

Lions ALERT Committee Report to the District 27-D1 Cabinet

October 11, 2009

Since being appointed committee chair by the District Governor, I have been researching the ALERT materials available to plan a course of action appropriate for District 27-D1. As a new program for the Multiple District and International, there is not an abundance of specific information available. I have been able to glean a few guidelines and general information which is presented below.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Lions ALERT Program is:

To provide Lions with a standardized structure and network to deliver needed services to people in emergency situations.

Emergencies Response Defined

Some emergencies affect a single family. Others affect entire towns, cities or counties. The severity of an emergency dictates the level of response.

Lions can prepare themselves to serve as an important resource or “force multiplier” to aid in addressing needs during a crisis and the subsequent phases of an emergency or disaster.

- **Level One Emergency:** Affects a few people. As a local emergency, a local response is needed. A house fire or a localized flood may be an example of a Level One Emergency. A single Lions club may provide the affected people with assistance and supplies such as drinking water, food, shelter and clothing.
- **Level Two Emergency:** Affects a larger geographical area. A tornado, hurricane/cyclone or mud slide may be an example of a level two emergency. A coordinated district response may be necessary for a Level Two Emergency. At this level, governments and other relief agencies may become involved. Districts may be eligible to request a Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) Emergency Grant.
- **Level Three Emergency:** Affects hundreds or thousands of people. A multiple district or several multiple districts can provide aid for victims of a catastrophic event such as a tsunami or an earthquake. Government and other relief organizations such as the International Federation of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies would be among the first responders to the disaster and Lions could work alongside these and other relief agencies to provide humanitarian aid to Level Three Victims.

Developing an Emergency Response Plan

ALERT committee members should develop a plan for the needs of their respective areas. The plan should identify local risk factors such as flood plains, hazardous material handlers and storage, tornados, blizzards, etc.

The Lions ALERT committee should contact local authorities to determine whether a community-wide emergency plan already exists. If it does, then Lions should collaborate to identify unmet needs.

The local Emergency Response Plan should include specific instructions for coordinating with other emergency management organizations as well as specific training and practice schedules to prepare for the emergency. The Lions ALERT committee should put in place procedures to evaluate and modify, if necessary, their emergency response plan on an annual basis.

Effective plans should answer the following questions:

- Who is most likely to be affected by a particular disaster?
- Who is able to provide immediate response?
- Where can emergency management coordination take place?
- How will the emergency be managed?
- What is the situation? Does it require evacuation or home confinement?
- To what location can people be transported if evacuation is necessary?
- What is the timeline for each action?

Four Phases of Emergency Management

1. **Mitigation (Prevention)** is a cost effective method for reducing the impact of hazards through preventative measures.
2. **Preparedness** involves the development of a plan of action in case of emergency. An emergency operations center and a practiced response plan are two elements of the preparedness phase.
3. **Response** Includes mobilization of emergency services as defined in the emergency plan.
4. **Recovery** aims to restore the affected area to its previous state, such as rebuilding destroyed property, infrastructure and re-employment.

Districts or multiple districts should establish their own Lions ALERT Emergency Assistance Fund to finance the preparation and implementation of their emergency response plans. The Lions ALERT committee is encouraged to seek in-kind donations and financial contributions from government sources and other organizations supporting disaster relief.

Upon development of a Lion's Emergency Response plan, inform local officials and first responder organizations about Lion's willingness to provide assistance during a crisis.

What's Next?

The next step in developing a District 27-D1 ALERT Committee is to:

1. Recruit representatives to the committee
 - a. Minimum of one member per Region
 - b. Ideally one member per Zone.
 - i. Sub-committee to include one member per club
2. Needs Assessment: Contact local Emergency Response organizations (e.g. City and/or County Office of Emergency Management, Local Chapter of the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, church-based relief agencies, and Police, Fire and EMS) and determine local needs.
3. Write District Emergency Response Guidelines.
4. Practice the plan.
5. Inform local officials and first responder organizations about Lion's willingness to provide assistance during a crisis.
6. Evaluate and revise (on an annual basis)

Lions Clubs International Insurance Program provides liability coverage for Lions and volunteers serving on a Lion's project. **Lion's insurance does not include medical malpractice.**

Submitted by Lion Bill Tefft
District 27D1 Lions ALERT Committee Chair

10/11/2009 11:43 AM