

EVP

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PROJECT



Firefighters for Israel

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The Israeli Fire and Rescue Services, through the auspices of the Emergency Volunteer Project (EVP) is recruiting volunteer firefighters from US communities who will be deployed to work with Israel's Fire and Rescue Services in times of emergency.



The security situation in Israel is tense and we expect renewed attacks towards the middle of 2010.

In the United States, there are a large number of Jewish volunteer firefighters, many of whom are willing volunteer to work in Israel with local fire and rescue teams. Working with your community, we have the opportunity to reach out and provide vital assistance to Israel's civilian population when and where they need it the most!

I would like to ask your partnership by adopting one or two firefighters for training in Israel.

Be part of our mission to save lives in Israel.

The volunteers will be your community's ambassadors in Israel, working with Israeli firefighters within Israeli communities, during times of emergency.

Each volunteer must take part in a six-day training course at the National Firefighting and Rescue Training Center in Israel that prepares and enables them to integrate with the fire and rescue services in Israel in times of emergency. The course is essential to building teams of professionals who are well-versed in the protocols and working methods of Israel's fire and rescue services.

The training course is not a pleasure trip or a fact-finding mission but a real serious training program for people who are willing to help us save lives in Israel in times of emergency.

The next training courses will be held in March, April and May of 2010.

The cost of the sponsorship is \$2500 per firefighter. This sum includes \$1300 which covers the cost of the course including instructors, training materials, food and lodging and \$1200 for travel costs from the US to Israel.

Adi Zahavi
International Director

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Firefighting and Rescue Teams

The EVP recruits professional firefighters and rescue personnel who are willing to come to Israel in times of emergency to help us save lives.

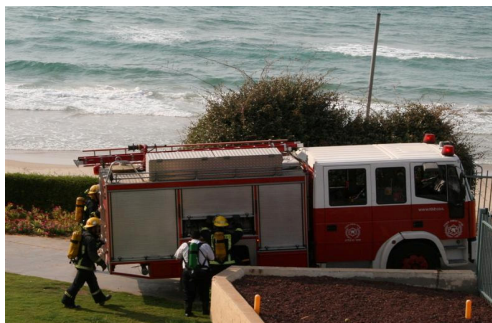
The EVP Firefighting and Rescue Units are the first ever units of their kind. They are made up of individuals from around the world who come together as active emergency volunteers in Israel's firefighting and rescue services.

We are seeking professional and volunteer firefighters and trained maintenance personnel, particularly mechanics experienced in the maintenance and repair of heavy vehicles and machinery. Teams will be deployed to fire stations in Israel, working with Israeli firefighting crews during times of emergency. They will function as an integral part of the Israeli teams in all aspects of their job and will be deployed in accordance with a predetermined placement schedule, depending on whether they wish to be amongst the first, second or third waves of units to be deployed.

Volunteers will be activated in the event of one of the following emergency situations:

- Major conflicts – where the Israeli home front comes under military attack from neighboring countries
- Localized incidents such as acts of terror involving mass casualties
- Natural disasters –earthquakes, floods and other natural catastrophes

Activation of volunteers in an emergency situation will be facilitated directly by the Israeli Fire & Rescue service.





The need

After the Second Lebanese War it became evident that Israel's emergency services and local municipalities were unable to cope with the amount of assistance needed. Even though they unstintingly gave their all, emergency services were badly undermanned.

The "EVP" was created in response to that need. This program allows concerned and caring firefighters and rescue personnel, communities and community leaders to take an active part in unique emergency firefighting and rescue programs. This is what distinguishes the EVP from other relief organizations - our volunteers work with Israeli emergency fire and rescue teams in the field, assisting those in need, saving lives in real time.

During a conflict or emergency situation, Israel Fire and Rescue Services activate all emergency personnel. The problem is that the number of fire and rescue incidents is more than three times greater in a conflict situation. This huge increase in their work load means that fire and rescue teams take far longer to provide the life-saving help that is so desperately needed. They are faced with the harsh reality of knowing that, solely due to lack of manpower, their inability to provide life-saving fire and rescue assistance could well cost innocent lives!

Teams of volunteer firefighters and rescue personnel from communities across the world literally make the difference, between life and death. Stationed at fire stations, the volunteers integrate into local firefighting and rescue teams and provide the additional, professional manpower that enables crews to do what they were trained to do – save lives!

In many cases, the prompt arrival and professional action of firefighting and rescue teams have spared families the pain and grief of losing loved ones.

Our Goal

Because of Israel's security situation, and in the light of past experience, we are planning for the eventuality that the next conflict will continue for at least one month.

Within the front-line areas of Israel's North and South our first goal is to reinforce 24 fire and rescue stations. Working on the assumption that each team will spend one week in active service at their designated station, 96 volunteers are needed to reinforce the 24 stations for one week (4 x 96). In order to provide reinforcements for one month, we need at least 384 volunteers.

In the event that more volunteers are willing to join fire and rescue teams, we will either expand the scope of our activities or increase the number of teams at each station. This will be done according to the demands and needs of the Israel Fire and Rescue Service.

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Dear friends,

When a crises situation develops, be it an earthquake, a flood, a terrorist attack, or war, the Fire and Rescue Services are always the first to respond and are at the forefront of those fighting fires, searching for survivors and doing everything in their power to save life and property with no thought for their own safety.



Witness the brave men and women of New York's Emergency Services following the 9/11 attack. Thanks to their self-sacrifice, hundreds, perhaps thousands of lives were saved!

