

Provincial Emergency Program

Volunteers

FAST FACTS

Volunteers – By Program

There are more than 13,000 Provincial Emergency Program volunteers across British Columbia ready to help communities in need.

- **Emergency Social Services** has 5,500 volunteers.
- **Search and Rescue** teams include almost 4,700 volunteers.
- **Emergency Radio Communications** has over 1,500 volunteers.
- **Road Rescue** has more than 700 volunteers.
- **PEP Air** includes 600 volunteer spotters, navigators and pilots.

Volunteers in Action

In a typical year, volunteers respond to over 7,000 emergencies province-wide. On average there are up to 900 search and rescue responses in B.C. each year.

Provincial Emergency Program volunteers operate in five broad program areas:

- **PEP Air:** conducts air searches and supports ground search and rescue missions;
- **Search and Rescue:** tracks lost hikers, campers and skiers, and provides them with necessary emergency support like first aid and transportation;
- **Emergency Social Services:** provides food, clothing and temporary shelter for disaster victims;
- **Emergency Radio Communications:** provides emergency radio services for remote areas, along with local, regional and provincial emergency links; and
- **Road Rescue:** provides first aid and other services — like the jaws of life — for highway accident victims.

About the Volunteers

- Volunteers are available for call-out 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in all kinds of weather, and often travel great distances to reach areas where they are needed.
- Provincial Emergency Program volunteers come from every walk of life and from every corner of the province.
- The minimum age for a program volunteers is 16; volunteers 16 to 18 years of age require signed parent's consent. There is no maximum age limit.
- Registered volunteers receive training and are eligible for Worker's Compensation benefits and are provided with liability insurance.
- The Province provides funds to support basic training of volunteers.
- PEP covers replacement costs for equipment lost or damaged while responding to an emergency call-out.
- Every year, the Provincial Emergency Program honours volunteers with a special awards night.
- You can become a volunteer by contacting your regional PEP office. Check the Provincial Emergency Program web site @ www.pep.bc.ca for more information.

Provincial Emergency Program Regions

There are six defined regions in the province. Regional boundaries are based on regional districts.

- **Vancouver Island** region covers the Island, and much of the coastal region of the corresponding mainland.
- **South West** region is the most populated, and includes the Lower Mainland and the Fraser Valley.
- **Central** region takes in the Thompson-Okanagan area and parts of the Columbia-Shuswap.
- **South East** region includes the Kootenays and most of the Columbia-Shuswap.
- North West, the second largest, comprises the North Coast, including the Charlottes, Skeena, Bulkley–Nechako, and along the Alaska and Yukon borders.
- The largest region in the province is the **North East**, which takes in the Peace River, Cariboo and Central Coast.