

# Factsheet

## Volunteering in an emergency

**Victorian communities have been devastated by fires and floods in the last few years and our hearts go out to the people affected by these natural disasters.**

Many people want to help out and lend a hand to these communities – and volunteering is often the first thing we think of.

Here are some of the important ways you can help during an emergency.

### **Get involved early**

The best thing to do is get involved with a local volunteer-based organization well before a disaster strikes. That way you will already have all the necessary background checks and a membership with the volunteering group.

Local councils often rely on established volunteer-based organizations that can support and coordinate their own volunteers for relief and recovery efforts.

### **Become an emergency services volunteer**

In an emergency, only trained volunteers who are already members of an organization are called to hand. Some services respond during an emergency to protect people and property, while others need trained volunteers to assist in relief centres.

[Get involved with an Emergency Services](#) organization and gain the experience, training and essential skills required.

### **Other ways to help**

- Do not travel to affected areas - it may still be unsafe for you to do so.
- Do not call the local council - they are busy coordinating immediate relief for their community.

### **Donations and fundraising**

If you are not already involved in a local volunteer organization, [making a cash donation](#) to an official appeal or to a registered charity is the best way to help out.

### **Register for clean-up and recovery projects**

Use our online form to [register for clean-up and recovery projects](#). Your details may be passed on to coordinating agencies, who may contact you to assist if they do not have enough local volunteers.

For more information, visit *Victoria's Volunteering Portal* (<https://www.volunteer.vic.gov.au/information-for-volunteers/volunteering-in-an-emergency>)