Here in Israel, we are all too familiar with crises and emergencies. After 60 years of war and relentless, inhuman, terrorist attacks on a defenseless civilian population, our fire fighters are among the most experienced and well-trained in the world. Our Emergency Service consists of a handful of highly trained professionals working full time in firefighting and search and rescue operations.

The 1200 Israeli firefighters are barely sufficient to rescue lives and property during peacetime, and with the best will in the world they cannot provide the extent of fire and rescue services required during wartime or natural disasters.

I would like to appeal to you, the selfless individuals who are not citizens of Israel but are willing to come to our aid in our times of need.

When I first heard of this project and of the many individuals who had volunteered, as well as the many more who were just waiting for a training program to open, I was overwhelmed by the realization that so many good and decent people are willing to leave their homes and families and come to Israel to assist our people in times of crisis.

Nothing I could say could even begin to express my admiration for you and the immense debt of gratitude the Fire and Rescue Services and the people of Israel owe you. In the Jewish religion there is an old saying: He who saves the life of just one person, has saved an entire world! I can truly say that with your readiness to volunteer to work alongside and with our emergency personnel - you have saved many worlds!

Shimon Romach,

Israel Fire and Rescue Commissioner

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EVP Firefighters Orientation Program

The EVP's unique training program is designed to prepare and equip firefighters and rescue personal to work and integrate with the fire and rescue services in Israel in times of war. It is essential to build teams of professionals who are well-versed in the most up to date protocols and working methods of Israel's fire and rescue services.

Emergency operations in Israel differ from those in the volunteers' home communities: different protocols are in force, procedures are different, equipment is different and the language is different. Because EVP volunteers must be prepared for whatever they may have to face in wartime, and in order to ensure that they all operate in accordance with in-place protocols, all EVP volunteers must complete the relevant training programs.

The training programs have been specially designed to meet the nature and needs of the project and the tasks the volunteers will be asked to carry out during times of emergency. They will be held in the National Firefighting and Rescue Training Center in Israel.





Course curriculum

Stage 1 - Orientation

- Introduction to the EVP project and what to expect. Lessons learnt from the Second Lebanese War.
- Overview of terror organizations threatening Israel, both past and present.
- Overview of terror threats faced by Israel, both past and present, from pipe bombs to suicide bombers to Kassam rockets.
- Intelligence briefing on future threats Israel expects to face from Iran and Syria.
- An introduction to the culture and psychology of Israel's enemies.
- Overview of Israel's security forces – IDF, Police, Internal Security services, Intelligence services.
- Overview of First Responders in Israel- Fire /Rescue, MDA (Israeli Ambulance and Emergency Medical Service) , Municipalities.
- Israel: A historical, demographic and political overview.
- Israel Society Do's and Don'ts - the culture of Israel and its people. What you need to know in order to work with Israelis.
- Foreign Ministry Training: how EVP volunteers can be Israeli "ambassadors" abroad.

Stage II

- Protocols and emergency procedures of EVP volunteers in times of emergency.
- Deployment procedures during times of crisis.
- Resilience training for EVP volunteers; "How to cope in an emergency in a conflict zone".
- Municipal Emergency Procedures for EVP volunteers.
- Israeli cities/society in times of war.



Stage III – protocols and procedures

- Introduction to firefighting in Israel - overview of firefighting and rescue services, organizational structure and operational disposition. Moving from normal readiness to emergency standby.
- Safety - safety standards and regulations during training and operation, potential dangers, safety equipment and protocols.
- Fire - type of fire and methods used to extinguish, building types and codes in Israel (use of fire retarding/resistant materials, high rise buildings, NFPA standards applicable in Israel).
- Water supplies, hydrants, hoses and water jets used in Israel - Municipal and industrial water supplies (pressure and supply), hydrants, hose types in use and related equipment (distributors and couplers), hose folding using “double roll” method and drill.
- Breathing and skin protection equipment - air filter components, air cylinder replacement drill. “Sapphire” masks, LEVEL C protection.
- Review of major equipment and resources - purpose and main characteristics of the following equipment:
 1. Vehicles used by Fire and Rescue Service: “Sa’ar”, “Ga’ash”, “Netz” or “Nesher”, “Coral”.
 2. Section summation and questions.
 3. Firefighting Disciplines - Classifications and event command responsibility (Protocol 200).
- Israel forest fire protocols, Israeli firefighting protocols for high rise buildings, Israeli firefighting protocols for gas and other dangerous materials, and Israeli protocols for cooperation when working with other emergency and security units (police, medical, bomb disposal).



Stage IV – preparation for graduation exercise and graduation exercise

- During their training, participants will receive briefings from senior personnel from emergency, security and political organizations, tour normally restricted emergency facilities, visit IDF bases and command posts and visit Israel front line towns in the North and South of the country to receive intelligence briefings.
- Volunteer for a day with the designated emergency unit.

Volunteer Emergency Deployment Kit

Following completion of the course, each firefighter is issued with a personal Emergency Deployment Kit. This kit includes essential equipment and materials he will bring with him when deployed to Israel. The kit includes:

1. EVP training course graduation certificate.
2. Israel Firefighter/rescue Volunteer ID card.
3. Israel Firefighter and Rescue services uniforms
4. EVP Firefighter/rescue patch.
5. T-shirt with “Firefighting and Rescue – EVP” printed on it
6. Pocket notebook with names of contact personnel and contact numbers and methods.
7. Emergency Activation Handbook
8. Handbook of protocols and procedures.



Contact Information

If you would like more information, please visit our web site: www.evp.org.il

Or contact:

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Please send your donation to:

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