



News Release

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E. S. S. Name Changes to Emergency Support Services

E.S.S. - Same initials, same trusted services, a new name.

The Emergency Social Services volunteer organization in the Central Okanagan is changing its name to Emergency Support Services. Program coordinator Catherine Williams says the name better describes the help it provides for residents that are displaced in an emergency. The Regional District board approved the name change at a meeting today.

“Emergency Support Services” she says, “is a more accurate name for what we do and how we assist anyone forced out of their home because of fire, flood or any other kind of emergency situation”. Williams adds, “We are there to help for up to 72 hours with accommodation, clothing and food for victims of any disaster, whether it’s a house or apartment fire or the large scale evacuations that we’ve seen in recent years due to forest fires.”

Central Okanagan Emergency Program Coordinator Jason Brolund says some other ESS organizations around the province have also changed or are considering a name change. “Our ESS volunteers” he says, “provide a critical service to the Region, through our Emergency Program. While their name is changing, the need in the community during times of disaster does not. I encourage anyone who might be interested in the work of this organization to email eoc.ess@kelowna.ca for more information on volunteering and the extensive training that is offered.”

More details about the Regional Emergency Program and the Central Okanagan Emergency Support Services organization can be found at regionaldistrict.com/emergencyplan. You’ll also find links to preparing a ‘Grab and Go kit’ as well as information on preparing your family for specific emergencies such as floods, interface fires and chemical spills. A selection of pamphlets is also available at the Regional District office (1450 KLO Road), the main Kelowna Fire Hall (2255 Enterprise Way) and at local government offices.

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