

ALERT PLAN

DISTRICT 20 W

MISSION: To provide Lions within the District a standardized structure and network to deliver needed services to people in emergency situations.

PURPOSE: To provide a means for humanitarian assistance to communities affected by disasters and to develop a spirit of mutual helpfulness and understanding.

1. Every Lions club is challenged to develop a Lions Alert emergency response plan for their community. Communities may be several townships or counties.
2. Lions Clubs International has developed a three level response plan for emergencies bases on the severity of the emergency. Therefore District 20 W's plan follows that guidance. Lions can prepare themselves to serve as an important resource to aid in an emergency or disaster.
 - a. Level One Emergency affects a few people. As a local emergency, a local response is needed. A house fire or local flood is an example of a level one emergency. A single Lions club may provide the affected area with assistance and supplies such as drinking water, food, shelter and or clothing. The club or District W may be eligible to request a New York State & Bermuda Lions Foundation (NYS&BLF) Emergency Grant.
 - b. Level Two Emergency affects a larger area. A tornado or hurricane are examples of Level Two emergency, and a coordinate district response may be necessary. Governmental and other relief agencies may be involved in the relief efforts as first responders. 20 W may apply for a Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) and a NYS&BLF Emergency Grant.
 - c. Level Three Emergency affects hundreds of people. The Multiple District may provide aid for victims of a catastrophic event such as an earthquake.

Government agencies (i.e. National Guard Fire and Police Dept) and other relief organizations such as the International Red Cross may be among the first responders to the disaster and Lions could work alongside these and other relief agencies to provide humanitarian aid to victims.

LIONS DISTRICT 20 W ALERT COMMITTEE consist of the following:

District Governor

Alert Chair

Club Presidents

Club Alert Chair

Members of all Lions Clubs.

District 20 W is so large and in many different counties it is recommended that Lions Clubs in the various counties coordinate and appoint one Lion to represent it as a liaison to non-governmental organization.

Club Community Liaison

Club Media Liaison

Club team Lions/Non-Lions of emergency response experts/volunteers, example of a Non-lion:

Law enforcement personnel

Fire fighters

Health care providers

Transportation specialists (highway, airports, seaports, etc)

Community leaders, church pastors, business, etc

Leo club members and other young people

DISTRICT 20 W EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

The clubs within the district may develop a customized plan for the needs of their communities. The plan should identify the local risk such as flood areas. The Lion that was appointed as the liaison to non-governmental organization should contact local authorities to determine whether a community wide emergency plan exists. If it does then Lions should collaborate to identify unmet needs. Club Alert chairpersons will coordinate with emergency management organizations requesting training and practice schedules to prepare for emergencies. The plan should include procedures to evaluate, if necessary and a central meeting place that may be used as an operations center.

Plans identify:

Particular disasters, i.e. wildfire, hurricane, etc.

Immediate response team i.e. Fire fighter, Police, Red Cross

Operations center location i.e. fire station

Situation requirements i.e. evacuation

Evacuation primary and alternate locations

Training requirements may include Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)

The severity of each situation will determine the level of Lions' response using the four phases of emergency management

Prevention: a method for reducing the impact of a hazard i.e. improve drainage systems that will allow water to run off quickly avoiding floods.

Preparedness: the development of a plan of action to meet emergencies i.e. floods, hurricanes, etc. Inform local officials and first responders organization about Lions willingness to provide assistance during a crisis. To include supporting emergency operations centers.

Response: The mobilization of emergency services Fire Department, Police, Public Works, local Lions notification (cell phone tree, power lines may be down). Where should lions report to a Fire Hall or to another designated area where it

will be determined what support is needed for the local area food, shelter, clothing etc.

Recovery: aims at restoring the affected area to its previous state i.e. rebuilding destroyed property and infrastructure.

Locate and secure a structure in which food, drinking water, clothing, non-prescription medicines, and tools may be stored and given to those in need. Be prepared to provide transportation to those who no longer have it available, When schools reopen you will need some school supplies for the less fortunate. Generators will be needed by many for electrical energy to power computers, cellar telephones, two-way radios, lights and heat. Generators provides a means to communicate with local authorities, media, etc. Decide who will communicate what information to whom, the priority of the information, and the method for information dissemination. In addition a large lions banner should be displayed at the work location and Lions should wear identifying attire i.e. vest, shirt, hat etc.

Notification of a crisis: the club president is notified, who will call the District Governor who will notify LCI and the district alert chair. The Alert Chair will ascertain from the club president and district governor what aid is required and post that information on the LCI Web site, where Lions in other districts can read and respond to the requests for emergency assistance. Assistance may be for: machinery, medical services, eyeglasses that were lost, manpower. Drinking water, food, housing, bedding, appliances, furniture etc.

LCIF and NYS&BLF can help: The District Governor may apply for an LCIF Emergency Grant up to \$10,000 for water, food, clothing, blankets, and medical supplies and a NYS&BLF Emergency Grant up to \$2,500 unrestricted. Remember you are not alone in a crisis call your Club President, District Governor or Alert Chair person.

Resources:

Your county Emergency Management Director/Manager (Center)

Local Chapter of the American Red Cross

Village Mayor

Town Supervisor