



CHURCHES OF CHRIST VICTORIA COMMUNITY DISASTER AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE



In the event of a critical incident or disaster in our communities Churches of Christ Vic/Tas Conference will respond in conjunction with the Victorian Council of Churches (VCC) State Emergency Plan. It is important that we work together and be aware of the systems being developed and already in place.

Disasters can include local to regional disasters, including fires, flood and storm and other natural disasters, terrorism, large accidents, just to name a few. This flyer contains important information for ministers and churches involvement in serving our communities during such times.

We encourage churches to be involved in their communities through emergency chaplaincy and volunteering as it is a way we can show God's love, grace and healing.

It is important that Churches prepare for future events by implementing the VCC's 5 Point Plan included in this flyer.

Ministers are encouraged to undertake Emergency Response Chaplaincy training to assist in both times of disaster but also to enhance skills in crisis that occur in the local setting. It is well recognised that 'recovery' begins at the point of impact or event, this is why 'emotional first aid', emergency chaplaincy, commences at the time of disaster or crisis alongside other emergency services.

Training for volunteers to assist in Community and State Emergencies is also available in some regions, see back page of this insert for details. Note, this area of volunteering and

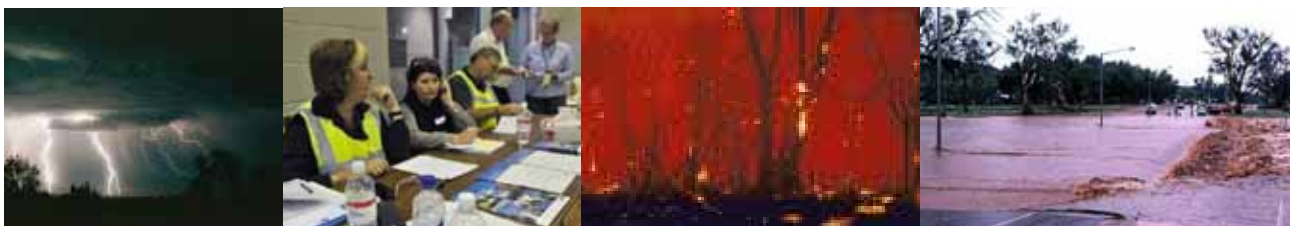
chaplaincy is not for everyone and we recommend church leaders recruit rather than advertise for volunteers to get involved. Note, also, that in time only those registered, trained and screened with the VCC will be allowed into disaster areas.

In times of State and local community emergencies, trained Emergency Chaplains and Volunteers will be called up by the VCC system, including those in our churches. Conference will keep you as up to date as we possibly can with information. Where possible, we will assist churches directly affected, keeping in mind that we will be working with the VCC and State Emergency Plan who may have better physical access at such times. We will also be seeking to assist ministers who have been called away as emergency chaplains and their churches.

Post-events Conference will seek to debrief registered chaplains and volunteers, people involved and assist churches directly affected by the disaster or event.

Every local council has an emergency response plan. Church leaders are encouraged to engage with their local government offices to discover the best ways to get involved. A number of ministers are already participating in what are often called Municipal Emergency Response Committees (MERC).

After reading this flyer if you require further information or have any questions please contact Monique ten Hoopen (M&M Director—Community Mission) on 9488 8800.





CHURCHES OF CHRIST VICTORIA COMMUN IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE VIC

Victorian Council of Churches 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.

For further information and support contact:

VCC Emergencies Office 9654 1736

STATE COORDINATOR: Canon Graeme Winterton
Level 4 Causeway House 306 Little Collins Street Melbourne Vic 3000

Telephone: 9654 1736 Mobile: 0427 002 264

E-mail: winterton@datafast.net.au

www.vcc.org.au



The 5 Point Plan for Congregations

1. Governing Body — EMPOWER

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

2. Faith Community Leader — ENABLE

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

3. Congregational Representative — ORGANISE

- Draw up and maintain the congregational emergency plan.
- Compile a volunteer list of appropriate people.
- Review the list in consultation with the Faith Leader. ²
- Liaise with the VCC Area Coord for training and action. ³
- 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

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

Notes

1. A Congregational Emergency Plan addresses:

Your facilities

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

Coordinators 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.

CONFERENCE WILL DO THE FOLLOWING:

- Respond to community emergencies through the VCC
- Assist churches directly affected as needed
- Keep you up to date with any news we have
- Provide the VCC with chaplains and volunteers already trained and on the VCC register
- Facilitate debriefing post-events
- Encourage the collection of goods such as clothing and food through designated community collection points.

CHURCHES ARE URGED TO:

- Implement the 5 Point Plan
- Supply Chaplains and Volunteers trained through the VCC
- Check with your Municipal Emergency Recovery Coordinator (MERC) for local involvement opportunities
- Keep your congregation informed
- Encourage the collection of goods such as clothing and food through designated community collection points
- Respond to community emergencies through the VCC (MERC for smaller local events).



Victorian Council of Churches **EMERGENCIES MINISTRY**

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING CHAPLAINS & CLERGY

Wednesday 2 December 2009, 10am-3pm

Held at St Thomas' Anglican Church

Mt Alexander Road Moonee Ponds Junction (Next door to the Library & Old Town Hall)

The State Emergency Plan provides for churches to supply chaplains and ministers to deliver personal support and psychological first aid in emergencies.

It is expected that chaplains and clergy from every sector will be trained for the task and registered with the Victorian Emergency Chaplaincy Network (VECN).

**Attendance meets Government requirements
for inclusion in the VECN Register.**

BYO LUNCH or shops are close by

RSVP Friday 27 November

VCC Emergencies Office 9654 1736

STATE COORDINATOR: Canon Graeme Winterton

Level 4 Causeway House 306 Little Collins Street Melbourne Vic 3000

9654 1736, 0427 002 264, winterton@datafast.net.au

OTHER TRAINING DATES

Date	Time	Subject	Area
Nov 4	10am – 3pm	CLERGY TRAINING	WODONGA
Nov 10	8am – 11am	CLERGY TRAINING	*TERANG - UCA
Nov 17	10am – 3pm	CLERGY TRAINING	HORSHAM - UCA
Nov 19	10am – 3pm	CLERGY TRAINING	*YARRA RANGES - TBA
Nov 19	12.30pm – 3pm	CLERGY TRAINING – HOSPITAL CHAPLAINS	MELBOURNE CBD
Dec 1	TBC	PERSONAL SUPPORT TRAINING	MARYBOROUGH
Dec 2	10am – 3pm	CLERGY TRAINING	MOONEE PONDS - ANG
Dec 3	TBC	PERSONAL SUPPORT TRAINING	WOODEND



*** Critical Fire Regions**

If you are a minister and registered as an Emergency Chaplain, let Maxine Ong, AdminM&M@churchesofchrist.org.au know, so that we can assist you or your church if you are called away.