts of climate change you will need to build some great skills up. Here are some basic skills you can get under your belt right away.

First aid certificate

Driver's License

Grief and trauma counselling certificate

Police background check

The government is considering the development of a new passport for volunteers that allows people to do a one off police check that's good to use within all volunteering agencies. This would streamline the volunteering process by eliminating numerous background checks. See <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,24867395-5013871,00.html> for more details.

Get involved with an emergency volunteer group

Find your favourite emergency group

To work out which group you might want to get involved with, check out the eighteen NGOs that work in the emergency volunteer sector at this national website which covers them all: <http://www.aemvf.org.au/default.aspx?s=members>. On this AEMVF website which is the forum for emergency volunteering groups in Australia you will find good information about volunteering so check it out!

Checking out volunteer placements on your NGO's website or go straight to Seek Volunteering

After you work out which groups are closest to your heart, you can explore volunteering options directly on their websites or you can cut to the chase and go straight to Seek Volunteering to see what's available around the country. Just search for "emergency" on the following page: <http://seekvolunteer.com.au/if.asp?loc=orgprof> and look out for Australia's 18 emergency volunteering organisations for volunteer listings.

ABOUT YOU

Providing these key details about yourself will help fast-track your involvement when you are ready to volunteer for an extreme weather event. Alongside these key details, you should also have your skills certificates ready to go.

1. What is your availability to volunteer on an event basis?

2. What is your employer's readiness to let you volunteer on a regular/events basis?

3. Are you aware of the duration of leave do you have/are prepared to use, from your current employment, to volunteer for an event? (EG: number of days weeks, months)

4. Do you have any special needs emergency response organisations need to know about? (EG: physical, dietary, learning difficulties etc)

5. What locations would you be interested in volunteering in? (EG: QLD – metro, regional, rural? etc)

6. What sorts of help would you be able to contribute? (EG: Catering, admin support, logistics, heavy lifting)
