



EMERGENCY VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

"Neighbors Serving Neighbors - Ready When it Matters Most"



PROGRAM PURPOSE

The City of Edgewater Volunteer Disaster Response Program is designed to strengthen our community's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters, particularly hurricanes. This program provides a structured and coordinated way for residents to support city operations during critical periods, ensuring efforts are organized, safe, and effective. By engaging community members in meaningful roles, the program reinforces a whole-community approach to emergency management, where readiness and resilience are shared responsibilities.

This program is intended to augment, not replace, city personnel. Through the dedication and willingness of volunteers, essential support functions such as supply distribution, site monitoring, and post-storm cleanup can be enhanced, allowing trained city staff to remain focused on critical operations and emergency response priorities. This coordinated effort increases overall efficiency, expands operational capacity, and ensures the City of Edgewater can continue to meet the needs of its residents when it matters most.



HOW SERVICE WORKS

Volunteers within the City of Edgewater Disaster Response Program may be utilized in a variety of support roles that enhance the City's ability to serve the community before and after a storm event. Prior to landfall, volunteers may assist with monitoring sandbag distribution sites, supporting the loading of materials, and helping facilitate the distribution of water and essential supplies. In certain cases, volunteers may also assist with administrative support functions such as answering phones and relaying information to residents, ensuring accurate and timely communication during high-demand periods.

Following a storm event, and once conditions are deemed safe, volunteers may be deployed to assist with recovery operations under the direction of City personnel. This may include supporting parks and recreation staff with debris removal in public spaces, assisting with logistics at supply distribution points, and helping coordinate the distribution of food and water during larger-scale incidents. All assignments will be based on the volunteer's abilities and skill sets, ensuring tasks are performed safely, effectively, and in alignment with the City's operational priorities.



IDEAL VOLUNTEER CANIDATE

Participation in the City of Edgewater Volunteer Disaster Response Program is open to individuals who are 18 years of age or older and have reliable access to transportation. Volunteers must be capable of reporting to assigned locations as directed and maintaining communication throughout their period of service. This ensures that all participants can be effectively deployed and integrated into coordinated operations when needed.

In addition to these basic requirements, volunteers must possess the ability and willingness to serve in a support capacity, whether through physical capability, relevant skills, or a mindset focused on teamwork, adaptability, and public service. Assignments will be aligned with each individual's strengths to ensure safe and effective contributions. Above all, volunteers must demonstrate sound judgment, a commitment to following direction, and an understanding of their role in supporting the City's mission during emergency operations.



HOW IT WORKS

The City of Edgewater Volunteer Disaster Response Program is managed and coordinated through the Edgewater Police Department, ensuring structure, accountability, and alignment with overall emergency operations. Individuals interested in participating will be invited to apply during the annual recruitment period, which begins prior to hurricane season. The application process will include the submission of basic contact information, acknowledgment of program expectations, and completion of any required screening measures to ensure the safety and integrity of the program.

Once accepted, volunteers will be required to attend a pre-season orientation meeting where roles, responsibilities, communication protocols, and safety expectations will be clearly outlined. Volunteers will then be organized based on their abilities and availability and will only be activated when needed and directed by the Police Department. All participation is voluntary, and assignments will be structured to ensure that volunteers can contribute in a safe, coordinated, and effective manner in support of City operations.





ACTIVATION PROTOCOL

Volunteers within the City of Edgewater Disaster Response Program will only be activated under the direction of the Edgewater Police Department, ensuring all operations remain coordinated, controlled, and aligned with the City's emergency management strategy. Volunteers will not self-deploy and will only report for duty when officially notified through established communication channels. To prioritize safety, all volunteer operations will be suspended no later than 24 hours prior to anticipated hurricane landfall, and no assignments will occur during hazardous conditions.

Following a storm event, volunteer deployment will resume only after conditions have been evaluated and deemed safe by the Police Department. Assignments will be issued based on operational needs, volunteer capabilities, and supervisory availability. All volunteers will operate under the direction of designated City personnel, maintaining accountability, clear communication, and adherence to established safety protocols throughout the duration of their service.



COMMUNITY IMPACT / WHY IT MATTERS

The City of Edgewater Volunteer Disaster Response Program strengthens the City's ability to serve its residents during times of crisis by expanding operational capacity through community involvement. By integrating trained and organized volunteers into support roles, the City can enhance essential services such as supply distribution, site management, and recovery efforts, ensuring resources are delivered efficiently and effectively where they are needed most.

This program reflects the strength and resilience of the Edgewater community. When residents step forward to support one another, the City is better positioned to respond quickly, recover more efficiently, and maintain continuity of operations during challenging conditions. The collective effort of volunteers and City personnel creates a unified response that directly benefits the safety, well-being, and recovery of the entire community.





HOW TO JOIN

Individuals interested in participating in the City of Edgewater Volunteer Disaster Response Program are encouraged to register their interest by contacting the Edgewater Police Department. Prospective volunteers may submit their information via email at **cgeiger@cityofedgewater.org** or report in person to the Police Department during normal business hours. This initial step allows the City to begin the onboarding process and ensure all interested participants receive the necessary information and next steps.

Additional details, including program updates and recruitment announcements, will be shared through the City's official social media platforms. A mandatory orientation meeting will be held later in May, where applicants will receive a full overview of the program, expectations, and assignments. This meeting will serve as the primary opportunity to finalize participation and prepare volunteers for the upcoming hurricane season.

